



# Extended Review

## Extended Review

### Midnight: A Gangster Love Story by Sister Souljah

by Kristina Graaff, Center for Metropolitan Studies, TGK Berlin

It has been more than nine years since African American author, activist and hip hop musician Sister Souljah published her first novel *The Coldest Winter Ever* (1999). Having written a best-seller that became one of the founding titles of so-called 'Urban Fiction', Souljah had for a long time promised a sequel to her successful debut. After repeatedly being postponed, it was finally strategically scheduled for an election day release. But street book vendors in Harlem, Brooklyn and the Bronx – knowing the readers' impatience – thwarted marketing efforts and sold many copies of the much-anticipated novel before November 4th.

Yet, unexpectedly, *Midnight: A Gangster Love Story* is not a continuation of Souljah's debut. By depicting the migration of the character Midnight from the Sudan to the US at the age of seven; and his coming of age in Brooklyn, it acts as a prequel to *the Coldest Winter Ever*, (which presents the adult Midnight, working for a prominent drug dealer and already well embedded in Brooklyn's illicit economy). This first-person account thus serves to build up the character of Midnight, who is rather inscrutable in that first novel.

Midnight, together with his pregnant mother Umma, arrives in New York in 1979, though without his politician father, who for unmentioned reasons had to remain in the Sudan. Unfamiliar with the city's race and class bound spatial segregation, he and his mother end up in one of Brooklyn's social housing projects, quickly realising that they have arrived in 'a hell reserved for poor Blacks' (p. 46).

Having been raised Muslim, Midnight is alienated by his new neighbours, African Americans, 'who look just like me' (p. 5), but behave so differently: with their different clothing style, slang and fights over territory. He also must adjust to the presence of unveiled women in the so-called hood. Adapting to or even identifying with American blacks is not considered a possibility.

Having been taught martial arts skills by his father, in his early preparation for his eventual role as the family's protector, and being tall for his age, Midnight quickly acquires a reputation in his new surroundings. Midnight treats the hood as a war zone, and every member as a potential enemy. Part of his survival strategy consists of pre-empting potential attacks, which eventually results in him committing two murders (that surprisingly remain unpunished). The family's apartment is depicted as the only safe place within the ghetto – a space of retreat and prayer, furnished by his mother as a Sudanese palace. The main aim of the family, which now includes Midnight's newborn sister Naja, is to move out of the hood as soon as possible, made more possible by the establishment a small business - Umma Design, a Sudanese clothing and perfume line.

Despite maintaining his Islamic values and resistance to American lifestyles, over time Midnight partially blends into 'hood-life'. Dressed in the latest brands, he has to fight off attention from females in his neighborhood, indistinguishably qualified as 'homegirls,' with

'nice-looking bodies, okay faces, but not a lot of originality, style, or variety' (p. 248). Only Akemi, an attractive Japanese sixteen-year-old artist he meets while working in Chinatown, manages to penetrate his inviolability. Although Akemi does not speak English the two grow closer, with Midnight gradually introducing her to the Muslim faith. The reader is encouraged to engage further with the author's didactic undertaking with the addition of photos of Midnight and his family, as well as Arabic words translated in footnotes.

With the same ease with which the fourteen-year-old Midnight manages to overcome any obstacle throughout the novel, the story seems to be settled to everyone's satisfaction when the young couple decide to marry given that premarital sex is unacceptable for Midnight. However, it is on the last pages when a moment of disturbance occurs, shaking the glossy character of Midnight and setting the stage for Souljah's second prequel.

Unexpected by her readership, Sister Souljah broke with the common 'Urban Fiction' pattern of suspense-packed stories, written from the perspective of the hood's inhabitants utilising their slang language. In her new book Souljah only touches on familiar narratives – such as the representation of the hood as a claustrophobic space, exacerbated by permanent police presence – and instead chooses the outside perspective of an immigrant, a group usually omitted from 'Urban Fiction's' primarily African American world.

Instead of using the distant glance to provide insight into the histories and causes of spatial and economic exclusion, still highly prevalent in America's contemporary inner cities, her protagonist Midnight responds with a mixture of alienation, self-demarcation as well as a certain arrogance towards what he indiscriminately perceives as the American black community. In alluding to their excluded status, use of slang language and supposedly violent behavior, Midnight sees the disadvantaged African American poor as people 'with no homeland, culture, or language' (p. 147) – an assessment consistent with the traditional stereotype of the uncivilised black person.

By depicting the hood dwellers as destructive, anti-communal and consumption-oriented, Souljah taps into the tale of the pathological black urban under-class frequently portrayed in mass media and social science discourses. Following a behavioural understanding, well-known stereotypes, like the pregnant teenager and welfare mother, are thus presented as products of a deficient culture. Without considering the impact of economic deprivation or misguided public policies, the fate of spatially confined communities is represented as primarily self-inflicted. Similarly, gender specific clichés are also perpetuated: the violent, 'tribal' (p. 58) black man and the promiscuous, 'hand-me-down girl' (p. 406), 'lying about who is the father of her children; not knowing who the father is' (p. 4).

Souljah's attempt to present the religion of Islam as the only panacea for this lack of restraint and communal disorder fails. This is not only because of Souljah's didactic approach, in which she seems to want to pre-empt expected prejudices. Female readers, in particular, might be concerned by the mediated gender roles, bordering on misogyny. Married women are referred to as 'somebody else's piece' (p. 79), male polygamy is presented as an acceptable practice, and the protagonist's growing possessiveness over the linguistically silenced Akemi seems to contradict Midnight's belief that 'there is no compulsion in Islam' (p. 453).

On a positive note, Souljah successfully conveys the spatial control of the hood through the omnipresence of police force, regulating inhabitants' public behaviour. Like a constant reminder of the well-known 'No Loitering' sign, police cars transform the public space from a place for lingering to a zone of transit:

Our team stepped out of the gym and into the red and blue lights of the popo, pulled up and parked on the curb in front of the gym. They was eyeing us with a hatred that didn't mean shit 'cause it was an everyday thing. "Keep walking," a cop's voice blasted out over the megaphone. "Keep walking, clear the area, get back to your building," the voice ordered. (p. 218)

Hence, gathering in public is, especially for a black urban youth, equated with a risk of arrest, and for Midnight turns into 'a luxury I couldn't afford' (p. 62). Similarly, Souljah graphically displays the city's racial geographies and prejudices associated with the spatialisation. Hence, during a visit to New York's Museum of Modern Art, Midnight is clearly aware of entering the 'White zone', an area 'where I already know there won't be many Black people, where I will be an obvious standout and automatic suspect' (p. 408). Likewise, entering Akemi's uncle's store in Chinatown, he is not surprised seeing her uncle's 'body jerk, the way every shop owner trembles when a young, strong, Black man enters the door around closing time' (p. 146).

Overall, Souljah draws a pessimistic picture of America's contemporary race relations: black immigrants are shielding themselves from African Americans, who in turn are looking down on immigrants from Africa, and Midnight's interaction with white Americans is reduced to a minimum.

Her narrative reflects that a diasporic identification among blacks is undesired: albeit from the perspective of African Americans or from the side of African immigrants. However, Souljah's attempt to construct Africa as a counter space to an inhuman America is questionable. Surprisingly for a feminist like Souljah, she uses the trope of Mother Africa to oppose the image of 'what Americans consider the worst place in the world' (p.5). Regrettably, this results, not only in a simplified and romanticised account of a multi-faceted continent, but also confines women to nurturing and mothering, once again inscribing the patriarchic notion that *Midnight* conveys so clearly throughout the story.

Presumably, Souljah's primarily African American readership will resist these binary depictions, especially her demonisation of America and portrayal of its black population. It is probable that her readers will be disappointed in Souljah for not having followed the 'Urban Fiction' path she pursued so successfully with *The Coldest Winter Ever*: wrapping her critical perspective in a suspense packed story. But they will likely be curious how, in her next prequel, Sista Souljah will manage to transform Midnight from an infallible character, deeply rooted in Islam, to the right-hand man of Brooklyn's major drug lord.

*Midnight: A Gangster Love Story* (2008) by Sister Souljah is available from Atria Books ISBN 1416545182 for \$26.95.



# **Book Reviews**

**Louis Bailey**  
**Bethan Harries**  
**Agnes Khoo**  
**Valrie Rowe**  
**Barrie Stanhope**  
**Jenny Van Hooff**

## Reviews

### ARTS, LITERATURE, SPORT AND MEDIA

**Bailey, Olga G., Georgiou, Myria, and Harindranath, Ramaswami (eds)**

**TRANSNATIONAL LIVES AND THE MEDIA: RE-IMAGINING THE DIASPORA**

Publisher: New York, Palgrave Macmillan

Year: 2007

ISBN: 978-0230019836

Pagination: 288 pp

Price: £55.00/\$85.00USD

This edited collection provides an account of the relationship between diaspora and media cultures. The contributors draw from various theoretical and empirical approaches illustrated by original case studies. The first section of the book explores key epistemological, conceptual and methodological issues for the study of diaspora, transnationalism and the media, within which Shehina Fazal examines the concept of diaspora and its intersections with transnationalism and multiculturalism. The second part of the book discusses the different aspects of the politics of diasporic and migrant experiences. Here, Eugenia Siapera considers the articulation of transnational Islamic identities, in a context in which Islam is often understood to be diametrically opposed to 'the West'. Section three explores the role of media and communication technologies in the process of developing the cultural identities of various groups. The final part of the volume focuses on the roles of NGOs working with diasporic communities. It considers organisations based in Europe, the United States and the rest of the world.

*Also relates to:*

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*History*

*Migration, Immigration and the Refugee Experience*

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**Baker, Aaron**

**CONTESTING IDENTITIES: SPORTS IN AMERICAN FILM, URBANA AND CHICAGO**

Publisher: University of Illinois Press

Year: 2006

Pagination: 147 pp

ISBN: 978-0252073540 pbk

Price: \$16.00 USD

Baker looks at the different ways in which multiple social identities, particularly that of race, class, gender and to a less extent, sexuality are portrayed in Hollywood 'Sports Films'. He describes how these identities come into contestation and conflict with one another in these commercialised, full-length feature sound films that base their stories on various kinds of popular sports like football, baseball, boxing and basketball. These films tend to portray their protagonists as outstanding sportsmen or more recently, sportswomen, who have excelled despite all odds, thereby transcending class, gender or racial discrimination.

