Afro-Caribbean Immigrants and the Politics of Incorporation

Ethnicity, Exception, or Exit

book considers the political behavior of Afro-Caribbean immigrants in New York City to answer a familiar but nagging question about American democracy: Does racism still complicate or limit the political integration patterns of racial minorities in the United States? The arrival of unprecedented numbers of immigrants from Asia, America, and the Caribbean over the last several decades, there is reason once again to consider this question. For the first time in its history, the country is confronting the challenge of incorporating a steady, substantial stream of non-white, non-European voluntary immigrants into the political system. Will racism make this process as difficult for newcomers as it did for African Americans? The book concludes that discrimination does interfere with the immigrants’ adjustment to American political life. But their strategic options and political choices in the face of this challenge are unexpected ones, not anticipated by standard accounts in the political science literature. The book thus offers a novel theoretical perspective on how foreign-born racial minorities adapt to the American political system.

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For my parents
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my name alone appears on the cover of this book, I could not have it without the support of family, friends, colleagues, and several organizations. From the first field interview to the very last typescript sentence, I had considerable assistance in bringing it all together in the that follow. I am very happy to credit the great many sources of support, guidance, inspiration, and constructive criticism that helped me complete this book.

First, I thank Michael Danielson, Jennifer Hochschild, and Tali Mendelberg, who all read early versions of the entire manuscript, offered suggestions for improving it, and inspired me with their exam-
couragement, and enthusiasm for this project. My sincere thanks to Cathy Cohen, Nancy Foner, Michael Jones-Correa, Jane Junn, Kasinitz, Ann Chih Lin, John Mollenkopf, Andrea Simpson, Rogers Mary Waters, and Janelle Wong, all of whom read versions of many chapters and provided insightful feedback and encouragement.

also am especially grateful to Mary Waters, Philip Kasinitz, and Mollenkopf, for the inspiring example of their own work on immi-
life in New York City. I owe a special debt to John, his sometime collaborator John Logan, Kyle Crowder, Suzanne Model, and Karthick Ramakrishnan for their generous data support. Their expertise is reflected several of the tables and figures on census and voting statistics. I thankful for the excellent research assistance of Dale Vieregge, Catherine Paden, and Jonathan Webber, who was especially helpful in the stretch. Wenquan Zhang deserves special mention for his first-rate on the census maps. As the book neared completion, I benefited the expert guidance of my editor at Cambridge University Press,
Bolster; and my copy editor, Susan Thornton. The comments of the anonymous readers also were quite helpful.

presented early versions of several of these chapters at meetings of American Political Science Association, the Midwest Political Science Association, and the Social Science Research Council International Migration Program. I also shared drafts of chapters at workshops at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University; the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University; the Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African American Studies at the University of Rochester; the Center for the Study of Race, Inequality, and Poverty at the University of Rochester; Florida International University; and the Research Institute for the Study of Man. I wish to thank the many bright minds I encountered at these various meetings. Their tough questions and illuminating observations helped strengthen my work.

Several institutions and organizations furnished support in the form of space, time, and resources for me to research, think, and write. They include the Social Science Research Council, the Ford Foundation, the Center for Domestic and Comparative Policy Studies at Princeton University; and the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University.

The Department of Political Science at Northwestern University also granted me resources and leave time to finish the book. Several of my colleagues in the department took the time to review draft chapters and offer encouragement. I am especially grateful to Dennis Chong, who kindly read entire manuscript and offered useful suggestions for improving it. I thank him for his friendship, professional advice, and intellectual support. Though writing a book might seem like a mostly solitary enterprise, the company and support of several good friends while finishing one. My fond thanks and appreciation go to my dear friend and colleague Hawley-Fogg Davis for her great humor and encouragement our always scintillating conversations about the curiosities of race life in general. I am also grateful for the warm support and good cheer I have enjoyed over the years from my friends Laura Lee Berry, Geoffrey Giddings, and Patrik-Ian Polk. I owe a special debt of gratitude Shawn McGuffey for showing such sensitivity and concern for me and interest in my work. I thank him for holding my hand, having my back, sending good chi when the going got tough.

During my time in the field, I was fortunate to have the assistance of many people in New York’s Caribbean community. Though they are
helping me find my bearings in the field and get this project off the ground. The staff at the Caribbean Research Center at Medgar Evers deserve special mention for putting me in touch with the right
I also wish to thank Norma Blaize, who transcribed the field interviews with meticulous care. My largest debt of gratitude is to the Caribbean immigrants who generously shared their time, experiences, ideas during the interviews. Their insights helped make this book is.
Finally, I could not have completed this work without the support of family. I thank my brothers for their loving support. I found great comfort in their company when I took breaks from my research and reassurance in the knowledge they were always in my corner. My deepest are to my mother and father. I could never quantify just how much unwavering love and quiet confidence have helped me in my career the completion of this book. But they should know their support meant everything to me.