

futures of black radicalism

Futures of Black Radicalism: Charting New Paths in Social Justice and Liberation

Futures of black radicalism invite us to imagine and engage with the evolving landscapes of resistance, empowerment, and transformative change within Black communities. Rooted deeply in historical struggles against oppression and systemic racism, black radicalism continues to redefine itself, adapting to contemporary challenges while drawing inspiration from past movements. This article explores the dynamic trajectories of black radical thought and activism, highlighting the key themes, emerging leaders, and innovative strategies shaping its future.

Understanding Black Radicalism: A Brief Overview

To grasp the futures of black radicalism, it's essential first to understand its foundation. Black radicalism emerged as a critique and response to the pervasive injustices faced by Black people, particularly in the contexts of colonialism, slavery, segregation, and ongoing structural racism. Unlike reformist approaches that often seek incremental change within existing systems, black radicalism challenges the very frameworks of power and inequality.

Historically, figures like W.E.B. Du Bois, Malcolm X, Angela Davis, and organizations such as the Black Panther Party have embodied radical visions for Black liberation. Their work emphasized self-determination, community control, and the dismantling of capitalist and imperialist structures that perpetuate racial oppression.

Contemporary Currents Shaping the Futures of Black Radicalism

Black radicalism today is far from monolithic. It encompasses diverse ideologies, practices, and cultural expressions that reflect the multifaceted experiences of Black people globally. Several trends are particularly influential in shaping its future.

Intersectionality and Inclusive Movements

One of the most significant developments in black radical thought is the

incorporation of intersectionality—a concept coined by scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw. This framework helps activists and thinkers understand how race intersects with gender, class, sexuality, and other identities to create complex systems of oppression. The futures of black radicalism increasingly embrace intersectional approaches, recognizing that liberation must address all forms of marginalization.

This shift has led to more inclusive movements that uplift Black women, LGBTQ+ individuals, and other marginalized groups within the Black community. It also fosters alliances with other social justice struggles, expanding the scope and impact of radical activism.

Technology and Digital Activism

The digital age offers new tools for organizing, educating, and mobilizing. Social media platforms have become vital spaces for black radicalism to flourish, allowing activists to reach wider audiences and coordinate actions more efficiently. Hashtags like #BlackLivesMatter have transformed localized protests into global movements, highlighting police violence and systemic racism.

Looking ahead, the futures of black radicalism will likely involve leveraging emerging technologies such as blockchain for economic empowerment, virtual reality for immersive education about Black history, and encrypted communication for secure organizing. These technological integrations present both opportunities and challenges, particularly regarding surveillance and misinformation.

Reimagining Economic Justice and Community Empowerment

Economic inequality remains a central concern within black radicalism. Radical visions for the future often emphasize alternative economic models that prioritize community well-being over profit.

Cooperatives and Mutual Aid Networks

One promising area is the growth of cooperatives and mutual aid networks within Black communities. These initiatives promote collective ownership, resource sharing, and resilience against economic precarity. By building autonomous economies, black radicalism challenges capitalist exploitation and creates sustainable paths toward self-sufficiency.

Democratic Socialism and Reparations

Discussions around reparations for slavery and systemic discrimination have gained renewed momentum. Many black radicals advocate for reparative justice that goes beyond financial compensation to include transformative policies such as universal healthcare, housing, education, and wealth redistribution. Coupled with democratic socialism, these demands aim to restructure society to be more equitable and just.

Culture, Art, and the Futures of Black Radicalism

Artistic expression has always been a powerful vehicle for black radicalism. Music, literature, visual arts, and performance shape narratives, inspire resistance, and cultivate solidarity.

Afrofuturism and Speculative Imagination

Afrofuturism, blending science fiction, history, and fantasy, offers a creative framework for envisioning liberated Black futures. Through speculative storytelling, artists and writers explore alternative realities where Blackness thrives unshackled from oppression.

This imaginative practice not only challenges dominant narratives but also serves as a form of radical pedagogy, inspiring activism and cultural pride. As Afrofuturism gains mainstream recognition, it influences the futures of black radicalism by expanding the horizons of what is possible.