Baker however, disagrees that such 'Sports Films' are purely entertaining and therefore apolitical. He shows how, on the contrary, they legitimise and reinforce the dominant discourse in American society, which stresses individualism, self-reliance and hard work as the means to personal success. He is critical of the way Hollywood 'Sports Films' ignore the structural forces that impinge upon our identities such as: class, race, gender and sexuality, preventing free and fair competition and in turn, our advancement in life.

By dissecting this 'American mythology' in Hollywood films, he shows how it glosses over the structural and institutional discrimination that continues to exist in American society today.

The book is divided into six chapters. Chapter 1 focuses on the use of history in films, discussing how historical contextualisation can create contradictions in the films' narratives. Chapter 2 focuses on the issue of race and how African Americans were excluded or marginalised from Hollywood films despite their prominence in sports. Even if they play prominent roles in these films, their characters are often premised on their acceptance of white control or their assimilation into the dominant culture, which Baker defines as white, male, heterosexual, and middle-class. Chapter 3 focuses on the relationship between gender and sports wherein discrimination against women is not seen as systemic. Therefore, women are told that they can simply overcome obstacles and succeed in sports if they train equally hard and accept the same ethos as their white male counterparts. Chapter 4 focuses on Hollywood's neglect of class as an important determinant in one's success or lack of it in life. The author criticises the 'myth-making role' of Hollywood films in reinforcing the idea of sports as a means to achieve individual upward social mobility, thus dismissing the significance of class deprivation and class solidarity in the process.

Baker surmises that social identities are far more complex than their portrayals in Hollywood films, and that these differing identities are in fact, relational, hybridised and the result of different contesting ideological discourses. Nevertheless, he concedes that due to the influence of liberalism, feminism and post-modernism, some Hollywood films have begun to portray multiculturalism, political pluralities and social diversities in a more sensitive manner.

**Also relates to:**

***Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships***

***Economics and Globalisation***

***Politics and Government***

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**Brown, Jayna**

**BABYLON GIRLS: BLACK WOMEN PERFORMERS AND THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN**

Publisher: Duke University Press

Year: 2008

Pagination: 360 pp

ISBN: 978-0822341573

Price: \$23.95 USD

This volume analyses the significance of African American expressive techniques to sociological scholarship and the creation of popular culture. *Babylon Girls* offers an intellectual post-modern study that features early African American female stage performers as influential procurers of modern art forms. Jayna Brown indicates the efficacy of early twentieth century black female stage performers as progenitors of cosmopolitan art. These women, despite racial prejudice, managed to carve out an indelible cultural space. This study is about the social process which acts as a catalyst in the formation of black stage production as a formidable art form and the source of contemporary scholarship in Performance Studies, African American Studies and Women's Studies. Central to this work is the western politics of gendered race and socio-political contestation for public space, where blacks were denied the right of place. The author explains the tenacity of black female performers like Josephine Baker, Aida Overton and other less known artists, who, despite their low social rank, navigated racism to entertain wide audiences throughout the US and Europe. These trailblazers, some chorus line, cabaret acts and singers challenged the existing protocol and

rules that excluded blacks as cultural connoisseurs and black women as producers.

Jayna Brown theorises the fluidity of culture as a continuous production, which transcends time and space. Despite efforts to contain racial categories, the ambiguities of conurbation and self-indulgence of metropolis audiences, a new phenomenon was created out of the existing social conflicts. Emerging was gaiety, masquerade (minstrelsy) and cross-culture exchange and the expression 'societies' ironies'. Art was imitating realism and the metropolis became the cauldron wherein which black culture gained acceptance. Conversely, the author indicates that this alliance does not negate egalitarianism but plays on the irony of racialised identities of race and gender and the concept of western democracy. Early 1900s stage shows like *The Creole Show* (1890) and *Shuffle Along* (1921) were exaggerated self-narratives of black realism which relied heavily on the use of vernacular. Unpredictably, as both black and white women acted out stereotypical roles of 'picaninny' characters and other hyper-racialised categories across international stages, new urban trends in dance, music (jazz) and fashion emerged. Most notably, dance movements such as the Charleston, the shimmy and the catwalk were invented by black women. These procurers of urban movements developed their talents through extreme material deprivation, often through improvisation. *Babylon Girls* salutes the efforts of the early twentieth century African American female performers in paving the way for the 'modern woman' and urban popular culture.

**Also relates to:**

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*Health and Social Care*

*Politics and Government*

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**Burgos, Adrian, Jr.**

### **PLAYING AMERICA'S GAME: BASEBALL, LATINOS AND THE COLOR LINE**

Publisher: Duke University Press

Year: 2007

Pagination: 362 pp

ISBN: 978-0520251434

Price: £15.95

In this book, Burgos takes a historical view of the role of Latinos in organised baseball. He finds that although they have been largely ignored by historians of both baseball in general and the Negro leagues in particular, Latinos have been a significant presence in professional leagues from the beginning. Burgos draws on archival materials from the US, Cuba, and Puerto Rico and draws on Spanish- and English-language publications as well as interviews with Negro league and major league players to support his claims for the centrality of Latinos in the history of baseball from the 1880s. Before Jackie Robinson was signed in 1947, managers manipulated racial distinctions to include Latino players. However, this inclusion did not signify equality, and darker-skinned players such as Orestes (Minnie) Miñoso, Roberto Clemente, and Sammy Sosa continued to be excluded.

**Also relates to:**

*Criminal Justice and Racial Violence*

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*History*

*Migration, Immigration and the Refugee Experience*

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**Waters, Hazel**

### **RACISM ON THE VICTORIAN STAGE: REPRESENTATION OF SLAVERY AND THE**



## **BLACK CHARACTER**

Publisher: Cambridge, Cambridge University Press

Year: 2007

Pagination: 219 pp

ISBN: 978-0521107556

Price: £18.99

In this study of the representation of race in the Victorian Arts, Waters explores the development of black stereotypes during a process of rapid social change. She traces how racial assumptions in Britain evolved from a certain flexibility at the end of the eighteenth century to a greater rigidity by the second half of the nineteenth century. Theatre at the time was mass entertainment and the 70 plays explored by Waters, which were hastily written, surviving only as hand-written manuscripts or cheap pamphlets, were used to discover how 'race' was viewed and how the stereotype of the black was developed and degraded. She reports that slavery was a major theme for many Victorian plays, and it shaped the image of black people as presented for popular consumption. More famous black characters, featuring in Shakespeare's *Othello*, and Southerne's *Oroonoko* are also discussed.

*Also relates to:*

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*History*

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**Weisenfeld, Judith**

## **HOLLYWOOD BE THY NAME: AFRICAN AMERICAN RELIGION IN AMERICAN FILM, 1929-1949,**

Publisher: Berkeley, University of California Press

Year: 2007

Pagination: 341 pp

ISBN: 9780521107556

Price: £18-.99

In this book, Weisenfeld examines the complicated ways filmmakers and their films engaged in the ongoing process of articulating race and religion in America in the early twentieth century. From the earliest years of sound film in America, Hollywood studios and independent producers of 'race films' for black audiences, created stories featuring African American religious practices, and particularly music. Weisenfeld explores these cinematic representations and how they reflected and contributed to discourses about race, citizenship, and American identity. Her research is based on analysis of films, as well as studio production files, censorship records and discussions and debates about religion and film in the black press. She argues that religion was central to African Americans' cinematic representations in the 1920s, 30s and 40s.

*Also relates to:*

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*History*

*Politics and Government*

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND RACIAL VIOLENCE**

**Aspden, Kester**

### **NATIONALITY: WOG .THE HOUNDING OF DAVID OLUWALE**

Publisher: London, Jonathan Cape

Year: 2007

Pagination: 244 pp

ISBN: 978-0224080408

Price: £12.99/\$17.99USD

In this biography, Aspden explores the life and brutal death of David Oluwale. Oluwale was a homeless man living in Leeds, whose body was discovered in the River Aire in 1969. After a brief police investigation he was buried in a pauper's grave. However, a year later his body was exhumed, at the request of a novice policeman who suspected two of his colleagues of causing Oluwale's death. The two police officers, Sergeant Ken Kitching and Inspector Geoff Ellerker, were charged in November 1971 with manslaughter and assault occasioning actual bodily harm and were found guilty. The police officers were sentenced to just over five years' imprisonment between them. In the trial it was revealed that, as well as beating him in Millgarth police station, whilst Oluwale was living on the streets, they would wake him up by urinating on him or setting fire to the newspaper on which he slept. Aspden links the lack of justice in this case to wider issues of discrimination, and questions whether present-day Western inaction in Darfur, like past slowness in dealing with Rwanda, reveal a hidden belief that black African lives are lesser in value.

