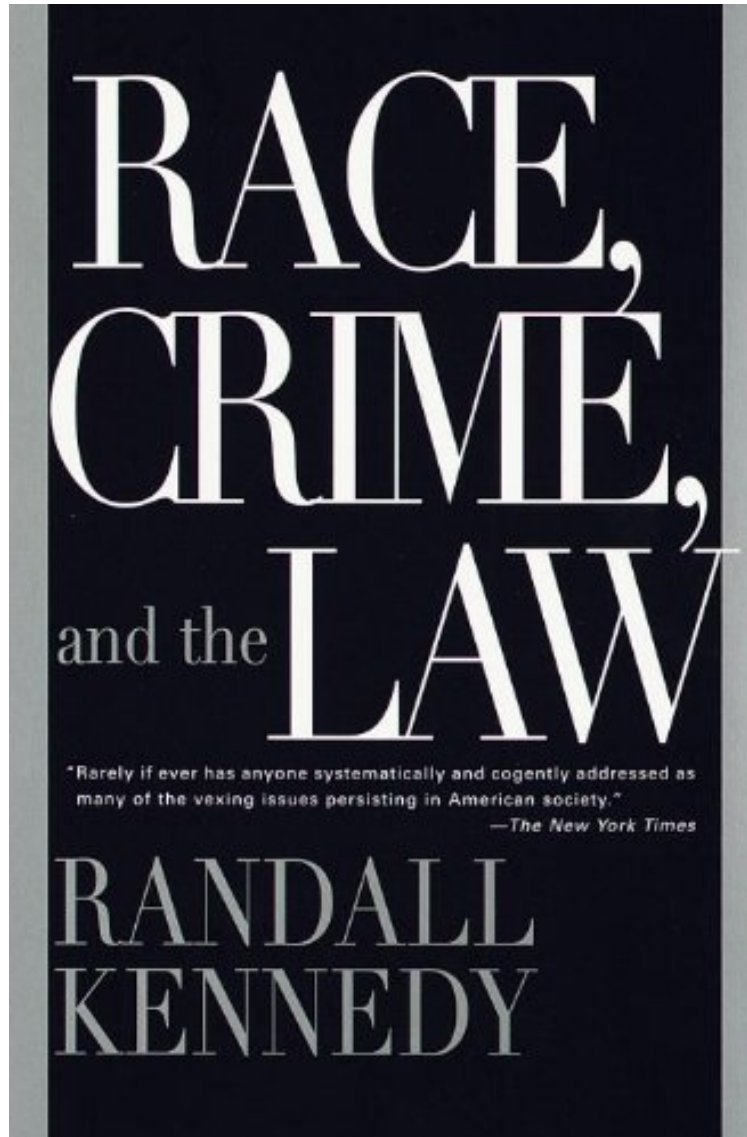


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Race, Crime, and the Law

Randall Kennedy

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Randall Kennedy : Race, Crime, and the Law before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Race, Crime, and the Law:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Kennedy does an amazing job describing the disparities that exist and existed throughout ...By Parth Kapoor Kennedy does an amazing job describing the disparities that exist and existed throughout legal history. Kennedy provides specific cases for each point and makes the reader think analytically. Bought the book for my criminal justice course but I kept it because I enjoyed it so much! Highly

recommend this book for people interested in historical and legal literature!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Youngki wooGreat!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great read! MrBy MudpieGreat read! Mr. Kennedy has done a wonderful job of teaching how the criminal justice system works against black people. It has been a gem for my Blacks and Criminal Justice class.

Winner of the 1998 Robert F. Kennedy Book Award Grand Prize"An original, wise and courageous work that moves beyond sterile arguments and lifts the discussion of race and justice to a new and more hopeful level."--Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.In this groundbreaking, powerfully reasoned, lucid work that is certain to provoke controversy, Harvard law professor Randall Kennedy takes on a highly complex issue in a way that no one has before. Kennedy uncovers the long-standing failure of the justice system to protect blacks from criminals, probing allegations that blacks are victimized on a widespread basis by racially discriminatory prosecutions and punishments, but he also engages the debate over the wisdom and legality of using racial criteria in jury selection. He analyzes the responses of the legal system to accusations that appeals to racial prejudice have rendered trials unfair, and examines the idea that, under certain circumstances, members of one race are statistically more likely to be involved in crime than members of another."An admirable, courageous, and meticulously fair and honest book."--New York Times Book Review"This book should be a standard for all law students."--Boston Globe

.com There's no question that nowadays, racial issues pose one of the biggest obstacles to the fair workings of our criminal justice system, but exactly how these issues come into play and what to do about them is a subtler matter. In this book, Kennedy, a Harvard Law School professor who is black, applies his precise command of the relevant legal language and legal background to explain and evaluate for the general reader various current ideas about how race is and should be involved in meting out criminal justice. His basic stance is that liberals and conservatives have more common ground on race and law than it seems at first, and that blacks have suffered more from being underprotected by law enforcement than from being mistreated as suspects or defendants, even though it is the latter allegation that seems to draw the most attention from those who view the courts through racial lenses.From Library JournalKennedy (law, Harvard) has penned a balanced historical analysis of the state of race relations in the administration of criminal justice. He forcefully argues that many characteristics of the justice system, such as police surveillance, jury selection, and capital sentencing, perpetuate racial bias against African Americans. To eradicate this racism requires that judges, lawyers, and police deal honestly with America's history of racism. In illustrating this point, Kennedy unearths mountains of evidence testifying to America's brutally racist past, focusing on the slave codes, lynchings, and rape as a means to enforce a rigid racial hierarchy. Therefore, this text seems to work better as a history book?an excellent one at that?than as a prescription for the social ills of our current legal system. Academic and large public libraries should consider.?Steven Anderson, Baltimore Cty. Circuit Court Law Lib., Towson, Md.Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistHarvard Law School professor Kennedy will antagonize many involved in current criminal justice controversies with this effort to reinvigorate discussion by challenging "increasingly sterile" ideological debates. He first traces a "history that causes a substantial number of Americans, particularly African Americans, to perceive the criminal justice system with suspicion, if not antagonism" in terms of racially linked underenforcement as well as overenforcement. Kennedy then examines discriminatory policing, jury participation, "the race card" in criminal trials, the death penalty, and the war on drugs in an effort to clarify "when, if ever, [it is] appropriate to treat some people differently from others on a racial basis" and whether, if "a policy makes no reference to race and . . . [its] authors . . . deny having acted with a racial motive," the policy may still be discriminatory. Because Kennedy defends "the politics of respectability," some may see him as just another black conservative, but he takes on the Right as well as the Left, seeing substantial progress toward a more just justice system yet urging that this progress could still be reversed. Mary Carroll