Community Arts and Grassroots Storytelling

Beyond high-profile cultural movements, grassroots arts initiatives play a crucial role in sustaining black radicalism. Local murals, spoken word events, and community theater engage everyday people in conversations about justice and identity. These spaces nurture collective memory and empower individuals to participate actively in social change.

Challenges and Opportunities Ahead

While the futures of black radicalism are rich with potential, they also face significant obstacles. Surveillance, state repression, co-optation by mainstream institutions, and internal divisions pose ongoing risks. Moreover,

the global nature of anti-Black racism requires coordinated international solidarity, which can be complicated by differing contexts and priorities.

However, these challenges also spur innovation. Black radicalism's resilience lies in its ability to adapt, build coalitions, and imagine new ways of being. Education remains a critical front, as cultivating critical consciousness in younger generations ensures the continuity of radical legacies.

Youth Leadership and Intergenerational Dialogue

A vital aspect of black radicalism's future is the emergence of young leaders who bring fresh perspectives and energy. Supporting intergenerational dialogue allows for the transmission of wisdom alongside innovation. Mentorship and community-building initiatives help sustain movements and prevent burnout.

Global Solidarity and Pan-African Connections

The futures of black radicalism are inherently international. Pan-Africanism and transnational activism connect struggles across continents, emphasizing shared histories and collective futures. Strengthening these ties enhances resource sharing, strategic coordination, and cultural exchange.

The integration of global perspectives enriches black radicalism by situating local struggles within broader systems of imperialism and capitalism, enabling more comprehensive resistance.

The futures of black radicalism are vibrant and multifaceted, continually evolving to meet the challenges of a changing world. By embracing intersectionality, leveraging technology, reimagining economic systems, and harnessing cultural power, black radicalism charts pathways toward liberation that are as imaginative as they are urgent. As these movements grow and adapt, they invite all of us to participate in the ongoing journey toward justice, dignity, and freedom.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is meant by the 'futures of black radicalism'?

The 'futures of black radicalism' refers to the evolving ideas, movements, and possibilities that envision transformative social, political, and economic changes led by Black activists and thinkers to address systemic

racism and inequality.

How does black radicalism differ from other forms of activism?

Black radicalism specifically centers the experiences and liberation of Black people, often advocating for fundamental systemic change rather than reform within existing structures, distinguishing it from other forms of activism that may focus on incremental changes.

What role does technology play in the futures of black radicalism?

Technology enables new forms of communication, organizing, and dissemination of ideas, allowing black radicalism to reach wider audiences, build networks, and mobilize more effectively across geographic boundaries.

How are contemporary black radical movements addressing issues of intersectionality?

Contemporary black radical movements increasingly recognize and incorporate intersectionality by addressing how race intersects with gender, class, sexuality, and other identities to create complex systems of oppression, ensuring a more inclusive approach to liberation.

What historical black radical thinkers influence current futures of black radicalism?

Thinkers like Frantz Fanon, Angela Davis, Huey P. Newton, and bell hooks continue to influence current black radical thought by providing critical frameworks for understanding oppression and strategies for resistance and liberation.

In what ways do the futures of black radicalism engage with global struggles?

The futures of black radicalism often connect local struggles to global movements against colonialism, capitalism, and racial oppression, fostering solidarity and knowledge exchange among oppressed peoples worldwide.

What challenges do black radical movements face in shaping their futures?

Challenges include state repression, co-optation by mainstream politics, internal divisions, resource limitations, and the difficulty of sustaining long-term mobilization while adapting to changing social and political contexts.

How can allies support the futures of black radicalism effectively?

Allies can support by listening to and amplifying Black voices, educating themselves on systemic racism, participating in actions led by Black organizers, providing material support, and committing to sustained anti-racist work without centering themselves.

Additional Resources

Futures of Black Radicalism: Navigating New Frontiers in Social Justice and Political Activism

futures of black radicalism represent a dynamic and evolving landscape within contemporary social justice movements. Rooted in a long history of resistance against racial oppression, economic injustice, and systemic inequality, black radicalism today is undergoing significant transformation. These shifts are shaped by global political currents, technological advancements, and the intersectionality of race, gender, and class struggles. This article explores the trajectories that black radicalism may take, analyzing its current manifestations and potential directions in the years to come.