*Also relates to:*

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*History*

*Migration, Immigration and the Refugee Experience*

*Politics and Government*

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**Knopf, Terry Ann**

**RUMORS, RACE AND RIOTS**

Publisher: New Jersey, Transaction Publishers

Year: 2006

Pagination: 398pp

ISBN: 978-1412805575

Price: £19.95/\$29.95USD

In the second edition of this book, Knopf updates her 1975 study of how and why rumours emerge in connection with racial disturbances. The study is based on relevant rumours documented in newspapers and other sources in the 1960s and 70s. Knopf developed a theory that race related rumours found in crisis situations formed a pattern that was part of the same process. This included a rigid social structure, hostility between different races and conditions of stress, which enabled the formation of specific rumours to aggravate an already difficult situation. Knopf was persuaded of the book's contemporary relevance by two events: the rioting in Paris in 2005 which involved mainly people from immigrant North African backgrounds, and the menacing rumours that circulated in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

*Also relates to:*

*Arts, Literature and Sport*

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*History*

*Social theory*

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**Rowe, Michael (ed)**

**POLICING BEYOND MACPHERSON: ISSUES IN POLICING, RACE AND SOCIETY**

Publisher: Devon, Willan Publishing

Year: 2007

Pagination: 196 pp

ISBN: 978-1843922124

Price: £22.00/\$39.95USD

In this volume, contributors address the impact of the Lawrence Report since it was published in 1999. When it was published, Home Secretary Jack Straw promised that the Macpherson

Inquiry would lead to significant change in the policing of minority ethnic communities in Britain. The essays included in the book offer a reflection on some of the key controversies that have developed as the recommendations of the Lawrence Inquiry have, or have not, been implemented. James Whitfield opens the collection with an essay placing the issues relating to the Lawrence case in their historical context. The broader social, political and policing background against which the recommendations of the Macpherson Report have been implemented is reviewed by Eugene McLaughlin. Neil Charkraborti concludes that, since 9/11, discussion of police relations with minority ethnic communities tends to relate to the Muslim rather than the African Caribbean community.

*Also relates to:*

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*Migration, Immigration and the Refugee Experience*

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**Winterdyk, John & Antonopoulos, George (eds)**

**RACIST VICTIMIZATION: INTERNATIONAL REFLECTIONS AND PERSPECTIVES**

Publisher: Ashgate

Year: 2008

Pagination: 236pp

ISBN: 978-0754673200

Price: £55.00

This book brings together a collection of essays to provide a clear account of the event, nature, characteristics and reactions towards racist victimization within an international context. It provides definitions of key terms, data, graphs, readily packaged sound bites and case examples as well as detailed study based on the countries of Australia, Canada, England and Wales, France, Germany, Greece, Japan and the US.

The book's goal is to explore racist victimisation across these countries and to examine the different cultural, historical, social and geographic characteristics in relations to who, and why certain individuals/groups are victimized. Although different minority and migrant groups live in the countries of the Western (and Eastern) world, the trend of exclusion, persecution and victimization remains the same. Whether African Caribbean, Aboriginal people, Black, Asian, Moroccan, Turkish, Chinese, Roma or Gypsy, all these groups have something in common: they belong to different types of 'ethnic-making situations' and constitute the 'Other' often identified with danger, fear and national insecurity. As a consequence they have been prejudiced against and victimized.

This collection of essays allows the reader to gain a deeper understanding of: Why younger minority ethnic and/or racial youth are more likely to be the victim of racially biased conflict. Why certain areas are more prone to racial conflict than others. What the mechanism are that predispose certain individuals to racist victimisation. What the likely impact on not reporting racial incidents. How and why racist victimization incidents occur and which policies appear to work.

In addition, each chapter follows a framework of providing an historical overview of the country in question, a discussion of racism within the legal context of that country, a description and the extent of racism married to an overview of the social, cultural and political reaction to racially motivated victimization. Then a conclusion is drawn with observations about the plight and direction of racist victimization within the country.

To give a flavour of each chapter; 'Australia' focuses on the fact that tension and friction amongst ethnic groups has been integral to the country's history, highlighting the contradiction of the country's image of being friendly, welcoming and tolerant with the fact large sectors of the migrant and ethnic population perceive themselves as marginalised.

A subsequent chapter considers Canada's experience as a multicultural nation within

which racial prejudice is prevalent. It examines the country's difficulty in collecting and creating meaningful data to help it steer legislative and social interventions.

The chapter which analyses experiences in England and Wales utilises the murder of Stephen Lawrence and the subsequent Macpherson Inquiry to contextualise. It looks at the wider implications of the changes in legislation and whether or not the Criminal Justice System has deepened its understanding of racist victimization and broadened its response to such situations. France, typically struggling with its race relations, had the debate dramatically reignited with the riots of 2005. The author points out that the absence of political and public debate on racist victimization is a characteristic of French culture. Light is cast on contemporary racist violence in Germany where it seems that there is very little data and statistical evidence on the effectiveness of anti-racist legislation. Policies are, 'not lead by scientific research but guided by normative theory and ideology'. The Chapter on Greece highlights the issue that migrants are primarily the victims of racism; the lack of an effective legal framework, despite great strides to put systems in place, leaves the problem remaining. In Japan, the author focuses on how the 'myth of homogeneity' has simply been denied minority groups. Instead 'foreigner as criminal' seems the predominant mind set with its subsequent ramification. The final chapter on the US examines the four main groups that are victims of racism, how, by law since 1990, data has been collected on racial victimization and the consequent social and political response to 'racial profiling'.

**Also relates to:**

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*Health and Social Care*

*History*

*Migration, Immigration and the Refugee Experience*

*Politics and Government*

## **CULTURE, IDENTITY, GENDER AND RELATIONSHIPS**

**April, Kurt, and Shockley, Marylou (eds)**

**DIVERSITY IN AFRICA: THE COMING OF AGE OF A CONTINENT**

Publisher: Hampshire, Palgrave Macmillan

Year: 2007

Pagination: 316 pp

ISBN: 978-0230006843

Price: £57.50/\$95.00USD

This collection discusses the challenges and opportunities associated with the cultural diversity of the African continent. It argues that culture should not be used to divide Africans from each other and the rest of the world, but should be used to unite people and inspire a prosperous way forward through a shared and collective African vision. The book is an attempt to unite academics and leaders in forwarding the moral call for Africa to become aware of the causes of its oppression, and highlight the potential of Africa through the maximization of the rich diversity existent in the continent. An essay by Lize Booysen explores cultural diversity and its management from a South African perspective, and Nadine Mendelek Theimann discusses the African thought system more generally. Madelein Mkunu explores issues of gender in her essay on the contributions of women to the process of development and unity in Africa. John Clarke's chapter looks at how communities can address the problem of HIV/AIDS.

**Also relates to:**

*Economics and Globalisation*

*Health and Social Care*

*History*

*Politics and Government*  
*Social Theory*

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**Carter, Julian B.**

**THE HEART OF WHITENESS: NORMAL SEXUALITY AND RACE IN AMERICA 1880-1940**

Publisher: Durham and London, Duke University Press

Year: 2007

Pagination: 219 pp

ISBN: 978-0822339373

Price: £13.99/\$21.95USD

Julian Carter demonstrates that between 1880 and 1940, cultural discourses of whiteness and heterosexuality came together to form a new concept of the 'normal' American. The book focuses on the early-twentieth century emergence of the ideal of this 'normal' American, through which a particular kind of person came to be perceived as uniquely modern, natural and healthy. This modern, 'normal' person was largely defined through a powerfully racialized understanding of sexuality, based on an ideal of heterosexual whiteness. At the same time, the affectionate, reproductive heterosexuality of 'normal' married couples became increasingly central to legitimate membership of the nation. Carter bases her research on popular texts, focusing on how sex education for children and marital advice for adults provided outlets for the dissemination of the new ideal of normality.

**Also relates to:**

**Arts, Literature and Sport**

**History**

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**Glaser, Eliane**

**JUDAISM WITHOUT JEWS: PHILOSEMITISM AND CHRISTIAN POLEMIC IN EARLY MODERN ENGLAND**

Publisher: Basingstoke, Hampshire, Palgrave Macmillan

Year: 2007

Pagination: 220 pp

ISBN: 978-0230507746

Price: £45.00/\$69.95USD

Here, Glaser explores the historiography of the readmission of Jews to England in 1656. Oliver Cromwell's decision to readmit Jews to England has traditionally been regarded as a watershed in the history of the Jews in England, and is often argued to represent the culmination of a Christian enthusiasm for Jewish ideas. However, careful analysis leads Glaser to argue that Oliver Cromwell did not readmit the Jews to England in 1656. She acknowledges that Menasseh ben Israel, the prominent Amsterdam rabbi, came to visit Cromwell in 1655 to try to persuade him to readmit them, and the Whitehall Conference was called in December of that year to discuss the issue. However, the conference ended without reaching a verdict. In March 1656, six members of London's Jewish community submitted a petition to Cromwell requesting permission to hold services in private without being disturbed by the authorities, and to establish a Jewish cemetery. Cromwell referred this petition to his Council of State, but it was ignored. It has been argued that Cromwell himself was favourably inclined towards the Jews, and verbally granted the terms of the community's petition. However, Glaser maintains that no proof of this verbal assurance has ever been found, and that there is no evidence to indicate the nature of Cromwell's own attitude towards the Jews.

**Also relates to:**

**Criminal Justice and Racial Violence**

*History*  
*Politics and Government*  
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**Noll, Mark A.**

**GOD AND RACE IN AMERICAN POLITICS: A SHORT HISTORY**

Publisher: Princeton, Princeton University Press

Year: 2008

Pagination: 224 pp

ISBN: 978-0691125367

Price: £13.50

In this book, Mark Noll attempts to make sense of what is a complicated history and brings into focus the interconnections between politics, race and religion in America. He argues that 'race and religion make up, not only [America's] deepest and most enduring moral problem but also its broadest and most enduring political influence.' Noll concentrates on three transformative periods in American political history: slavery, the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement. Defining these political transformations and trying to explain how race and religion dictated the shape of their development are the major concerns of this book. In doing so, Noll tries to show that whilst race and religion have combined differently in America's key transformative eras, their successive combinations have constituted a single, continuous narrative from the slave revolt in 1830 to George W. Bush's re-election in 2004.

Noll demonstrates how supporters and opponents of slavery and segregation have drawn equally on the Bible to justify the morality of their positions. The Civil War was also a battle over how to interpret the Bible and how to promote moral norms in public life. He contends that the American practice of republican democracy has provided a human and enlightened system and that the Christian faith has, on balance, been a force for good at home and abroad. However, Noll goes on to point out that neither politics nor religion have been able to overcome problems associated with race relations. This failure is reflective of America's paradoxical behaviour - that of the 'good' Christian democrat alongside the pervasive exploitation and discrimination of African-Americans. He describes the 'commingling' of paradoxical behaviours such as, domination with liberation and altruism with greed as part of the consistent narrative of American history. The reliance on the Bible for meeting different ends, liberation alongside oppression, is central to the nation's moral problem. Noll concludes that to make sense of this complicated history, full of contradictions and paradoxes, it is helpful to proceed from a standpoint that has a scope wide enough to take in the moral complexities that it generates.

