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Shadow Of The Panther: Huey Newton And The Price Of Black Power In America

Hugh Pearson

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#382552 in Books 1994-06-20Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.50 x 6.50 x 1.50l, #File Name: 0201632780422 pages | File size: 73.Mb

Hugh Pearson : Shadow Of The Panther: Huey Newton And The Price Of Black Power In America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shadow Of The Panther: Huey Newton And The Price Of Black Power In America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book about the Black Panther PartyBy LitoldldyFor all those who wish to learn about what led up to the spawning of the Black Panthers, from their beginning days until the execution of Huey Newton in 1989, this is an excellent and important work. Unfortunately most of the later academic reviews of the Sixties, of the Party and especially its leadership are caught up in the old game of one extreme or the other, and the prevailing sentiment seems to be that the Panthers were either all good or all bad. They are most often written about as though they were the most significant group to rise out of the Black Power movement. And occasionally their criminality is focused upon. The reality is that both are true -- they were the icons of resistance and murderers at the same time. It still appears that most people are unable to hold both realities at the same time. Pearson's writing reflects the time in which it was written -- the 1990s following the murder of Newton. He was an African-American journalist who was not afraid to look at the truth and write about it. His writing is based upon his conversations with the people who were involved. He left us with a significant work.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy wallace siffordmissed place my copy and this is just a replacement0 of 0 people found

the following review helpful. Four StarsBy William HarvelYes

In the most ambitious, engaging, and balanced examination of the myriad forces that gave rise to Huey Newton and the Black Panther Party, Pearson provides an unsparing, often shocking, portrait of brutality, self-destruction, and precipitous decline, and offers a racial reevaluation of their legacy. Photos.

From BooklistThis assessment of the Black Panther Party and its most prominent early leader is the product of an editor and writer for Pacific News Service who was in grade school when the Panthers decided to pick up the gun. Although *Shadow of the Panther* opens with the murder of a crack-addicted Newton in Oakland, California, in 1989, Pearson's subject is broader than Newton himself and the movement of which he became a symbol: Pearson's analysis places the Panthers in the context of African Americans' long struggle for civil rights and the late 1960s shift from King's commitment to nonviolence to Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee's demand for black power; it also explores the Panthers' home ground in Oakland and the Bay Area and the impact of their geographic base on the appeal of the Panthers to white as well as black radicals. An interesting contribution to the continuing controversy over the Panthers and their legacy. Mary CarrollFrom Kirkus sThis synthesis of history and biography offers a cautionary corrective to less than candid Black Panther accounts like Elaine Brown's *A Taste of Power* and David Hilliard's *This Side of Glory*. Pearson, a writer and editor for the left-leaning Pacific News Service, began the book with the "genuine curiosity of an African-American who came of age during the era of black militancy." The story he uncovers is sobering. After first sketching ex-Panther leader Newton's 1989 death in Oakland, apparently at the hands of crack dealers, Pearson takes a slow detour to describe the history of the city, which drew black shipyard workers during WW II; the strains in the civil rights movement; and the growth of Bay Area activism. He picks up his main thread in 1966, when Newton, a community organizer, college student, and buddy of street criminals, founded the Panthers with Bobby Seale. Offering more gun-toting public defiance than political education, the Panthers grew popular among powerless Oakland blacks and sympathetic whites while cutting deals with local criminals. Pearson consistently offers shadings on a mythic history: Though police harassed the Panthers, the Party's "breakfast programs" also indoctrinated hatred of cops; though agents provocateurs did damage the Panthers, the party's fall was also hastened by the genuinely disillusioned within its own ranks; though Newton exhibited both a fierce intellect and sense of moral outrage, he was capable of much cruelty against anyone in his path. By the early 1980s, the Panthers--and Newton--had declined, and their support of Oakland's underworld, Pearson argues, helped create the drug gangs linked to Newton's death. Pearson's charges are not altogether new, but his research buttresses his conclusion that Panther-like "posturing" will predominate over substance as long as some blacks promote themselves, with the collusion of the media, as "pathological outsiders to the American mainstream." (bw photos, not seen) (Author tour) -- Copyright ©1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.About the AuthorHugh Pearson is currently an editorial page writer for *The Wall Street Journal*. His writing has also appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The New Republic*, *Essence*, and other publications. A graduate of Brown University, he lives in New York City.