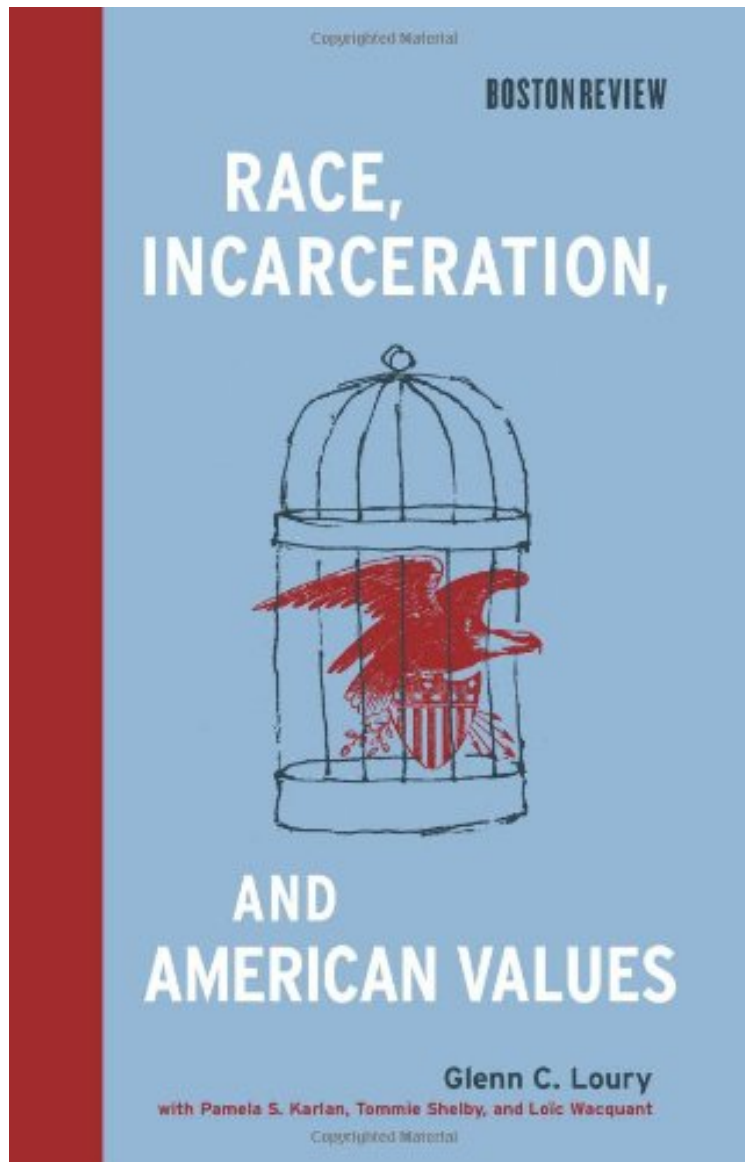


(Download free ebook) Race, Incarceration, and American Values (Boston Review Books)

Race, Incarceration, and American Values (Boston Review Books)

Glenn C. Loury

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Glenn C. Loury : Race, Incarceration, and American Values (Boston Review Books) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Race, Incarceration, and American Values (Boston Review Books):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Huge topic, small bookBy Derrick K. KennerlyGreat book. The writers present clear facts and sensible objections to an epidemic that is all of our problem. Be prepared to read some

sentences over again to get a clear vision of the information being given. It is all worth it. The consistency of delivering impactful statements make the shortness of the book inconsequential. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good digestible work By Spencer T. Riehl I enjoyed the multiple authors' contributions and the dialogue reading such a work impresses upon you. Much of the language was vague language, but overall quite good. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Robert W. Owens Great Book.

Why stigmatizing and confining a large segment of our population should be unacceptable to all Americans. The United States, home to five percent of the world's population, now houses twenty-five percent of the world's prison inmates. Our incarceration rate -- at 714 per 100,000 residents and rising -- is almost forty percent greater than our nearest competitors (the Bahamas, Belarus, and Russia). More pointedly, it is 6.2 times the Canadian rate and 12.3 times the rate in Japan. Economist Glenn Loury argues that this extraordinary mass incarceration is not a response to rising crime rates or a proud success of social policy. Instead, it is the product of a generation-old collective decision to become a more punitive society. He connects this policy to our history of racial oppression, showing that the punitive turn in American politics and culture emerged in the post-civil rights years and has today become the main vehicle for the reproduction of racial hierarchies. Whatever the explanation, Loury argues, the uncontroversial fact is that changes in our criminal justice system since the 1970s have created a nether class of Americans -- vastly disproportionately black and brown -- with severely restricted rights and life chances. Moreover, conservatives and liberals agree that the growth in our prison population has long passed the point of diminishing returns. Stigmatizing and confining of a large segment of our population should be unacceptable to Americans. Loury's call to action makes all of us now responsible for ensuring that the policy changes.

From Publishers Weekly In this pithy discussion, renowned scholars debate the American penal system through the lens—and as a legacy—of an ugly and violent racial past. Economist Loury argues that incarceration rises even as crime rates fall because we have become increasingly punitive. According to Loury, the disproportionately black and brown prison populations are the victims of civil rights opponents who successfully moved the country's race dialogue to a seemingly race-neutral concern over crime. Loury's claims are well-supported with genuinely shocking statistics, and his argument is compelling that even if the racial argument about causes is inconclusive, the racial consequences are clear. Three shorter essays respond: Stanford law professor Karlan examines prisoners as an inert ballast in redistricting and voting practices; French sociologist Wacquant argues that the focus on race has ignored the fact that inmates are first and foremost poor people; and Harvard philosophy professor Shelby urges citizens to break with Washington's political outlook on race. The group's respectful sparring results in an insightful look at the conflicting theories of race and incarceration, and the slim volume keeps up the pace of the argument without being overwhelming. (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist With 5 percent of the world's population, the U.S. accounts for 25 percent of those who are imprisoned. What does that say about American values? asks economist Loury. Those statistics suggest that the U.S. is a punitive society targeting its punishment disproportionately more often at the poor and racial minorities, stigmatizing huge segments of the population, he asserts. Starting with that premise, Loury invited commentary at a forum on race and incarceration from three scholars: Pamela Karlan, Tommie Shelby, and Loic Wacquant. The result is a slim book that is, nonetheless, a penetrating look at the troubling trends in incarceration in the U.S. and the broader impact on American society. Karlan highlights voter disenfranchisement of blacks and offers a historic perspective since Reconstruction. Shelby explores the complexities of individual choice and social structure and the responsibility of society to explain the consequences of individual actions to the poor people most likely to be incarcerated. And Wacquant emphasizes economic class as a greater indicator than race of who is likely to be incarcerated. --Vernon Ford A penetrating look at the troubling trends in incarceration in the U.S. and the broader impact on American society. (Booklist)