The book is based on Noll's own research on the Civil War period and on twentieth century white American evangelicals combined with a review of the literature on the Reconstruction and the modern civil rights era. Noll acknowledges that this short history does not cover all of the complicated themes and events that have taken place. The book's purpose is really to bring understanding to the way in which race, religion and politics are intertwined and how these connections have developed throughout history. It is illustrated throughout with historical references and covers issues from the period leading up to the Civil War to issues affecting electoral behaviour in the present day.

**Also relates to:**

*History*  
*Politics and Government*  
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**Raymond, G. and Modood, T. (eds)**

**THE CONSTRUCTION OF MINORITY IDENTITIES IN FRANCE AND BRITAIN**

Publisher: Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan

Year: 2007

Pagination: 224 pp  
ISBN: 978-0230522183  
Price: £45.00

This edited book contains contributions from experts that cut across cultural studies and the social sciences. It compares how two countries that have very different attitudes to minority identities deal with the challenge of multiculturalism. Multiculturalism in Britain allows for the possibility that race or faith can be combined with a British identity, whilst the French view is that combining religion and nationality is unacceptable. The book is original in that it compares responses by France and Britain and elucidates the common challenges the two societies face as they endeavour to respond to the subjective needs of all their citizens, in an increasingly globalised world. The first part of the book analyses the characteristics and contradictions of French and British approaches to the understanding of how minority identities are constructed. It then goes on to consider the realities in France and Britain with regard to more recently established and older minorities with distinct identities in both.

In chapter one, Tariq Modood and Riva Kastoryano develop a broad view of the assumptions at the heart of secularism in Western societies. They suggest that the consequence for newly settled communities is that the rhetoric of secular neutrality by the state can be read as a pretext for a bias that militates against genuine pluralism and multiculturalism. Michel Wieviorka provides an overview of the way the understanding of identity and the processes of its construction have evolved, the paradoxes this evolution has generated and the challenges it now poses.

Catherine Wihtol de Wenden offers a broad, historical view of the factors that have shaped modern France and conditioned the peculiarities and paradoxes of the French attitude toward the construction of minority identities. Max Silverman focuses on the ambiguities revealed by the attempt of the French state to police the secular boundaries of the public space in the Republic. The consequences and constraints imposed by the demands of faith-based forms of identification in certain communities are not to be underestimated but, he argues, it is legitimate to question whether they really contribute to fault-lines that are more economic than social.

Nadia Kiwan draws on research carried out in a town on the outskirts of Paris over a 12-month period. Her interviews paint a picture of young people tailoring a sense of self that is the result of continuously circulating between social and cultural forms of identification, while simultaneously drawing on community-oriented and more universal elements of identity. Vincent Latour draws on research among black and minority ethnic groups in Bristol. The evidence from his research suggests that the community-based approach to race relations in Britain offers little scope for complacency in terms of tangible results, vis-à-vis the French approach.

Pnina Werbner draws out the variety and complexity that characterises the operation of notions like honour and shame in Muslim communities; and the tendency of secular Western societies to envisage them in reductive terms. She suggests that the defence of the modern secular nature of the public sphere in France rings hollow given the successful adaptation of Jewish post-war migrants to the ideology of the Republic. Harry Goulbourne discusses the first post-war wave of migrants. The arrival in Britain and the new context in which Caribbeans had to operate were instrumental in engendering a collective identity. The uniqueness of the Caribbean experience lies in the fact that, in socio-political terms, their integration in British life has succeeded arguably to the point of virtual absorption.

***Also relates to:***

***Criminal Justice and Racial Violence***

***Economics and Globalisation***

***History***

***Migration, Immigration and the Refugee Experience***

*Politics*

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**Robinson, Edward J.**

**TO SAVE MY RACE FROM ABUSE: THE LIFE OF SAMUEL ROBERT CASSIUS**

Publisher: Tuscaloosa, The University of Alabama Press

Year: 2007

Pagination: 212 pp

ISBN: 978-0817315559

Price: £26.00/\$39.95USD

This biography documents the life of Samuel Robert Cassius, the black minister whose ministry helped reveal and shape race relations in the US prior to the rise of Marshall Keeble in the early twentieth century. Robinson describes Cassius's life, from his birth in 1853, his early life as a slave, and his conversion to the Disciples of Christ in 1883. Cassius was a passionate preacher, and relied on white Christians for financial support. However, as an ex-slave, he struggled against racism, and rejected stereotypes of black people in his writings and sermons. Cassius's racial consciousness was as strong as his religious convictions, as he equated saving the souls of black Americans from the wrath of God with rescuing their names and reputations from the condemnation of white Americans. Until now, the work of Samuel Robert Cassius has been virtually forgotten, however Robinson attempts here to restore his place as the most vocal and visible African American preacher in Churches of Christ during the Progressive Era, 1890-1920.

*Also relates to:*

*Arts, Literature and Sport*

*History*

*Social Theory*

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**Sharpley-Whiting, T. Denean**

**PIMPS UP, HO'S DOWN: HIP HOP'S HOLD ON YOUNG BLACK WOMEN**

Publisher: New York University Press

Year: 2007

Pagination: 208 pp

ISBN: 978-0814740149

Price: £19.95

Taking as her starting point her own position as a self-proclaimed 'feminist academic of the hip hop generation', T. Denean Sharpley-Whiting examines the complex ways in which young black women negotiate the misogynist and male-dominated realm of hip hop. At the heart of her exploration is the contradiction that hip hop relies upon women whilst simultaneously rejecting them. Indeed, claims Sharpley-Whiting, hip hop depends on young black women – they are indispensable to its mass-media-engineered appeal and commercial success. What is needed, argues Sharpley-Whiting, is a radical shake-up of the sexual politics of hip hop. With a more 'gender inclusive' approach, as outlined here, hip hop, the author claims, has the potential to shirk its 'profane' public face in order to have its weighty political agenda and artistic legacy accorded the scholarly legitimacy it deserves.

The book starts out by exploring the complexities of the representation of women and women's own investment in hip hop music videos. Here Sharpley-Whiting makes an interesting connection between hip hop's packaging of women-as-sex-commodities and the position of women in the diasporic sex tourism trade. Whilst acknowledging that women are presented in a less than ideal light, Sharpley-Whiting nevertheless accords a sense of agency to the female models and actors of hip hop media. In so doing, she highlights the



difficult nature of women's relationship to beauty culture and the million-dollar hip hop media industry.

Chapter two investigates the relationship between hip hop and sexual abuse, drawing on high-profile cases and hip hop generation films to examine the tangled web of gender politics, sexual violence and the murky issues of consent. There follows an examination of the necessity of groupie culture within hip hop and the ways in which women again represent the mainstay of male ego and machismo. In an interesting twist, chapter four puts the spot light on the interaction between hip hop and strip clubs to complicate the term 'pimping' as less about a particular gendered dynamic and more the result of a genderless bartering between music-as-making and music-as-commodity.

The book closes with an analysis of the current situation of feminism and hip hop within contemporary American culture. Drawing on extensive interviews with young, college-educated women, Sharpley-Whiting opens discussion up to the need to redefine a new gender politics within hip hop culture. Dispensing with the degrading 'pimps up-ho's down' ethos of hip hop culture, Sharpley-Whiting interprets the future of hip hop as a promising one – lying within feminism and the reach of the current hip hop generation.

*Also relates to:*

*Economics and Globalisation*

*Education*

*Employment*

*Politics and Government*

## **ECONOMICS AND GLOBALISATION**

**Held, David, and Kaya, Ayse**

### **GLOBAL INEQUALITY: PATTERNS AND EXPLANATIONS**

Publisher: Cambridge, Polity Press

Year: 2007

Pagination: 282 pp

ISBN: 978-0745638874

Price: £15.99/\$22.95USD

In this volume, contributors explore the issue of global inequality. They discuss what global inequality actually is, and how it can be measured. The editors are in no doubt that global inequality is one of the major problems of the twenty-first century, as over 830 million people are seriously undernourished, and the richest 10 percent of the world's population receive around half of the world's income. Such inequalities have motivated many protest movements, from 'Live Aid', to fair trade. Contributors debate whether globalisation has alleviated or exacerbated inequality and poverty, and attempt to move beyond this 'either-or' debate. Authors include Gosta Esping-Andersen, Nancy Fraser, James K. Galbraith, Ravi Kanbur, Branko Milanovic, David Dollar and Anthony J. Venables. They discuss all the major issues that need to be addressed in conceptualising, measuring and analysing contemporary patterns of global inequality.

*Also relates to:*

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*Employment*

*Migration, Immigration and the Refugee Experience*

*Social Theory*

## **EDUCATION**

**Richards, Sandra**

### **THE WAY WE SEE IT**

Publisher: Trentham Books

Year: 2008

Pagination: 169pp

ISBN: 978-1858564203

Price: £16.99

Employing an African-centred approach, Richards makes an important challenge to the British educational system and the ways in which it excludes, and ultimately fails, Caribbean-African children. According to Richards, the persistent exclusion of Caribbean-African boys, in particular, is linked to institutional racism which, in turn, is here tied to a broader historical framework of British Colonialism and Imperialism. Richards shifts the blame away from the boys themselves – who often become convenient scapegoats to Britain's continued reliance on and profiting from Colonialism – and instead throws the hard and oppressive gaze of the British school system back on itself. The result is an uncomfortable but necessary look at the ways in which UK schools represent sites of enduring post-colonial trauma for young British Caribbean-African students, their parents and their communities.

The book starts by revealing the social inequalities and educational injustices concealed within the veiled system of school league tables. Here, Richards uncovers shocking statistics pertaining to the exclusion rates of Caribbean-African pupils and the consequent downward spiral of poverty, crime, violence, social disadvantage and high mortality rates within their communities.

