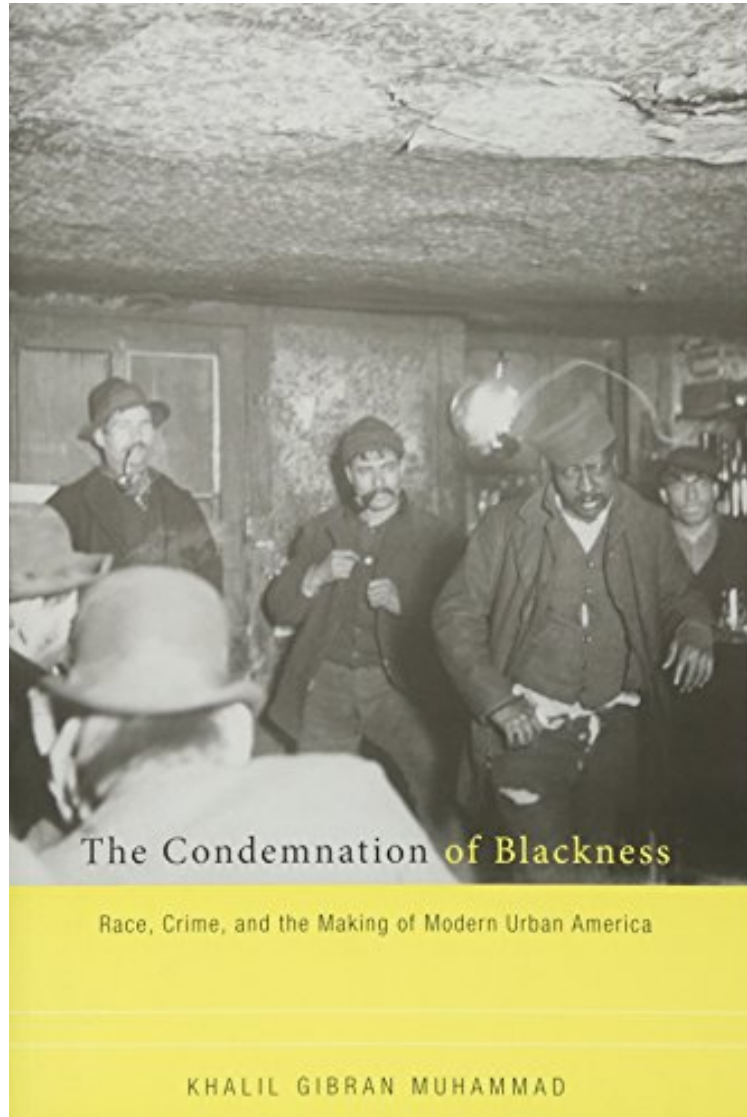


(Ebook free) The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime, and the Making of Modern Urban America

The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime, and the Making of Modern Urban America

Khalil Gibran Muhammad

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Khalil Gibran Muhammad : The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime, and the Making of Modern Urban America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime, and the Making of Modern Urban America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy elijah mohammedA very scholarly work, quite insightful!1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent ReadBy John HamptonA truly eye opening

experience. The book delves into America's history of using crime statistics to show proof of black (and these days brown) inferiority without actually looking at the underlying causes of higher crime rates such as racist police practices, heavier sentences for minorities, and of course these days we have the good old drug war which is fought primarily in black and Brown neighborhoods. I am shocked that not much has changed since the early 1900's on this topic. To this day stats are used to justify racist attitudes towards black people. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This book is only the beginning of understanding why racial discord is so pervasive in our modern era. By Chris Brown This book used an impressive amount of research while still managing to use those scattered facts to create a coherent chronology. That effort resulted in a book which breaks down the process by which mass media, in collusion with the so called thinkers of the day, created and maintained the development of a system of white superiority and victim blaming that still exists (albeit in a more subtle form) even today.

Lynch mobs, chain gangs, and popular views of black southern criminals that defined the Jim Crow South are well known. We know less about the role of the urban North in shaping views of race and crime in American society. Following the 1890 census, the first to measure the generation of African Americans born after slavery, crime statistics, new migration and immigration trends, and symbolic references to America as the promised land of opportunity were woven into a cautionary tale about the exceptional threat black people posed to modern urban society. Excessive arrest rates and overrepresentation in northern prisons were seen by many white liberals and conservatives, northerners and southerners as indisputable proof of blacks inferiority. In the heyday of separate but equal, what else but pathology could explain black failure in the land of opportunity? The idea of black criminality was crucial to the making of modern urban America, as were African Americans own ideas about race and crime. Chronicling the emergence of deeply embedded notions of black people as a dangerous race of criminals by explicit contrast to working-class whites and European immigrants, this fascinating book reveals the influence such ideas have had on urban development and social policies.

[A] brilliant work that tells us how directly the past has formed us. (Darryl Pinckney New York of Books 2012-05-24) This rich and absorbing history forcefully reveals how putatively objective social knowledge created tight links between color and criminality. Thoughtfully comparing representations of white immigrants and African Americans, Muhammad vividly establishes how a racial, and racist, 'scientific' discourse combined with the misuse of statistics to influence the patterning of blame, promote white fear, justify uneven policing and discriminatory justice, and block recognition of the deep structural roots of poverty and crime. (Ira Katznelson, author of *When Affirmative Action Was White: An Untold History of Racial Inequality in Twentieth-Century America*) Muhammad's book renders an incalculable service to civil rights scholarship by disrupting one of the nation's most insidious, convenient, and resilient explanatory loops: whites commit crimes, but black males are criminals. With uncommon interpretive clarity and resourceful accumulation of data, the author disentangles crime as a fact of the urban experience from crime as a theory of race in American history. This is a mandatory read. (David Levering Lewis, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *W.E.B. Du Bois*) An impressive and important book that could not have appeared at a better time. The mass incarceration of poorly educated black and Hispanic men has become a principal instrument of social policy in the United States in recent decades. In this exquisitely argued book, Muhammad illuminates the social, political, and cultural roots of this phenomenon. In my opinion, this is the most significant work in the study of race and American society to have appeared in the past decade. (Glenn C. Loury, author of *The Anatomy of Racial Inequality*) A dazzling study that illuminates a great deal about the social construction of black criminality. Muhammad does a superb job of explicating the role that social scientists, journalists, and reformers played in creating the idea of the black criminal and sustaining racial inequality. This important book is a vital contribution to our understanding of the role of racism in American society. (Aldon D. Morris, author of *The Origins of the Civil Rights Movement*) Muhammad simultaneously captures, both in the realm of ideas and in the lived experiences of urban African Americans, the oppressive weight of enduring racialized crime scares and of social policies based on benign neglect. A brilliant, critically important study. (David R. Roediger, author of *How Race Survived U.S. History*) About the Author Khalil Gibran Muhammad is Director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library and Associate Professor of History, Indiana University.