

Black Nationalism in American Politics and Thought

Black Nationalism in American Politics and Thought revisits the activism and arguments in support of separate black statehood from the mid nineteenth century to the present, detailing the ways in which black nationalism historically mirrors broader currents in U.S. politics and thought. This book challenges the idea that black nationalism is an essentially timeless, unchanging, and anti-assimilationist impulse with respect to the alternative goal of racial inclusion. It argues that black nationalism in the United States draws on homologous political strategy and thinking unique to specific historical eras – often inadvertently reproducing strategies and thinking responsible for racial inequality in the first place.

Dean E. Robinson is Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Black Nationalism in American Politics and Thought

DEAN E. ROBINSON
University of Massachusetts, Amherst



Cambridge University Press & Assessment
 978-0-521-62326-1 — Black Nationalism in American Politics and Thought
 Dean E. Robinson
 Frontmatter
[More Information](#)



CAMBRIDGE
 UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India
 103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521623261

© Dean E. Robinson 2001

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

First published 2001

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication data

Robinson, Dean E.

Black nationalism in American politics and thought / Dean E. Robinson.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN 0-521-62326-X (hardback) – ISBN 0-521-62627-7 (pbk.)

1. Black nationalism – United States – History – 19th century. 2. Black nationalism – United States – History – 20th century. 3. Afro-Americans – Politics and government – 19th century. 4. Afro-Americans – Politics and government – 20th century. 5. United States – Politics and government – 19th century. 6. United States – Politics and government – 20th century. 7. United States – Intellectual life. I. Title.

E185.61.R679 2001

320.5408996073 – dc21 00-031277

ISBN 978-0-521-62326-1 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-62627-9 Paperback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

To my parents

Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page</i>	ix
Introduction		i
1 Anglo-African Nationalism		8
2 Malcolm X and the Nation of Islam		34
3 Black Nationalist Organizations in the Civil Rights Era		51
4 Black Nationalist Discourse		70
5 Black Nationalism as Ethnic Pluralism		88
6 Black Nationalism and the Ethnic Paradigm		104
7 Black Nationalism in the Contemporary Era		118
<i>Notes</i>		137
<i>Selected Bibliography</i>		159
<i>Index</i>		165

Acknowledgments

I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to all who made the book possible. I would like to thank my family and friends for their support over the years. I would also like to thank my colleagues at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, for their advice and encouragement. Special thanks to George Sulzner and Carlene Eddie. Criticism from a number of readers has made the book better. Thanks to Lida Lewis, John Stifler, Wilson Moses, Daryl Scott, David Mayhew, Brett Gadsden, Moise Tirado, Robert Venator Santiago, Richard Iton, Preston Smith, and Lisa Magged for their comments and suggestions at various stages of the project. Rogers Smith offered significant input throughout the process. Adolph Reed, Jr., provided careful readings, invaluable input, and much-needed inspiration.