Richards details how, within the British school system, enslavement has been replaced with a fear and consequent exclusion of pupils which, in addition to the misrepresentation of African culture and the consequent erasure of African history, has led to the emotional, social and intellectual isolation of Caribbean-African students. This in turn, claims Richards, has the potential to lead to underachievement, social disorder and social exclusion.

Richards urges the need for difficult conversations which address the gap between the theory and practice of inclusion. This would take as its starting point the need for adults not to pathologise and blame children whilst absolving themselves of accountability. Instead, claims Richards, both teachers and practitioners need to take responsibility for their own position and affect on the educational lives of the children in their care. Often, stresses Richards, it is the discomfort of this realisation which makes teachers choose their own careers over the education of their pupils.

The book concludes by setting out a model of a socially inclusive practice in an attempt to support excluded pupils and to start a dialogue between pupils, parents, teachers and practitioners. Drawing on examples of socially inclusive practice recommendations for teachers and policy makers, Richards urges a paradigm shift towards an African-focused pedagogy which makes it the responsibility of teachers and policy makers to work in partnership with the Caribbean-African community in order to address cultural ignorance, miscommunication, and misunderstanding. According to Richards, it is only by acknowledging, and truly understanding, African cultural history and contemporary culture that the real reasons behind the marginalisation and exclusion of Caribbean-African pupils can be properly addressed and rectified. In this way, Richards reverses the claim that British Caribbean-African sub-culture is to blame for the high exclusion rates of descended pupils and instead argues that these pupils need to have a sense of belonging and a connection to their cultural heritage in order to thrive and reach their full academic potential.

***Also relates to:***

***Criminal Justice and Racial Violence***

***Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships***

***Health and Social Care***

***History***

***Social Theory***

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**Weekes-Bernard, Debbie**

**SCHOOL CHOICE AND ETHNIC SEGREGATION: EDUCATIONAL DECISION-MAKING AMONG BLACK AND MINORITY ETHNIC PARENTS**

Publisher: London, The Runnymede Trust

Year: 2007

Pagination: 68 pp

ISBN: 10 0-9548389-12

Price: £9.95

This report explores the factors affecting black and minority ethnic (BME) parents' choice of school and the implication of these choices for segregation or cohesion. It also explores whether current educational reform adequately promotes race equality. It presents research based on interviews with BME parents and children, admission officials and senior teachers to examine what impact the choice agenda has on their educational decision making. The report finds that the choice agenda actually works against efforts to increase the educational attainment of BME pupils. Choice policies tend to support the aspirations of middle-class parents, enhancing their access to high-achieving schools. The report concludes that race and diversity continues to have little impact on educational policy development in Britain.

*Also relates to:*

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*Migration, Immigration and the Refugee Experience*

## **EMPLOYMENT**

**Pai, Hsiao-Hung**

**CHINESE WHISPERS: THE TRUE STORY BEHIND BRITAIN'S HIDDEN ARMY OF LABOUR**

Publisher: London, Penguin Books

Year: 2008

Pagination: 262pp

ISBN: ISBN 978-0-141-03568-0 PBK

Price: £8.99

An interesting and timely book by freelance journalist, Hsiao-Hung Pai about the realities of hundreds of thousands of undocumented migrant workers from China in Britain today. The book contains eight case studies of Chinese workers in different types of menial, casual work such as selling pirated DVDs in the streets, picking cabbages for big supermarket chains, housekeeping in brothels, sex work, cooking in the busy Chinese restaurant kitchens or waiting at tables. Pai wrote this book because of the tragic deaths of Chinese migrant workers who tried to enter Britain or work in Britain without legal papers. Invoking incidents such as the suffocation of 58 Chinese immigrants trapped in a locked container from Holland to Dover and the drowning of 23 cockle pickers in Morecambe Bay in 2004, the book highlights the inhumane working conditions of undocumented workers in Britain today. The author emphasises that this is in fact, a consequence of British immigration laws that aim to keep out migrants and migrant workers who are not from the European Union (EU). Ironically, according the author, government policies such as these are creating the very conditions for the trafficking of migrants into the country and the ever-increasing exploitation of their labour.

Pai shows the causes (the 'push factors') for labour migration out of developing countries such as mainland China where the increasing impoverishment of the rural and agricultural sectors have forced peasants and small farmers to migrate to cities, both at home and abroad, in search of work. She also links the waves of migration out of China today, to the retrenchment of workers from previously state-owned enterprises since the

Chinese economic reforms that began from the late 1980s. Pai contextualises the increased number of migrant workers into Britain as part and parcel of a world-wide trend of globalised migration. Thereby pointing out that what is taking place in Britain today is not unique to the country. The author believes that as long as extreme disparities of wealth exist within a country or between countries, the exploitation of migrant labour is global.

The author criticises the racist discourses that underlie many of the British Government's policies to prevent, restrict and control 'illegal migrants'. In its effort to 'look good' in the eyes of the British electorates, it has implemented what could be considered racist and oppressive measures, to reduce the number of successful asylum cases in Britain, through forced deportations and by ensuring failed asylum seekers who cannot leave Britain remain second-class and invisible in the country. Contrary to the popular beliefs that these undocumented migrants or asylum seekers are 'taking away British jobs' and 'taking advantage of the British welfare system', the book shows their immense contribution to the British economy and people. A fact, according to the author, the politicians and policy-makers has been reluctant to admit publicly. The author's disclosure of the latest EU and British policies to exclude undocumented migrant workers from the protection of universal human rights is shocking. Pai has convincingly shown how British immigration policies, which aim primarily to keep migrants and migrant workers out, are in fact violating the human rights of those who are currently contributing billions of pounds to the economy. By refusing to ratify important international conventions that would protect these workers, the British government has become an accomplice to international trafficking rings, unscrupulous and greedy employers and manpower agencies, as well as criminal elements that thrive on the ever-increasing exploitation of the labour of those who are deprived of any human rights.

*Also relates to:*

*Criminal Justice and Racial Violence*

*Economics and Globalisation*

*Migration, Immigration and the Refugee Experience*

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**Lutz, Helma**

**MIGRATION AND DOMESTIC WORK: A EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE ON A GLOBAL THEME**

Publisher: Ashgate

Year: 2008

Pagination: 224 pp

ISBN: 978-0754647904

Price: £55.00

The book is based on a simple premise; due to growing employment opportunities for 'middle class' women in Western Europe and North America there is an increasing care deficit. Women, in trying to balance the perennial problem between career and caring, are turning in ever greater numbers towards domestic help. This is creating new problems around migration and the entrenchment of an underclass: low paid, long suffering female migrant care workers. The book is split in to three parts, enabling the reader to expand their perception of 'domestic migrant' and delve beneath surface meanings. The range of chapters consider the gender nature of domestic work, irregular status of female migrants and the way national states address the problem of migrant care workers. Part one deals with the question of whether domestic work in a commodified form can be characterised as 'business as usual'. The section starts with a three country study; Sweden, Spain and Great Britain, examining the differing nature of the childcare services provided by these welfare states and how these services stimulate particular demands and problems. This is followed by an examination of Italy's domestic work sector and how state intervention, in the

organisation of care work through migration regulation and policies, created a utilitarianism in which domestic and care work is considered a market for migrants.

In addition there is a German case study focusing attention on whether or not domestic and care work can be defined as a 'normal job' given its gender characterisation and low status. It concludes that the relationship between 'productive' work and care work needs serious redefinition. The final article in part one of the book, looks at the experiences of Albanian domestic workers in Greece, showing that they are often 'live-in', unprotected by labour laws and are open to the detrimental affects of racist employers. Views echoed by a public racist discourse and lack of citizenship rights for these workers.

Part two of the book pays attention to the analysis of the transnational migration spaces within which domestic workers perform their everyday tasks and manage their experiences and relationships. Essays cover historical perspectives on the globalisation of the European domestic services phenomenon. Long-distance mothering and the need to form transnational households, (for example, that of Filipina domestic workers in Rome), can act as a secondary limitation, after racism, on the migrant worker's ability to successfully integrate into Italian society. In developing this issue, the case of Peruvian workers in Spain reveal the complexity of managing transnational households across the Atlantic and deepens our understanding of the 'care chain'. This is added to by the final article in this section, which is an account of Ukrainian workers in Austria who essentially work abroad as a strategy to maintain their families back home.

Part three of the book explores the relationship between states and markets. It starts with an examination of Ukrainian women working in Poland as carers and illustrates, due to income disparities between the two countries, that there is a clear 'care drain dynamic'. It also points out the legal and technical problems that faced Poland, as an accession country to the European Union (EU) it had to introduce visa requirements for non EU nationals, thus aggravating access to Poland and legalised working conditions for Ukrainians. In continuing the theme of issues around legalisation, an Israeli case is examined which shows that the authority of law, in its allegedly neutral and professional manner, has in fact the power to turn normative choices in to uncontested social truths especially where social values and care practices are concerned. Moving from Israel and looking at the EU, the next article essentially focuses on the unsuccessful attempts to develop and implement a coherent and consistent approach which reconciles the protection of human rights and social standards with employment practices that reinforce the underclass status of migrant domestic workers. The final article in this volume reflects on the various topics raised and compares them to academic discussions in North America and other parts of the world.

*Also relates to:*

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*Economics and Globalisation*

*Health and Social Care*

*Migration, Immigration and the Refugee Experience*

*Politics and Government*

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**Trotter, Jr. , Joe William**

**BLACK MILWAUKEE: THE MAKING OF AN INDUSTRIAL PROLETARIAT 1915-45,  
URBANA AND CHICAGO**

Publisher: University of Illinois Press

Year: 2007

Pagination: 368 pp

ISBN: 978-0252074103

Price: £19.99/\$25.99USD

Focusing on Milwaukee between 1915 and 1945, this book examines the African American

experience as an instance of proletarianization. Defined by Trotter as the process by which blacks became urban industrial workers, this proletarianization involved complex interactions of racial and class consciousness and behaviour. He focuses not only on the making of a ghetto, but on the making of an African American industrial working class. This industrial working class represented a move from southern farm labourers and northern domestics, and non-industrial labourers to factory jobs. However, conditions for black workers were harsh, with industrialists and unionists making room for them only on the floor of the urban economy in dangerous and dirty jobs that white workers often refused to perform. This second edition includes essays by William P. Jones, Earl Lewis, Alison Isenberg, and Kimberly L. Phillips, who explore the impact of the original Black Milwaukee on the study of African American urban history over the past twenty years.