Understanding the Historical Context of Black Radicalism

To grasp the futures of black radicalism, one must first acknowledge its historical foundations. Emerging prominently during the 19th and 20th centuries, black radicalism was characterized by movements that sought not merely reform but the radical restructuring of society. Figures such as W.E.B. Du Bois, Malcolm X, and organizations like the Black Panther Party emphasized self-determination, anti-capitalism, and the dismantling of white supremacy.

This tradition has always been multifaceted, combining cultural, political, and economic critiques. The legacies of these movements continue to inform contemporary activism, especially in their insistence on systemic change rather than incremental policy adjustments.

Contemporary Black Radicalism: New Challenges and Opportunities

Intersectionality and Inclusivity

One of the defining features of modern black radicalism is the embrace of intersectionality. Coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw, intersectionality highlights the overlapping systems of oppression that affect individuals differently based on race, gender, sexuality, and class. Today's black radical thinkers and activists emphasize inclusivity, advocating for the rights of black women, LGBTQ+ communities, and people with disabilities.

This expanded focus broadens the scope of black radicalism beyond traditional racial justice issues, linking struggles against patriarchy, heteronormativity, and ableism. The futures of black radicalism, therefore, are likely to be marked by an integrated approach to liberation that acknowledges diverse identities and experiences.

Digital Activism and Technological Impact

The rise of social media and digital communication has transformed the ways black radicalism is organized and disseminated. Platforms such as Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok have become essential tools for mobilizing communities, sharing information, and amplifying marginalized voices. Movements like Black Lives Matter illustrate how digital activism can galvanize global support rapidly.

However, technological reliance also presents challenges, including issues of surveillance, misinformation, and digital burnout. As black radicalism evolves, activists must navigate these complexities, balancing the power of digital tools with their vulnerabilities.

Futures of Black Radicalism: Strategic Directions and Debates

Economic Justice and Anti-Capitalism

A persistent theme within black radicalism is the critique of capitalism as a system that perpetuates racial inequality. In recent years, there has been renewed interest in socialist and anti-capitalist frameworks as potential pathways for black liberation. Economic justice initiatives, such as advocating for reparations, community wealth-building, and cooperative ownership models, are gaining traction.

Yet, debates continue regarding how to implement these visions effectively. Some activists argue for working within existing political and economic structures to effect change, while others call for more revolutionary

approaches that dismantle capitalist frameworks entirely.

Global Solidarity and Transnational Connections

Black radicalism is increasingly viewed through a global lens, recognizing the shared histories of colonialism, imperialism, and racial oppression across continents. Collaborations between activists in the United States, Africa, the Caribbean, and Europe highlight the interconnectedness of struggles for racial justice.

This global perspective enriches black radicalism's futures by fostering solidarity networks that transcend national borders. It also introduces complexities in aligning diverse political goals and cultural contexts, requiring nuanced dialogue and mutual respect among international partners.

Challenges of Institutionalization

As black radical ideas gain broader acceptance, there is a risk of institutionalization and co-optation. When radical demands become mainstream, they can be diluted or repurposed to serve existing power structures. The futures of black radicalism must grapple with maintaining ideological integrity while engaging with political institutions and policy-making processes.

This tension is evident in debates over electoral politics, criminal justice reform, and educational curricula, where activists weigh the benefits and drawbacks of working within versus outside established systems.

Key Features Shaping the Futures of Black Radicalism

- **Youth Engagement:** Younger generations are increasingly involved in radical activism, bringing fresh perspectives and innovative tactics.
- **Multidimensional Resistance:** Combining cultural expression, grassroots organizing, and digital campaigns to challenge oppression.
- **Coalition Building:** Forming alliances across racial, economic, and ideological lines to strengthen collective power.
- **Educational Initiatives:** Emphasizing political education and historical awareness to cultivate informed activism.

- **Environmental Justice:** Integrating ecological concerns with racial and economic justice, recognizing the disproportionate impact of environmental degradation on black communities.

