Relevant Books


This multi-disciplinary book offers an in-depth analysis of the memory of slavery in different geographic contexts, including France, the United States, Jamaica, the French Caribbean, Brazil, and the United Kingdom to argue that the patrimonialization of the memory of the slave enterprise and slavery has transformed public spaces and helped victims to recover their dignity. Hence, the work is a wide-ranging collection of essays by leading scholars that present an evocative and analytically rich volume that grapples with questions surrounding law, cultural and artistic practice, and institutional politics to offer both an analysis of the present and a sense of the link between remembrance and the construction of alternative political futures.


This text explores the multidisciplinary context of African Indigenous Knowledge Systems from scholars and scholar activists committed to the interrogation, production, articulation, dissemination and general development of endogenous and indigenous modes of intellectual activity and praxis. The work reinforces the demand for the decolonization of the academy and makes the case for a paradigmatic shift in content, subject matter and curriculum in institutions in Africa and elsewhere - with a view to challenging and rejecting disinformation and intellectual servitude. Hence, indigenous intellectual discourses related to diverse disciplines take center stage in this volume with a focus on education, mathematics, medicine, chemistry and engineering in their historical and contemporary context.

This volume investigates the poetics and politics of haunting in African diaspora literature, examines literary works by five contemporary writers—Fred D’Aguiar, Gloria Naylor, Paule Marshall, Michelle Cliff, and Toni Morrison to argue that reading these texts through the lens of the ghost does cultural, theoretical, and political work crucial to the writers’ engagement with issues of identity, memory, and history. Drawing on memory and trauma studies, postcolonial studies and queer theory, this interdisciplinary volume makes a contribution to the fast-growing field of spectrality studies.


This series of critical essays situates Ivan Dixon’s 1973 film *The Spook Who Sat by the Door* in its social, political, and cinematic contexts and presents a wealth of related materials, including an extensive interview with Sam Greenlee, the original United Artists’ press kit, numerous stills from the film, and a transcription of the screenplay. Hence, this examination of a revolutionary work foregrounds issues of race, class, and social inequality that continue to incite protests and drive political debate.

This book argues that racism is a matter of interests as well as attitudes, a problem of property as well as pigment. Above and beyond personal prejudice, whiteness is a structured advantage that produces unfair gains and unearned rewards for whites while imposing impediments to asset accumulation, employment, housing, and health care for minorities. Reaching beyond the black/white binary, the author shows how whiteness works in respect to Asian Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans, also the author delineates the weaknesses embedded in civil rights laws, the racial dimensions of economic restructuring and deindustrialization, and the effects of environmental racism, job discrimination and school segregation; and analyzes the centrality of whiteness to U.S. culture, and perhaps most importantly to identify the sustained and perceptive critique of white privilege embedded in the radical Black tradition. This revised and expanded edition also includes an essay about the impact of Hurricane Katrina on working class Black people in New Orleans, whose perpetual struggle for dignity and self determination has been obscured by the city's image as a tourist party town.


This work reveals the hidden rules of race that creates barriers to inclusion in America. While many Americans are familiar with the histories of slavery and Jim Crow, most don't understand how the rules of those eras undergird today's economy, reproducing the same racial inequities 150 years after the end of enslavement and 50 years after the banning of Jim Crow segregation laws. This book shows how the fight for racial equity has been one of progress and retrenchment, a constant push and pull for inclusion over exclusion. Hence, the book argues that by understanding how economic and racial rules work together, one can write better rules to finally address inequality in America.

This book takes readers from the kitchen tables of hurting families who can no longer afford their homes to the corporate boardrooms and political backrooms where destructive housing policies are devised. Along the way, the author uncovers the massive, systemic forces behind gentrification in New Orleans, Detroit, San Francisco, and New York. The deceptively simple question of who can and cannot afford to pay the rent goes to the heart of America’s crises of race and inequality, and thus, the fight for economic opportunity and racial justice, nothing could be more important than housing.


This work explores and critiques the many ways the criminal justice system impacts the lives of African American boys and men at every stage of the criminal process, from arrest through sentencing. Essays range from an explication of the historical roots of racism in the criminal justice system to an examination of modern-day police killings of unarmed Black men. The contributors discuss and explain racial profiling, the power and discretion of police and prosecutors, the role of implicit bias, the racial impact of police and prosecutorial decisions, the disproportionate imprisonment of Black men, the collateral consequences of mass incarceration, and the Supreme Court’s failure to provide meaningful remedies for the injustices in the criminal justice system.

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This book points to legacies of African environmental writing, often neglected as a result of critical perspectives shaped by dominant Western conceptions of nature and environmentalism. Drawing on an interdisciplinary framework employing postcolonial studies, political ecology, environmental history, and writing by African environmental activists, the work emphasizes connections within African environmental literature, highlighting how African writers have challenged unjust, ecologically destructive forms of imperial development and resource extraction.


