Relevant Books


This book is an illustrated history of a lost Chicago monument, The Wall of Respect, a revolutionary mural created by fourteen members of the Organization of Black American Culture on the south side of Chicago in 1967. This book gathers historic essays, poetry, and previously unpublished primary documents from the movement’s founders that provide a visual guide to the work’s creation and evolution. The Wall of Respect received national critical acclaim when it was unveiled on the side of a building at Forty-Third and Langley in Chicago’s Bronzeville neighborhood. Painters and photographers worked side by side on the mural's seven themed sections, which featured portraits of Black heroes and sheroes, among them John Coltrane, Nina Simone, Billie Holiday, Malcolm X, Muhammad Ali, and W. E. B. Du Bois. The Wall became a platform for music, poetry, and political rallies. Over time it changed, reflecting painful controversies among the artists as well as broader shifts in the Civil Rights and Black Liberation Movements.


In this biography, the author traces how Marcus Garvey’s Jamaican formation shaped his life and thought and how he combated the British colonial authorities as well as fought deep-rooted self-doubt and self-rejection among Black people in Jamaica, hence, Garvey’s political and cultural work at the local level is discussed as part of his project to stimulate self-determination in Africa and its Diaspora. Garvey established the ideological pillars of twentieth-century Pan Africanism in promoting self-determination and self-reliance for Africa’s independence, and although he travelled widely and lived abroad in New York and London, he spent his early years in Jamaica. The author is Professor Emeritus of Political Thought at the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica.
Moving away from the domain of commemorative, iconicity, monumentalization, and memorialization, the author uses Steve Biko's meditations as a discursive intervention to understand Black subjectivity. Hence, the book explores theoretical imagination and conceptual invention in order to situate Biko within the existential repertoire of blackness as a site of subjectivity and not the object of study as the theoretical imagination and conceptual invention fosters an interpretive approach and an ongoing critique that cannot reach any epistemic closure to define de-colonial meditations, hence, an opening up of new vistas of thought and new modes of critique informed by epistemic breaks from “empirical absolutism” that reduce Biko to an epistemic catalogue. It is here that the Black subject is engaged not only in the politics of criticism for its own sake, but in a philosophy of existence.

This book from nationally renowned scholars continues to demonstrate the profound influence African Americans have had and continue to have on American politics. Through the use of two interrelated themes -- the idea of universal freedom and the concept of minority-majority coalitions -- the text demonstrates how the presence of African people in the United States affected the founding of the Republic and its political institutions and processes. Thus, the authors show that through the quest for their own freedom in the United States, African Americans have universalized and expanded the freedoms of all Americans.

This book offers a critical survey of film and media representations of Black masculinity in the early twenty-first-century United States, between President George W. Bush’s 2001 announcement of the War on Terror and President Barack Obama’s 2009 acceptance of the Nobel Peace Prize. It argues that images of Black masculine authority have become increasingly important to the legitimization of contemporary policing and its leading role in the maintenance of an antiblack social order forged by racial slavery and segregation. It examines a constellation of film and television productions—from Antoine Fuqua’s *Training Day* to John Lee Hancock’s *The Blind Side* to Barry Jenkin’s *Moonlight*—to illuminate the contradictory dynamics at work in attempts to reconcile the promotion of Black male patriarchal empowerment and the preservation of gendered anti-blackness within political and popular culture.


This book is a study of the lived experience of African men in Australia and New Zealand. The author employs a relational account of racism which foregrounds how the colonial shaped the contemporary, with the settler states of contemporary Australia and New Zealand having been moulded by their colonial histories. Hence, the book also examines the changing racial conditions in Australia and New Zealand, inspired by the view that as racial conditions change globally, prevailing racial modalities in these two countries must be reexamined and theory must be developed or revised as appropriate.