Comparative Analysis: Black Radicalism and Other Social Movements

When comparing black radicalism to other contemporary social movements, several distinctions emerge. Black radicalism's emphasis on systemic change, anti-capitalism, and self-determination sets it apart from more reform-oriented movements. While movements like mainstream civil rights activism often focus on legal equality and policy reforms, black radicalism pushes for a fundamental reimagining of society.

Additionally, black radicalism's historical roots in both cultural and political resistance provide a holistic framework that integrates art, identity, and ideology. This contrasts with some movements that prioritize either cultural expression or political advocacy exclusively.

However, overlaps exist, especially with intersectional feminist movements, indigenous rights campaigns, and global anti-colonial struggles. These intersections suggest possibilities for coalition-building that could strengthen the futures of black radicalism and related causes alike.

Looking Ahead: Emerging Trends and Prospective Innovations

Several emerging trends indicate where black radicalism might head in the near future:

1. **Decentralized Organizing:** Moving away from hierarchical leadership models toward more horizontal, community-based structures.
2. **Creative Resistance:** Utilizing art, music, literature, and digital media as tools for radical messaging and community healing.
3. **Policy Innovation:** Developing new frameworks for reparations, abolition of policing, and economic redistribution.
4. **Global Digital Networks:** Expanding international collaboration through online platforms to share strategies and resources.
5. **Focus on Mental Health:** Addressing the psychological toll of systemic

oppression and activism burnout within black communities.

As these trends unfold, black radicalism will likely continue to challenge and reshape social, economic, and political paradigms. Its futures are not fixed but contingent on ongoing dialogue, activism, and the ability to adapt to changing circumstances.

The futures of black radicalism, therefore, encompass a broad spectrum of possibilities—rooted in a rich history but continually evolving to meet contemporary challenges. Whether through grassroots mobilization, intellectual innovation, or global solidarity, black radicalism remains a vital force in the ongoing struggle for justice and equality.

Futures Of Black Radicalism

futures of black radicalism: *Futures of Black Radicalism* Gaye Theresa Johnson, Alex Lubin, 2017-08-29 Black rebellion has returned, with dramatic protests in scores of cities and campuses, bringing with it a renewed engagement with the history of Black radical movements and thought. Here, key scholarly voices from a wide array of disciplines recalls the powerful tradition of Black radicalism as it developed in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries while defining new directions for Black radical thought. In a time when activists in Ferguson, Palestine, Baltimore, and Hong Kong immediately make connections between their movements, this book makes clear that new Black radical politics are thoroughly internationalist and redraws the links between Black resistance and anti-capitalism. Featuring the key voices in the new intellectual wave of Black radical thinking, this collection outlines one of the most vibrant areas of thought today. With contributions from Cedric Robinson, Elizabeth Robinson, Steven Osuna, Nikhil Pal Singh, Damien Sojoyner, Franoise Vergs, Fred Moten, Stefano Harney, Jordan T. Camp, Christina Heatherton, George Lipsitz, Greg Burris, Paul Ortiz, Darryl C. Thomas, Avery Gordon, Shana L. Redmond, Kwame M. Phillips, Ruth Wilson Gilmore, Angela Davis, and Robin D. G. Kelley.

futures of black radicalism: *To Build a Black Future* Christopher Paul Harris, 2025-08-05 An incisive portrait of how the new Black politics can forge a future centered on collective action, community, and care When #BlackLivesMatter emerged in 2013, it animated the most consequential Black-led mobilization since the civil rights and Black power era. Today, the hashtag turned rallying cry is but one expression of a radical reorientation toward Black politics, protest, and political thought. *To Build a Black Future* examines the spirit and significance of this insurgency, offering a revelatory account of a new political culture—responsive to pain, suffused with joy, and premised on care—emerging from the centuries-long arc of Black rebellion, a tradition that traces back to the Black slave. Drawing on his own experiences as an activist and organizer, Christopher Paul Harris takes readers inside the Movement for Black Lives (M4BL) to chart the propulsive trajectory of Black politics and thought from the Middle Passage to the present historical moment. Carefully attending to the social forces that produce Black struggle and the contradictions that arise within it, Harris illustrates how M4BL gives voice to an abolitionist praxis that bridges the past, present, and future, outlining a political project at once directed inward to the Black community while issuing an outward challenge to the world. Essential reading for the age of #BlackLivesMatter, this visionary and provocative book reveals how the radical politics of joy, pain, and care, in sharp contrast to liberal political thought, can build a Black future that transcends ideology and pushes the

boundaries of our political imagination.