This volume offers a ground-breaking work of modern intellectual African history from an essential postcolonial thinker, including new translations of essays previously unavailable in English. Constituting an intellectual history of the humanities in the late twentieth century from an African intellectual’s point of view, the book provides an introduction and a comprehensive bibliography that frame four thematic gatherings of Mudimbe’s writings. Thus, the book bears witness to Mudimbe’s attempts, as a university professor in the new nation-state of Zaire, to balance the post-independence discourse of authenticity with his training in Western philosophy and philology; focuses on Mudimbe’s exploration of racial, ethnic, and religious discourses to reflect upon post-colonialism in Zaire and in the United States; shows how Mudimbe interrogates ancient Greek and Latin texts as a strategy to engage the legacy of antiquity for European and African modernity. And finally, the book concludes by focusing on visual culture and Mudimbe’s recurring attempt to elucidate how African "primitiveness" has been constructed, challenged, dismissed, and reinvented from the Renaissance to the present day.

This work offers a cartography of the United States—a “Black Map” that more accurately reflects the lived experiences and the future of Black life in America. Drawing on cultural sources such as film, music, fiction, and plays, and on traditional resources like Census data, oral histories, ethnographies, and health and wealth data, the book offers a new perspective for analyzing, mapping, and understanding the ebbs and flows of the Black American experience—all in the cities, towns, neighborhoods, and communities that Black Americans have created and defended. Black maps are consequentially different from our current geographical understanding of race and place in America.


This book shares the story of a group of Black men living in San Francisco’s historically Black neighborhood, the Fillmore. Against all odds, these men work to atone for past crimes by reaching out to other Black men, young and old, with the hope of guiding them toward a better life. Yet despite their genuine efforts, they struggle to find a new place in their old neighborhood. Thus, the author illustrates how neighborhood politics, everyday interactions with the police, and conservative Black gender ideologies shape the men’s ability to make good and forgive themselves—and how the double-edged sword of community shapes the work of redemption.
The United States currently has the largest prison population on the planet. Over the last four decades, structural unemployment, concentrated urban poverty, and mass homelessness have also become permanent features of the political economy. These developments are without historical precedent, but not without historical explanation. In this searing critique, the author traces the rise of the neoliberal carceral state through a series of turning points in U.S. history including the Watts insurrection in 1965, the Detroit rebellion in 1967, the Attica uprising in 1971, the Los Angeles revolt in 1992, and events in post-Katrina New Orleans in 2005 to argues that these dramatic events coincided with the emergence of neoliberal capitalism and the state’s attempts to crush radical social movements. Through an examination of the poetic visions of social movements—including those by James Baldwin, Marvin Gaye, June Jordan, José Ramírez, and Sunni Patterson, the book suggests that alternative outcomes have been and continue to be possible.


This book is a collection of nine interviews and original short stories by emerging writers from across Africa. The stories reflect the nuances that arise from living in a post-postcolonial Africa, where stereotypes are crumbling and writers are willing to tackle themes that are more social than political. Unlike other anthologies of African writing, these contributors are mostly based in their home countries, putting them closer to the themes they lyrically confront (featuring Abdul Adan (Somalia), Ayobami Adebayo (Nigeria), Damil Ajayi (Nigeria), Richard Ali (Nigeria), Abubakar Adam Ibrahim (Nigeria), Dango Mkandawire (Malawi), Donald Molosi (Botswana), Novuyo Rosa Tshuma (Zimbabwe), and Suzanne Ushie (Nigeria). The interviews provide insight into the writers' inspirations, fears, hopes, and craft. The short stories reveal a range of experiences that are alive with grace, resilience, and humor, and thus, it is one way to rediscover today's writing from the African continent.
In this book, the author describes the early history of the Black social gospel (a gospel that emerged from the trauma of Reconstruction to ask what a “new abolition” would require in American society which became an important tradition of religious thought and resistance, helping to create an alternative public sphere of excluded voices and providing the intellectual underpinnings of the civil rights movement) from its nineteenth-century founding to its close association in the twentieth century with W. E. B. Du Bois. Hence, the book offers a perspective on modern Christianity and the civil rights era by delineating the tradition of social justice theology and activism that led to Martin Luther King Jr.

This work explores rap as a literary form (one of the most influential musical and cultural forces of our time), demonstrating that rap is also a wide-reaching and vital poetic tradition born of beats and rhymes to bring together more than three hundred rap and hip-hop lyrics written over thirty years, from the “old school” to the “golden age” to the present day. The book also features both classic lyrics that helped define the genre, including Grandmaster Flash & the Furious Five’s “The Message” and Eric B. & Rakim’s “Microphone Fiend,” as well as lesser-known gems like Blackalicious’s “Alphabet Aerobics” and Jean Grae’s “Hater’s Anthem.” Both a fan’s guide and a resource for the uninitiated, the volume showcases the inventiveness and vitality of rap’s lyrical art. The volume also features an overview of rap poetics and the forces that shaped each period in rap’s historical development.