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This work assesses what would have changed if King had lived? What was the consequence of the changes that occurred in the aftermath of his murder? How did those changes impact and influence the peace movement, the opposition to the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, the immigration, gay rights and women’s movements, and Black Lives Matter? What effect would his presence on the scene have had on the fight for Black political empowerment, criminal justice system reform, the problems of crime, drugs and violence in the nation’s inner cities and the ugly racial backlash of the GOP and Trump? What relationship would he have had, and conflicts with, Presidents Reagan, Clinton, Bush and Obama? And also, it looks at the impact of the never-ending smear campaign against King for alleged illicit sexual improprieties, and look at King’s murder and address why many still believe that his murder was not the work of a racist, lone nut, James Earl Ray, but that it was orchestrated by the FBI and other murky federal government agencies. Thus, the author argues that it is noteworthy that fifty years after his murder the FBI still has not formally apologized for its two decade long dirty war against King.


This book examines the pervasive, disproportionate, and persistent police and vigilante killings of African Americans in the United States as a racial control mechanism that sustains the racial control system of systemic racism, hence, one of the first books to focus exclusively on those killings and to treat them as political violence.

This book presents a condensed and accessible intellectual history that traces the genesis of the ideas that have built into the #BlackLivesMatter movement. Hence, the author clarifies what it means to assert that "Black Lives Matter" when faced with contemporary instances of anti-black law enforcement, and illuminates the crucial difference between the problem signaled by the social media hashtag and how one may think about how to address the problem. Also, the book argues that police body cameras, or even the exhortation for civil rights mean nothing in the absence of equality and dignity; and thus, to upset dominant practices of abuse, oppression and disregard, people must reach for radical sensibility via a radical sensibility that requires an awareness of the history of Black thought and activism in order to make sense of the emotions, demands, and argument of present-day activists and public thinkers.


This work is an examination of how Black women, Indigenous women, and women of color experience racial profiling, police brutality, and immigration enforcement by placing stories of individual women in the broader context of the twin epidemics of police violence and mass incarceration to document the evolution of movements centering women’s experiences of policing and demands a radical rethinking visions of safety—and the means people devote to achieving it.

This work focuses on the engine behind the early Black history movement, Carter G. Woodson and his Association for the Study of Negro Life and History to show how the study and celebration of Black history became an increasingly important part of African American life over the course of the early to mid-twentieth century. Thus, the author takes an expansive view of the historical enterprise, covering not just the production of Black history but also its circulation, reception, and performance. Woodson, the only professional historian whose parents had been born into slavery, attracted a strong network of devoted members to the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, including professional and lay historians, teachers, students, “race” leaders, journalists, and artists. The book recovers a rich public discourse about Black history that took shape in journals, monographs, and textbooks and sprang to life in the pages of the Black press, the classrooms of Black schools, and annual celebrations of Negro History Week.


This volume looks at Black Panther Party (BPP) activity in sites outside Oakland, California, the most studied BPP locale and the one long associated with oversimplified and underdeveloped narratives about, and distorted images of the organization. The cities covered in this volume are Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, and Washington, D.C. The contributors examine official BPP branches and chapters as well as offices of the National Committee to Combat Fascism that evolved into full-fledged BPP chapters and branches via mined BPP archives and interviews to convey the daily ups-and-downs related to BPP’s social-justice activities and to reveal the diversity of rank-and-file BPP members’ personal backgrounds and the legal, political, and social skills, or baggage, that they brought to the BPP.

The work draws on the author’s experiences with racism and racial healing in Africa and America, where he has lived for the past thirty-seven years, to provide provocative approach to the search for solutions to America’s biggest and most intractable social problem: the divide between the races. In this book, he tells how one can become agents for racial healing and justice by learning how to practice the ten principles of Ubuntu, an African philosophy based on the concept of our shared humanity.


This volume examines the intersection of sports, race, and the media in the twentieth century and beyond. The essays are linked by a number of questions, including: How did the black and white media differ in content and context in their reporting of these stories? How did the media acknowledge race in their stories? Did the media recognize these stories as historically significant? Considering how media coverage has evolved over the years, the essays begin with the racially charged reporting of Jack Johnson’s reign as heavyweight champion and carry up to the present, covering the media narratives surrounding the Michael Vick dogfighting case in a supposedly post-racial era and the media’s handling of LeBron James’s announcement to leave Cleveland for Miami. The author is a professor of journalism at Indiana University–Purdue University at Indianapolis.