futures of black radicalism: *Black Marxism, Revised and Updated Third Edition* Cedric J. Robinson, 2020-12-16 In this ambitious work, first published in 1983, Cedric Robinson demonstrates that efforts to understand Black people's history of resistance solely through the prism of Marxist theory are incomplete and inaccurate. Marxist analyses tend to presuppose European models of history and experience that downplay the significance of Black people and Black communities as agents of change and resistance. Black radicalism, Robinson argues, must be linked to the traditions of Africa and the unique experiences of Blacks on Western continents, and any analyses of African American history need to acknowledge this. To illustrate his argument, Robinson traces the emergence of Marxist ideology in Europe, the resistance by Blacks in historically oppressive environments, and the influence of both of these traditions on such important twentieth-century Black radical thinkers as W. E. B. Du Bois, C. L. R. James, and Richard Wright. This revised and updated third edition includes a new preface by Tiffany Willoughby-Herard, and a new foreword by Robin D. G. Kelley.

futures of black radicalism: *Handbuch Politische Ökologie* Daniela Gottschlich, Sarah Hackfort, Tobias Schmitt, Uta von Winterfeld, 2022-11-07 Globale Krisen wie der Klimawandel und die Corona-Pandemie machen die Politische Ökologie zu einem unverzichtbaren Forschungsfeld der Zukunft. Die Beiträger*innen des ersten deutschsprachigen Handbuchs zum Thema stellen die hierfür relevanten Theorien vor und zeigen anhand konkreter Konflikte und Kämpfe die Aktualität und den Mehrwert einer politisch-ökologischen Herangehensweise auf. Sie erläutern die zentralen Begriffe, die für Analyse, Kritik und Transformation von gesellschaftlichen Naturverhältnissen wichtig sind, und stellen für die Politische Ökologie fruchtbare Methoden und Arbeitsweisen vor. Ein übersichtliches Nachschlagewerk für unübersichtliche Verhältnisse.

futures of black radicalism: *Critical Approaches Toward a Cosmopolitan Education* Sandra R. Schecter, Carl E. James, 2021-08-30 This book aims to reconceptualize teaching and learning in spaces with diverse populations of young people. Chapters focus on the schooling experiences and social and cultural adaptation issues of individuals who, through the meaning that they assign to their lived experiences, ascribe to multiple identity qualifiers. Contributors explore the impact of this cosmopolitan awareness on students, educators, and educational institutions, presenting issues such as curricular concerns around civic engagement, individual subjectivity versus social identity, and the convergence of context-specific policy and teaching environments on global dynamics in education reform. An emphasis on this understanding promises to better equip educators and policy-makers to plan instructional approaches and devise pedagogic resources that serve the needs and career aspirations of an expanding cohort of multifaceted learners.

futures of black radicalism: *The Neurobiology of Values* Bruce Miller, Ian Robertson, Niall Kavanagh, Victor Valcour, 2024-03-12

futures of black radicalism: *The Future of Black Studies* Abdul Alkalimat, 2022-07-20 'A timely, future-oriented and necessary contribution which provides clarity to the multivalent tendencies in this field' - Carole Boyce Davies The marginalisation of Black voices from the academy is a problem in the Western world. But Black Studies, where it exists, is a powerful, boundary-pushing discipline, grown out of struggle and community action. Here, Abdul Alkalimat, one of the founders of Black Studies in the US, presents a reimagining of the future trends in the study of the Black experience. Taking Marxism and Black Experientialism, Afro-Futurist and Diaspora frameworks, he projects a radical future for the discipline at this time of social crisis. Choosing cornerstones of culture, such as the music of Sun Ra, the movie Black Panther and the writer Octavia Butler, he looks at the trajectory of Black liberation thought since slavery, including new research on the rise in the comparative study of Black people all over the world. Turning to look at how digital tools enhance the study of the discipline, this book is a powerful read that will inform and inspire students and activists.