**Also relates to:**

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*Health and Social Care*

*History*

*Social Theory*

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**Wrench, John**

### **DIVERSITY MANAGEMENT AND DISCRIMINATION: IMMIGRANTS AND ETHNIC MINORITIES IN THE EU**

Publisher: Aldershot, Ashgate

Year: 2007

Pagination: 156 pp

ISBN: 978-0754648901

Price: £50.00

In response to the growing demographic diversity of the European workforce, diversity management as a business practice has emerged as a policy to facilitate the recruitment and inclusion of employees from diverse backgrounds. This book aims to clarify concepts relevant to the practice of diversity management and provide information about this practice in European countries. Wrench examines the origins of diversity management in the US, and the context for its development in Europe. He also summarises the critiques of diversity management proposed by academics and equality activists. The relationship between diversity management and the issue of combating racial discrimination is ascertained, and Wrench concludes with an evaluation of the successes and failures of diversity management in the EU.

**Also relates to:**

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*Economics and Globalisation*

*Politics and Government*

*Social Theory*

## **HISTORY**

**Adams, Clarence, Adams, Della & Carlson, Lewis H. (eds.)**

### **AN AMERICAN DREAM: THE LIFE OF AN AFRICAN AMERICAN SOLDIER AND POW WHO SPENT TWELVE YEARS IN COMMUNIST CHINA**

Publisher: Amherst and Boston, University of Massachusetts Press

Year: 2007

Pagination: 155 pp

ISBN: 978-1-55849-595-1

Price: \$22.75 USD

An autobiography of Clarence Adams, written after his death by his daughter, Della Adams and friend, Lewis Carlson. This is a moving life chronicle of a black man born in 1929, in the racially segregated city of Memphis, in the South of the US. He joined the US army on September 11, 1947 to avoid police arrest and was sent to Japan and South Korea at the end of the Second World War. Clarence witnessed the outbreak of the Korean War in June 1950 and was captured by the Chinese People's Army as a Prisoner of War (POW). When the Korean War ended in July 1953 in an armistice signed between America-backed South Korea and Chinese and Russian-backed-North Korea, Clarence decided to go to China instead of returning to the US under the care of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission. As a poor, working-class black who saw no future in Memphis where racial discrimination dominated the lives of his community, he wanted to start anew. Clarence wanted an education and the People's Republic of China under the Communist Party of China, welcomed foreigners.

As a high-school dropout, Clarence became a student at the People's University in Beijing to study Chinese language and Chinese Literature. He later graduated from Wuhan University with majors in Chinese Language and Political Economy. He socialized with both local and foreign students, particularly the Koreans, many of whom were high-ranking officers and civil servants sent to China to study and promote Chinese-Korean relations. Clarence's marriage to his Chinese wife Lin, was welcomed by many fellow students and friends from amongst the general population, but certain high-ranking officials and party bureaucrats treated their union with scepticism and disapproval. This was not only because of Clarence's political and racial background but also because Lin came from a former landlord and warlord family, which was then regarded as an 'unreliable class' in revolutionary China.

After the birth of Della, Clarence got a job at the prestigious Foreign Languages Press and moved to Beijing where the family enjoyed a stable life. They worked alongside eminent figures like Israel Epstein and Rittenberg, non-Chinese Revolutionaries who had joined the resistance against the Japanese during WWII and later, the Mao Tze Tung-led communist struggles against Chiang Kai-Shiek.

During the Vietnam War, Clarence engaged in an anti-war action, which was controversial in the eyes of the US government. He volunteered to speak in a public Vietnamese broadcast to black soldiers in the US Army, in the hope that they would not continue to fight in the war. Clarence's message was; the African Americans were not enjoying equal rights as human beings and as US citizens back home, so why should they fight for a government that would willingly sacrifice their lives (as he had experienced during the Korean War)? Clarence also questioned the purpose of waging such devastating wars against Vietnam and Korea, who could not threaten the security of the US.

Because of his action, when Clarence and his family decided to leave China during the Cultural Revolution to return to the US, he was subpoenaed to the House of Un-American Activities Committee, to ascertain if he had acted unpatriotically during his stay in China. Even though he was released without charge, public opinion was against him. The press slandered him as 'turncoats and traitors' and the white racists threatened to kill him and his family. The overt and covert persecution by the US government and its army also took a toll on his family. He was repeatedly denied employment and it was not until late 1968 that he finally got a job despite the resentment of his white colleagues and the all-white trade union. Eventually, Clarence and Lin saved enough money to run their own Chinese Restaurant.

Della published this book because "my father wanted Americans to understand why he went to China. He did not adhere to some abstract or subversive political ideology. To the contrary, he based his decision solely on his inalienable right to live as a human being. America denied him that right, whereas China assured him open and equal opportunities. It was just that simple"

*Also relates to:*

*Criminal Justice and Racial Violence*

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*Education*

*Employment*

*Health and Social Care*

*Politics and Government*

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**Black, Jr. , Timuel**

**BRIDGES OF MEMORY: CHICAGO'S SECOND GENERATION OF BLACK  
MIGRATION, VOLUME 2**

Publisher: Evanston, Il., Northwestern University Press

Year: 2008

Pagination: 392 pp

ISBN: 0-8101-5194-4

Price: £22.50/\$34.95USD

In the second volume of his collection, Jazz historian and civil rights activist, Timuel Black presents the oral histories of sixteen African Americans living in Chicago. African Americans first migrated to Chicago in the first part of the twentieth century, in an effort to escape the Jim Crow system of racial prejudice, discrimination, and segregation in the South. This migration fundamentally changed Chicago and American history more generally. Black illustrates this movement through these oral histories with individuals who are part of the first generation of African Americans to move to Chicago. The personalities interviewed include an artist, a corporate lawyer, a musician and a professor. The personal histories explore lives prior to coming to Chicago, the discrimination they have experienced as residents in the city, and the way that the Civil Rights Movement challenged and eventually overturned segregation.

*Also relates to:*

*Criminal Justice and Social Violence*

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*Migration, Immigration and the Refugee Experience*

*Politics and Government*

*Social Theory*

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**Brown, David, and Webb, Clive**

**RACE IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH: FROM SLAVERY TO CIVIL RIGHTS**

Publisher: Edinburgh, Edinburgh University Press

Year: 2007

Pagination: 392 pp

ISBN: 978-0813032023

Price: £18.99/\$24.95USD

In this book, Brown and Webb offer a comprehensive account of the way that race has shaped the history of the United States. Beginning with the colonial South, the book explores the power of race in the American South, identifying shifting notions of blackness and whiteness and the ways in which both have shaped southern race relations. The authors reject interpretations of race as a timeless, fixed category, instead identifying race as a social construction, which fluctuates and transforms in different contexts. The role of race in the course of southern history is detailed, with attention given to slavery, the impact of the Civil War and reconstruction to the Civil Rights Movement of the twentieth century. All groups in the history of southern race relations are included, and the authors note that various groups are more prominent at different times. While Native Americans were particularly influential in the first two centuries of European settlement, by the nineteenth century slavery meant



that African Americans became the focus of race relations. The book is illustrated by detailed maps of the areas discussed.

*Also relates to:*

*Criminal Justice and Racial Violence*

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*Migration, Immigration and the Refugee Experience*

*Politics*

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**Marable, Manning**

**RACE, REFORM AND REBELLION: THE SECOND RECONSTRUCTION AND BEYOND IN BLACK AMERICA, 1945-2006**

Publisher: New York, Palgrave Macmillan

Year: 2007

Pagination: 312 pp

ISBN: 978-0230545144

Price: £20.99/\$22.00 USD

In this updated edition, Marable brings his text on African American social and political history into the twenty-first century. Taking the end of World War II as its starting point, Marable traces the divergent elements of political, social, and moral reform in non-white America to the present day. He traces the emergence of a black working class in the 1950s and 60s, and the Civil Rights Movement and its achievements. The major focus of the book is the period he terms the Second Reconstruction. He considers the increased participation of blacks and other ethnic groups in politics, during this period and the subsequent white reaction. More recent developments analysed in the book include black neo-conservatism, welfare reform, the mainstreaming of hip-hop culture, 9/11, and Hurricane Katrina. He notes that blacks are faced with different issues today, including mass unemployment, mass incarceration and mass disenfranchisement, which pose as great a threat to democracy as the horrific lynchings of the early twentieth century.

*Also relates to:*

*Criminal Justice and Racial Violence*

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*Employment*

*Health and Social Care*

*Politics and Government*

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**Maltz, Earl M.**

**DRED SCOTT AND THE POLITICS OF SLAVERY**

Publisher: Kansas, The University Press of Kansas

Year: 2007

Pagination: 182 pp

ISBN: 978-0700615032

Price: £10.95/\$15.95USD

In this biography, Maltz discusses the contribution of Dred Scott to the politics of slavery in the nineteenth century. As a slave Dred Scott claimed that his residence in a free state transformed him into a free man, and filed a lawsuit arguing as much. Eventually, his lawsuit made its way to the Supreme Court in 1856. However, the Court ruled against him, sending shock waves through the nation and contributing to the beginning of the Civil War. The Chief Justice Roger Taney argued that blacks were not and never could be citizens. In reviewing this landmark case, Maltz presents Dred Scott as a turning point in an already controversial national debate. The book describes Dred Scott as both a contributing factor to war and the result of a political climate that had grown increasingly threatening. Southerners became

progressively more anxious of the free states' growing political influence. In this context, the ruling from the Court contributed to the political turmoil that eventually exploded into civil war.