This book seeks to facilitate a dialogue on optimizing Black networking and cultural appreciation across regions and continents via Pan Africanism. Hence, the book posits and explains the need and rationale for Africa and its diaspora to become reciprocal resources for each other. Selected impediments to Pan African initiatives and development are outlined and critiqued with associated corrective tools to these impediments, i.e., resource management/analysis, transformative education, conflict resolution efforts.


This work offers users a comprehensive guide to the enormous literature on Africa south of the Sahara concerning music and dance. Hence, it is organized into five easy to navigate sections—General Works; Musical Instruments; Regional Studies; African Music Abroad; and Biographical and Critical Studies—allowing users to quickly access the information. And also, it includes a detailed subject index which offers a key to all of the book’s sections. The author is a veteran independent scholar specializing in the expressive culture of Africa and the African Diaspora.

This volume is a professional dancer’s personal journey over four decades, across three continents and twenty-three countries, and through defining moments in the story of Black dance in America, in the book the author reflects on what blackness and dance have meant to her life and international career. Her story begins in 1960s San Francisco amid the Black Arts Movement, it was there that she chose dance as her own revolutionary statement. She moved to Europe, where she taught “jazz ballet” and established her own dance company in Copenhagen. Returning to the United States, she danced with the Rod Rodgers Dance Company in New York City and played key roles in integrating black dance programs into mainstream programming at the Lincoln Center. After dance fieldwork in Ghana, she returned to California and helped develop Oakland’s Black dance scene. Along the way, she collaborated with major artistic movers and shakers. Now a Black Studies scholar (professor emeriti of African American and African Studies at the University of California, Davis), she uses her experiences to reveal the overlooked ways that dance has been a vital tool in the Black struggle for recognition, justice, and self-empowerment.


Amid an influx of new African American arrivals to the city of Chicago during the Great Migration, notions of inherent childhood innocence and juvenile justice were circumscribed by race. In documenting how being Black became a marker of criminality that overrode the potential protections the status of “child” could have bestowed, the author shows the entanglements between race and the state’s transition to a more punitive form of juvenile justice to expand the narrative of racialized criminalization in America, revealing that these patterns became embedded in a justice system originally intended to protect children. In doing so, the book also complicates the nature of migration and what it meant to be Black and living in Chicago in the early twentieth century.

This book shows how tax policy and taxpayer identity were built on the foundations of white supremacy and intertwined with ideas of whiteness. From the origins of unequal public school funding after the Civil War through school desegregation cases from Brown v. Board of Education to San Antonio v. Rodriguez in the 1970s, this study spans over a century of racial injustice, dramatic courtroom clashes, and white supremacist backlash to collective justice claims. Incorporating letters from everyday individuals as well as the private notes of Supreme Court justices as they deliberated, the author reveals how the idea of a “taxpayer” identity contributed to the contemporary crises of public education, racial disparity, and income inequality.


This book explores how in 1948, false accusations of child molestation all but erased the reputation and career of novelist, short story writer, folklorist, and anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960) had worked for decades to build. Sensationalized in the profit-seeking press and relentlessly pursued by a prosecution more interested in a personal crusade than justice, the morals charge brought against her nearly drove her to suicide. But she lived on. She lived on past her accuser’s admission that he had fabricated his whole story. She lived on for another twelve years, during which time she participated in some of the most remarkable events, movements, and projects of the day. Hence, the author looks subjects as varied as Hurston’s reporting on the trial of Ruby McCollum (a Black woman convicted of murdering her White lover), her participation in designing an "anthropologically correct" Black baby doll to combat stereotypes, her impassioned and radical biography of King Herod, and her controversial objections to court-ordered desegregation.