futures of black radicalism: *The Black Radical Tragic* Jeremy Matthew Glick, 2016-01-15 2017 Nicolás Guillén Outstanding Book Award presented by the Caribbean Philosophical Association As

the first successful revolution emanating from a slave rebellion, the Haitian Revolution remains an inspired site of investigation for a remarkable range of artists and activist-intellectuals in the African Diaspora. In *The Black Radical Tragic*, Jeremy Matthew Glick examines twentieth-century performances engaging the revolution as laboratories for political thinking. Asking readers to consider the revolution less a fixed event than an ongoing and open-ended history resonating across the work of Atlantic world intellectuals, Glick argues that these writers use the Haitian Revolution as a watershed to chart their own radical political paths, animating, enriching, and framing their artistic and scholarly projects. Spanning the disciplines of literature, philosophy, and political thought, *The Black Radical Tragic* explores work from Lorraine Hansberry, Sergei Eisenstein, Edouard Glissant, Malcolm X, and others, ultimately enacting a speculative encounter between Bertolt Brecht and C.L.R. James to reconsider the relationship between tragedy and revolution. In its grand refusal to forget, *The Black Radical Tragic* demonstrates how the Haitian Revolution has influenced the ideas of freedom and self-determination that have propelled Black radical struggles throughout the modern era.

futures of black radicalism: Global Hiphopography Quentin Williams, Jaspal Naveel Singh, 2023-07-27 This book brings together a range of hip hop scholars, artists and activists working on Hip Hop in the Global North and South with the goal of advancing Hiphopographic research as a critical methodology with critical fieldwork methods that can provide a critical perspective of our world. The authors' focus in this volume is to present an anthology of essays that expand the remit of Hiphopography as an approach to the study of Hip Hop that is not only sensitive to the social, economic, political and cultural lives of Hip Hop Culture participants as interpreters and theorists, but one that continues to humanize the "whole person" behind the decks, on the mic, rocking on the linoleum floor, painting in front of a wall, and seeking that Knowledge of Self. This book will be relevant to Hip Hop scholars in fields such as cultural studies and history, sociolinguistics, linguistic anthropology and ethnography, and race studies, while Hip Hop heads themselves will find parts of this book that represent their culture in ethical and informative ways.

futures of black radicalism: Freedom dreaming futures for Black youth: Exploring meanings of liberation in education and psychology research Seanna Leath, Lauren Mims, Misha Inniss-Thompson, 2023-07-21 Research elucidating the developmental processes in Black children and youths' schooling and educative experiences is increasing (e.g., Carter-Andrews et al., 2019; Daneshzadeh & Sirrakos, 2018; Jackson & Howard, 2014; Neal-Jackson, 2018). Yet, the notion of "freedom dreaming" in relation to Black children and youth has received less attention within the fields of education and psychology. We draw from U.S. historian, Professor Robin D.G. Kelley's, concept of freedom dreaming to illuminate not only what we are fighting against in the education of Black youth (e.g., racial bias and discrimination, unfair disciplinary practices and criminalization, and Black youths' overrepresentation in special education and underrepresentation in gifted and talented programs), but also what we are fighting for - liberatory educational praxis that build on Black youths' individual and cultural strengths. In the current call, freedom dreaming refers to: (1) actively uplifting the complex lives and stories of Black children and youth in educational settings; (2) elevating Black children and youths' intersectional experiences related to ability, gender identity, sexuality, age, and socio-economic class; and (3) highlighting the innovative work of scholars who understand and value community power in efforts to advance educational change. We draw on Dr. Bettina Love's (2019) call for educational freedom, wherein she states, "The practice of abolitionist teaching is rooted in the internal desire we all have for freedom, joy, restorative justice (restoring humanity, not just rules), and to matter to ourselves, our community, our family, and our country with the profound understanding that we must "demand the impossible" by refusing injustice and the disposability of dark children." (p. 7)