**Also relates to:**

*Criminal Justice and Racial Violence*

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*Politics and Government*

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**McCarthy, Timothy Patrick, and Stauffer, John (eds)**

**PROPHETS OF PROTEST: RECONSIDERING THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN ABOLITIONISM**

Publisher: New York, The New Press

Year: 2006

Pagination: 382 pp

ISBN: 978-1565848801

Price: £37.50

This edited collection of essays explores American abolitionism. Recent scholarship has portrayed the abolition movement as dictated by the evangelical impulses of white, male, middle-class reformers, however, McCarthy and Stauffer show how this has undermined the role of black abolitionists and women. In fact, abolitionism is described as one of the most diverse movements in American history. The first section of the book summarises the state of scholarship on abolitionism, how it has developed over the past two centuries, and contemporary interpretations. The essays in part two re-examine the origins of American abolitionism, highlighting its interracial features and emphasising continuity between the different phases of the movement. Part three of the volume focuses on the role of John Brown, one of the most controversial abolitionists because of his use of violence. The final section of the book explores the representations of abolitionism, and the strategies used to attract people to the cause.

**Also relates to:**

*Arts, Literature and Sport*

*Culture, identity, Gender and Relationships*

*Politics and Government*

*Social Theory*

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**McDonald, Jason**

**AMERICAN ETHNIC HISTORY: THEMES AND PERSPECTIVES**

Publisher: Edinburgh, Edinburgh University Press

Year: 2007

Pagination: 260 pp

ISBN: 978-0748616343

Price: £16.99/\$29.95USD

In this text, McDonald offers an introduction to American ethnic history, in which he compares the histories and experiences of the nation's diverse ethnic groups. He focuses in particular on definitions and explanations, making the distinction between 'race' and 'ethnicity', and explaining what is meant by 'ethnic groups'. The first part of the book explores these conflicting meanings. Part two examines broad perspectives and theoretical positions on the origins and nature of American ethnic diversity. Here he considers whether this diversity originated from hegemonic acts of conquest and forced rather than voluntary migration. The third part of the book focuses on the dominant society's attitudes towards and treatment of all ethnic groups, and whether this has been consistent with America's supposed egalitarian ideals. The final section looks at how ethnic groups have responded to

life in the US. The importance that language, religion, class, gender and intermarriage play in ethnic identity and solidarity is considered here.

*Also relates to:*

*Criminal Justice and Racial Violence*

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*Migration, Immigration and the Refugee Experience*

*Politics and Government*

*Social Theory*

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**Wendt, Simon**

## **THE SPIRIT AND THE SHOTGUN: ARMED RESISTANCE AND THE STRUGGLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS**

Publisher: Tallahassee, University Press of Florida

Year: 2007

Pagination: 279 pp

ISBN: 978-0813030180

Price: £26.50

Wendt explores the role of armed self-defense as it existed in the 1950s and 60s in conjunction with non-violent direct action. Wendt presents evidence based on archival research and oral testimony to prove that while southern blacks adopted non-violent resistance as a tactic, they also armed themselves against the violent attacks by the Ku Klux Klan and other racist terrorists. Self-defence units were mobilised to patrol black neighbourhoods and protect the homes of significant figures in the Civil Rights Movement. Self-defence in this form was necessary to sustain local movements in the face of white hostility and aggression, however, non-violent organisations such as Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Congress of Racial Equality, and the National Association for the Advancement Colored People were engaged in constant debate over the patrols.

*Also relates to:*

*Criminal Justice and Racial Violence*

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*Social Theory*

## **HOUSING AND PLANNING**

**Neill, William J. V., and Schwedler, Hanns-Uve (eds)**

### **MIGRATION AND CULTURAL INCLUSION IN THE EUROPEAN CITY**

Publisher: Hampshire, Palgrave Macmillan,

Year: 2007

Pagination: 308 pp

ISBN: 978-0230007642

Price: £55.00/\$95.00USD

This collection deals with issues of social inclusion. In particular, the contributors focus on the question as to how cities might be able to contribute to integrating immigrants and other cultural groups, and how this has been addressed until now. The editors argue that the future success of Europe will depend on the effectiveness of the project of integration and inclusion, particularly in the cities where native populations are in the minority. Hugo Priemus explores the Dutch approach to planning for multiculturalism after the death of right-wing politician, Pim Fortuyn. Claude Jacquier discusses the challenges and issues faced by French cities in the twenty-first century. Janice Morphet writes about how London has largely embraced multiculturalism, and Peter Shirlow examines segregation and division in Belfast. The editors conclude that cultural inclusion is on the agenda, and that cities will play

a central role in this context.

*Also relates to:*

*Arts, Literature and Sport*

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*Economics and Globalisation*

*Education*

*Social Theory*

## **MIGRATION, IMMIGRATION AND THE REFUGEE EXPERIENCE**

**Brettell, Caroline B., Hollifield, James, F.**

**THEORY: TALKING ACROSS DISCIPLINE**

Publisher: Routledge

Year: 2008

Pagination: 304 PP

ISBN: 978-0415954266

Price: £65.00

This volume is specifically focused towards engaging the viewpoints of multi-disciplinary studies on migration theory to further coherent scholarship. Issues surrounding migration have caused great concern in recent times and have precipitated tensions between immigrants and recipient countries, as well as exacerbating welfare problems. The authors have indicated that the magnitude of this phenomenon has caught the attention of sociological analysts and has attracted enquiries from different academic disciplines. However, with each discipline having autonomy over specific research standards, procedures and vocabularies, valuable information oftentimes get overlooked, resulting in narrowness and inefficiency of analyses. Notwithstanding, the authors believe that dialogue across disciplines will bridge the gap in multidisciplinary migration inquiry. The writers have agreed that such a feat may be overly ambitious, considering the magnitude of the task of synthesising disciplinary tropes. Yet, nevertheless, exploring the possibility could only be of value to Humanities and the Social Sciences.

This study offers a provisional examination of the interdisciplinarity of migration theory, as well as providing the trajectory for multidisciplinary and multimethod research. With dialogue across disciplines, the authors intend to highlight core theoretical assumptions of the individual fields of study. This volume has laid the foundation for further exploration in international migration and adds resonance to subjects like political science, anthropology, economics, sociology, geography and law. By focusing on the existing theories and methodologies, the writers have stimulated interest in joint studies. Sociology and political science readings are needed to broach the structural background of immigration and the incorporation process. Studies in anthropology and geography further the investigation into transnational processes. It is imperative for academic disciplines that the theory forwarded should be reliable. However, one must not assume that one paradigm will ultimately suit all processes.

*Also relates to:*

*Criminal Justice and Social Violence*

*Economics and Globalisation*

*Health and Social Care*

*Politics and Government*

*Social Theory*

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**Kalra, Virinder S., Kaur, Raminder and Hutnyk, John**

## **DIASPORA AND HYBRIDITY**

Publisher: Sage

Year: 2005

Pagination: 168 pp

ISBN: 978-0761973973

Price: £21.99

This volume offers an insight into debates surrounding the subject of transnational migration and hybridism. After 9/11, transnational movement and immigration to the West has become strained. Western neo-liberal conservatism came under threat and the repercussions were translated into strict border control and censoring of immigrants. This subsequent crisis has had far-reaching effects on issues surrounding civil liberties, multiculturalism, social policy, nationalism, the economy, labour, gender and ethnicity. The authors are particularly interested in how diaspora and hybridity are used as tools to implement social change. Therefore, this study's trajectory is focused on matters concerning identity, social relations and historical change. More importantly, this study investigates pertinent issues surrounding the status of the naturalised immigrant population, especially those of the Asian community, in the light of today's race agitations fuelled by the national security crisis in the West. The authors believe that the focus on nationalism and identity is a valuable starting point for investigating allegiance, which is the catalyst in the quest for causes of tension between immigrants and host countries. Hence, the authors consider that by focusing on the nature of the dialogue between nationalism and identity, the full effect of the association would be realised and the extent of hybridity be measured.

The volume evaluates unease associated with immigration within multicultural societies, where institutions reinforce the values of the governing group and national boundaries protect the space they occupy. According to the authors, the rights of space can be violently defended on the grounds of politics, culture and economics. These agitations within these sites can invariably determine the degree of integration and hybridity within multicultural and gender specific societies. This study offers a theoretical overview on subject matters such as: the history of whiteness, examining its superficiality as a category of white capitalist supremacist ideology in the development of 'others'. By looking at the diasporic relation between home and abroad, the study underscores the dynamics of networking for purposes of political, economic and cultural mobilization. The study examines states of belongingness and 'diaspora consciousness', 'multivocality' and 'deterritorialization', highlighting matters of hybridity to include economics, cultural creativity and exchange. Issues on gender, women's rights, urbanisation and 'Transnational Terrorism' are also featured topics in this volume. It is the intention of this study to enhance scholarship in Cultural Studies and the Social Sciences and further understanding on the topic of diaspora and hybridity.

*Also relates to:*

*Criminal Justice and Racial Violence*

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*Economics and Globalisation*

*Employment*

*History*

*Politics and Government*

## **POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT**

**Boafo-Arthur, Kwame**

**GHANA: ONE DECADE OF THE LIBERAL STATE**

Publisher: London, Zed Books

Year: 2007

Pagination: 303 pp

ISBN: 978-1842778289

Price: £19.99/\$29.88 USD

In this book, Boafo-Arthur ascertains the success of Ghana's return to constitutional rule in 1993. He reviews the new demands encountered by the democratic government in an era of globalization and liberal triumphalism. Boafo-Arthur makes it clear that much has been achieved in this era of liberalism. Human rights have been protected, and although the economy has not revived, there are positive signs that the policy measures implemented will begin to drive it forward. However, as the state has encouraged privatization, the most vulnerable in society have found themselves less protected. Boafo-Arthur maintains that this is an unavoidable consequence of neoliberalism, and he suggests that the market could be regulated by the state in order to ensure an equitable allocation of resources and a minimum wage. The fact that Ghana has been able to sustain democracy for over a decade is described as an achievement, and is evidence of increasing civil control over the military.