futures of black radicalism: *A Brick and a Bible* Melissa Ford, 2022-04-28 WINNER, 2023 Illinois State Historical Society Certificate of Excellence in "Books, Scholarly"! Uncovering the social revolution led by Black women in the heartland In this first study of Black radicalism in midwestern cities before the civil rights movement, Melissa Ford connects the activism of Black women who

championed justice during the Great Depression to those involved in the Ferguson Uprising and the Black Lives Matter movement. *A Brick and a Bible* examines how African American working-class women, many of whom had just migrated to “the promised land” only to find hunger, cold, and unemployment, forged a region of revolutionary potential. *A Brick and a Bible* theorizes a tradition of Midwestern Black radicalism, a praxis-based ideology informed by but divergent from American Communism. Midwestern Black radicalism that contests that interlocking systems of oppression directly relates the distinct racial, political, geographic, economic, and gendered characteristics that make up the American heartland. This volume illustrates how, at the risk of their careers, their reputations, and even their lives, African American working-class women in the Midwest used their position to shape a unique form of social activism. Case studies of Detroit, St. Louis, Chicago, and Cleveland—hotbeds of radical activism—follow African American women across the Midwest as they participated in the Ford Hunger March, organized the Funsten Nut Pickers’ strike, led the Sopkin Dressmakers’ strike, and supported the Unemployed Councils and the Scottsboro Boys’ defense. Ford profoundly reimagines how we remember and interpret these “ordinary” women doing extraordinary things across the heartland. Once overlooked, their activism shaped a radical tradition in midwestern cities that continues to be seen in cities like Ferguson and Minneapolis today.

futures of black radicalism: *Black Marxism* Cedric J. Robinson, 2021-02-04 'A towering achievement. There is simply nothing like it in the history of Black radical thought' Cornel West 'Cedric Robinson's brilliant analyses revealed new ways of thinking and acting' Angela Davis 'This work is about our people's struggle, the historical Black struggle' Any struggle must be fought on a people's own terms, argues Cedric Robinson's landmark account of Black radicalism. Marxism is a western construction, and therefore inadequate to describe the significance of Black communities as agents of change against 'racial capitalism'. Tracing the emergence of European radicalism, the history of Black African resistance and the influence of these on such key thinkers as W. E. B. Du Bois, C. L. R. James and Richard Wright, *Black Marxism* reclaims the story of a movement.

futures of black radicalism: *Class Struggle and Identity Politics* Marc James Léger, 2024-06-03 Contemporary bipartisan politics undermines socialist solidarity by ignoring class issues and pitting advocates of social justice against ethno-national chauvinists. This guide to the recent wave of woke culture wars provides a radical class analysis and critique of the most popular academic trends around diversity and inclusion: radical democracy, intersectionality, privilege theory, critical race theory and decoloniality. The book further explains the complexity of today's cultural conflicts by examining how these issues are viewed across the political spectrum, including populist and postmodern perspectives. Exploring historical, cultural, political and economic developments since the postwar era, this follow-up to *Identity Trumps Socialism* provides the reader with everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask about the campus wars that have gone mainstream.

futures of black radicalism: *Beyond Racial Capitalism* Caroline Shenaz Hossein, Sharon D. Wright Austin, Kevin Edmonds, 2023 Knowledge-making in the field of alternative economies has limited the inclusion of Black and racialized people's experience. In *Beyond Racial Capitalism* the goal is close that gap in development through a detailed analysis of cases in about a dozen countries where Black people live and turn to co-operatives to manage systemic exclusion. Most cases focus on how people use group methodology for social finance. However, financing is not the sole objective for many of the Black people who engage in collective business forms; it is about the collective and the making of a Black social economy. Systemic racism and anti-Black exclusion create an environment where pooling resources, in kind and money, becomes a way to cope and to resist an oppressive system. This book examines co-operatives in the context of racial capitalism—a concept of political scientist Cedric J. Robinson's that has meaning for the African diaspora who must navigate, often secretly and in groups, the landmines in business and society. Understanding business exclusion in the various cases enables appreciation of the civic contributions carried out by excluded racial minorities. These social innovations by Black people living outside of Africa who build co-operative economies go largely unnoticed. If they are noted, they are demoted to an informal

activity and rationalized as having limited potential to bring about social change. The sheer determination of Black diaspora people to organize and build co-operatives that are explicitly anti-racist and rooted in mutual aid and the collective is an important lesson in making business ethical and inclusive.

futures of black radicalism: Bildung.Macht.Diversität. Serena O. Dankwa, Sarah-Mee Filep, Ulla Klingovsky, Georges Pfruender, 2021-08-03 Die Hochschule gerät dabei als Spiegel und Manifestation gesellschaftlicher Verhältnisse in den Blick und überdies als ein Ort, der unter spezifischen Bedingungen zum Motor notwendiger Veränderungsprozesse werden kann. Aus unterschiedlichen disziplinären, aktivistischen und sozialkritischen Perspektiven wird die Hochschule als eine machtvolle Institution beleuchtet. Von deren Rändern aus entfalten sich widerständige Vermittlungspraxen, die schließlich kritisch-performative Zugänge für eine sozial und kulturell gerechtere (Hochschul-)Welt eröffnen.

futures of black radicalism: Black Radical: The Life and Times of William Monroe Trotter Kerri K. Greenidge, 2019-11-19 Winner • Mark Lynton History Prize New York Times • Times Critics Top Books of 2019 The award-winning biography that restores William Monroe Trotter to his essential place next to Douglass, Du Bois, and Malcom X in the pantheon of American civil rights heroes. Black Radical reclaims William Monroe Trotter (1872-1934) as a seminal figure whose prophetic yet ultimately tragic—and all too often forgotten—life offers a link from Frederick Douglass to Black Lives Matter. Kerri K. Greenidge renders the drama of turn-of-the-century America, showing how Trotter, a Harvard graduate, a newspaperman and an activist, galvanized black working-class citizens to wield their political power despite the virulent racism of post-Reconstruction America. Situating his story in the broader history of liberal New England to “satisfying” (Casey Cep, *The New Yorker*) effect, this magnificent biography will endure as the definitive account of Trotter’s life, without which we cannot begin to understand the trajectory of black radicalism in America.

futures of black radicalism: Radical Future Pasts Romand Coles, Mark Reinhardt, George Shulman, 2014-06-17 Written by both well-established and rising new scholars, *Radical Future Pasts* seeks to open up new possibilities for the practical application of political thought. Unlike conventional state of the discipline collections, this volume does not summarize where the field of political theory has been. Rather than accept traditional versions of the political past, the contributors reinterpret both canonical and current texts to demonstrate how politics can be theorized and applied in new ways.

futures of black radicalism: The Routledge International Handbook of Penal Abolition Michael J. Coyle, David Scott, 2021-03-30 The Routledge International Handbook of Penal Abolition provides an authoritative and comprehensive look at the latest developments in the 21st-century penal abolitionism movement, both reflecting on key critical thought and setting the agenda for local and global abolitionist ideas and interventions over the coming decade. Penal abolitionists question the legitimacy of criminal law, policing, courts, prisons and more broadly the idea of punishment, to argue that rather than effectively handling or solving social problems, interpersonal disputes, conflicts and harms, they actually increase individual and societal problems. The Routledge International Handbook of Penal Abolition is organized around six key themes: Social movements and abolition organizing Critical resistance to the penal state Voices from imprisoned and marginalized communities Diversity of abolitionist thought International perspectives on abolitionism Building new justice practices as a response to social and individual wrongdoing. A global-centred and world-encompassing project, this book provides the reader with an alternative and critical perspective from which to reflect and raises the visibility of abolitionist ideas and strategies in a time when there is considerable discussion of how we will move forward in response to what has given rise to the criminalizing system: white supremacy, racial capitalism and human wrongdoing. It is essential reading for all those engaged with punishment and penology, criminology, sociology, corrections and critical prisons studies. It will appeal to any reader who seeks an innovative response to the calamitous failures of the modern criminalizing system.

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