**Also relates to:**

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*Economics and Globalisation*

*History*

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**Hajnal, Zoltan L.**

### **CHANGING WHITE ATTITUDES TOWARD BLACK POLITICAL LEADERSHIP**

Publisher: Cambridge, Cambridge University Press

Year: 2007

Pagination: 219 pp

ISBN: 978-0521674157

Price: £14.99/\$22.95USD

In this book Hajnal explores how experience with black leadership affects the attitudes, actions and political choices of white Americans. Using the results of national public opinion surveys, data on voting patterns in large American cities, and in-depth studies of Los Angeles and Chicago, he finds that under most black mayors there is positive change in the white vote and in the racial attitudes of white residents. Although the election of African Americans to public office has not yet improved the condition of blacks to the extent to which many had hoped, it has had a significant impact on white attitudes and voting behaviour. Hajnal argues that this occurs because black incumbency provides concrete information that disproves the fears and expectations of many white residents. These findings highlight the importance of black representation in the political system.

**Also relates to:**

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*History*

*Social Theory*

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**Kundnani, Arun**

### **THE END OF TOLERANCE: RACISM IN 21ST CENTURY BRITAIN**

Publisher: London, Pluto Press

Year: 2007

Pagination: 221 pP

ISBN: 978-0745326450

Price: £15.99

In this book, Kundnani asks whether Britain is becoming a more racist society. He argues that the impact of globalization on politics has to be acknowledged. Under the guise of

globalization, multinational corporations have assumed power over most of the World's economies, and western governments have given themselves the right to intervene anywhere in the world. However, there has inevitably been resistance to these structures of power, which has led to 9/11 and 7/7. Kundnani maintains that western governments deny their own role in creating global inequality, and instead cast terrorism as an expression of a fanatical Islamic value system that is culturally at odds with the West. Similarly, the West has refused to acknowledge its role in creating forced migration, and instead demonises migrants and asylum seekers. Kundnani concludes that it is state racism, which through its laws fosters institutional racism and shapes popular racism in Britain. With a foreword by A. Sivanandan.

**Also relates to:**

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*Economics and Globalisation*

*History*

*Migration, Immigration and the Refugee Experience*

*Social Theory*

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**Murunga, Godwin R., and Nasong'o, Shadrack W. (eds)**

**KENYA: THE STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY**

Publisher: London, Zed Books

Year: 2007

Pagination: 344 pp

ISBN: 978-1842778579

Price: £19.99/\$29.88 USD

In this volume, contributors provide a comprehensive study of Kenya's political trajectory. The essays included show how the struggle for democracy has been waged in civil society through opposition parties, and traditionally marginalized groups, such as young people and women. The editors begin the collection with a discussion of social movements and the Kenyan transition. An essay by Margaret Gecaga discusses religious movements and democratization in Kenya, and Mshai Mwangola explores youth opposition groups, and the role of young people in the democratization of Kenya. Maurice Amutabi discusses the role and perspectives of Kenyan intellectuals in the changes. An essay by Edwin Gimode looks at the part played by the police in Kenya's democratization process.

**Also relates to:**

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*Economics and Globalisation*

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**Porteous, Tom**

**BRITAIN IN AFRICA**

Publisher: Zed Books

Year: 2008

Pagination: 160 pp

ISBN: 978-1842779767

Price: £12.99

*Britain in Africa* examines Britain's role in Africa since 1997 and, in particular, how and why Britain's foreign policies under New Labour have failed Africa. Charting the factors which led to Africa becoming the forefront of British foreign policy during Tony Blair's ten years in office, Porteous summarises a range of influences both within and outside of government - ranging from events in Africa to world events. Underpinning this enquiry is the question of how Britain's interests determined its relationship with Africa during this period. As a result, the book centres on three questions – how did Africa become the forefront of British foreign

policy, what were Britain's policies and what was the effectiveness of these policies?

Chapter one details Blair's sudden interest in Africa's many problems and, in particular, the UK's long-standing business interests, such as the arms trade and oil production. There follows an in-depth analysis of the 2005 G8 summit in Gleneagles, Scotland, during which Blair enlisted the help of the world's richest nations in an attempt to resolve Africa's plight. According to Porteous, this moment signified a turning point in Britain's foreign policies and led to the consolidation of New Labour's approach to the economic development of Africa. The resulting document – namely, *Blair's Commission for Africa* (compiled March 2005) – represents the clearest statement of Britain's intentions in Africa, and is broken down into the categories of 'improved governance', 'conflict prevention', 'human development', 'aid', 'debt', 'relief', and 'trade and investment'.

However, claims Porteous, despite the UK's role in supporting the emergence of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) and the African Union (AU), New Labour's development policy failed to provide satisfactory answers to crucial questions about governance, politics and culture in Africa. Porteous goes on to uncover Britain's real investment in Africa, which he summarises as a vested interest in counter terrorism, energy security, commerce, migration and climate change, all of which were presented under the guise of economic development, poverty reduction, conflict prevention and good governance.

Particularly revealing is Porteous's description of Blair's publicity tour of Africa during his premiership in May 2007. Here, claims Porteous, the former Prime Minister only visited the parts of Africa which boosted the UK's image as being committed to tackling Africa's problems (based on a few successful partnerships) and chose to avoid hotspots of humanitarian catastrophe, which had been let down by Britain's foreign policies. As a result, demonstrates Porteous, the UK government had less impact on Africa than officials appeared to assume.

Porteous shows how Blair chose to focus on foreign policy rather than domestic policy out of a genuine concern to do good but also as a means of potentially boosting votes – the British public, claims Porteous, do not want their own affairs meddled with and would prefer attention to be directed elsewhere. It is a winning formula, claims Porteous – if all goes well, Blair gains credit on the international stage and, if not, then he can still maintain a popular position by blaming extremists, corruption and the incompetence of others. Porteous concludes with a call to increase Britain's co-operation with Africa, urging the government to take a more humble approach – learning from Africa and being more modest (and realistic) about its own influence.

*Also relates to:*

*Criminal Justice and Racial Violence*

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*Economics and Globalisation*

*Health and Social Care*

*History*

*Migration, Immigration and the Refugee Experience*

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**Rich, Wilbur C. (ed)**

**AFRICAN AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES ON POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Publisher: Philadelphia, Temple University Press

Year: 2007

Pagination: 444 pp

ISBN: 978-1592131099

Price: £18.99/\$32.95 USD

This edited collection evaluates the discipline of political science from an African American



perspective. The contributors emphasise the importance of race in political science, and argue that as Americans often fail to acknowledge the role of race in their own politics, they also fail to understand the nuances of ethnic and racial differences internationally. The book begins with an essay by Ernest J. Wilson III and Lorrie A. Frasure, who argue that race remains at the margins of American political science. Wilbur C. Rich explores the roles and experiences of African American academics in the field of political science. Ollie A. Johnson examines more specifically black politics in Latin America, and Vernon D. Johnson explores issues of globalisation and development. An essay by Melissa V. Harris-Lacewell discusses approaches to studying African American public opinion within political science. Evelyn M. Simien examines attitudes towards black feminism, and Andrea Y. Simpson evaluates the roles of black women activists within organisations.

**Also relates to:**

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*Economics and globalization*

*Politics*

*Social Theory*

## **SOCIAL THEORY**

**Hero, Rodney E.**

### **RACIAL DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL CAPITAL: EQUALITY AND COMMUNITY IN AMERICA**

Publisher: Cambridge, Cambridge University Press

Year: 2007

Pagination: 200 pp

ISBN: 978-0521698610

Price: £14.99/\$19.99USD

In this book, Hero considers equality, particularly with regard to race, through the lenses of two theoretical perspectives. He juxtaposes social capital theory, which argues that a general sense of community can improve one's standing and reduce inequalities, with racial diversity theory, which maintains that racial diversity continues to explain important social and political outcomes. Hero finds that the racial diversity theory more accurately explains a range of social and political phenomena in the US. Racial diversity generally surpasses social capital as a discernable influence in several arenas of American politics. Moreover, he argues that a sense of community is not usually associated with greater racial equality, and, on occasion, may actually be linked to worse outcomes.

**Also relates to:**

*Culture, Identity, Gender and Relationships*

*Health and Social Care*

*History*

*Politics and Government*

*Social Theory*

## Additional Resources

We would also like to inform our users about a number of valuable resources provided by the Institute of Race Relations.

The first of these, **STRUGGLES FOR BLACK COMMUNITY**, includes four seminal Black films on Tiger Bay, Leicester, Ladbroke Grove and Southall, which had been made for Channel 4 at the beginning of the 1980s. They chart the milestones for Black people's fight for justice and show African-Caribbeans and Asians coming together in different ways at different periods to carry on a common struggle. Each film portrays the history and strength of one particular area and emphasises a particular aspect of historical Black struggle. But the films complement each other and the series contributes to building a coherent history of Black people in British communities from the nineteenth into the twentieth century. See: <http://www.irr.org.uk/2008/november/ha000017.html>

The second, **Black History Teaching Resource**, consists of five modules: **Community and Identity**, **Community Safety**, **Media and Racism**, **Racial Discrimination** and **Youth and Protest**. These consist of a downloadable document, teachers' notes and a linked online presentation. See: [http://www.irr.org.uk/black\\_history\\_resource](http://www.irr.org.uk/black_history_resource)

The third, the **Institute of Race Relations' Black History Collection**, is based on the IRR's unique collection of posters, leaflets, flyers, newspaper cuttings, campaign materials and more than 160 journals from black community and grassroots groups in the antiracist struggle. It covers topics such as black workers' struggles for representation at work and in their unions, anti-deportation campaigns, policing and racial violence, the Black Power movement, the education, health and social welfare of black children, the 1958 Notting Hill riots, anti-fascism and uprisings.

See: <http://www.irr.org.uk/bhacatalogue>