

Black Political Thought

In *Black Political Thought: From David Walker to the Present*, Sherrow O. Pinder has brought together the writings and discourses central to black political thought and African American politics, compiling a unique anthology of speeches and articles from over 150 years of African American history.

Providing in-depth examinations and critical analyses of topics such as slavery, reconstruction, race and racism, Black Nationalism and Black Feminism – from a range of perspectives – students are equipped with a comprehensive and informative account of how these issues have fundamentally shaped and continue to shape black political thinking. Each of the six thematic parts is framed by an introduction written by black scholars working in the field, and a list of further readings is provided. Individual chapters are then enhanced by end of chapter questions and author biographies.

Written for the interdisciplinary field of Black Studies, and other social science and humanities disciplines, this textbook offers a unique resource for political scientists, sociologists, historians, feminists, and the general reader of black political thought.

Sherrow O. Pinder, Professor of Political Science at California State University, Chico is the author of several books and serves as the “Race Politics in the United States” Book Series Editor at Anthem Press, London. She works primarily in the areas of race, gender, and ethnic politics in the United States, social welfare policy, black political thought, globalization studies and whiteness studies. In 2018, Pinder was invited to present her work, “The Liminality of Whiteness and its Problematics for Race Politics in the United States,” at the Newberry Scholarly Seminar in American Literature.

Black Political Thought

From David Walker to the Present

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Notes on the Contributors

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Preface

Black Political Thought: From David Walker to the Present has two main goals. One is to offer a standard textbook for undergraduate students and faculty working in the field of Black Studies and African American Studies as well as other disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, including Political Science, American Studies, Ethnic Studies, Women's Studies, and Sociology. The second is to provide the general reader with a collection that introduces the key concepts that have helped to shape and develop black political thought within the broader interdisciplinary field of Black Studies.

Black Studies represents an attractive and buoyant area of studies for students and scholars at American and international colleges and universities. However, there aren't many scholarly works published on black political thought. This book aims to contribute as well as expand the scholarship available for anyone interested in Black Studies. In addition, it offers new pedagogical tools that will prove indispensable to enhance Student Learning Outcomes. *Black Political Thought* was prompted by the urgent need for a primary text for a class on Black Political Thought that I am developing and will teach at the university where I am at present employed.

Black Political Thought is divided into six sections/parts: Part I, Slavery and Its Discontents; Part II, Reconstruction; Part III, Black Nationalism; Part IV, Race and Racism; Part V, Feminism and Difference; and Part VI, Past, Present, and Future Issues. Each part has a specific theme, which, all together describes and explains how blacks in the United States, as individuals and as a group, have, in various ways, addressed and responded to the unequal political, economic, and social underpinnings of the United States. While it draws on existing works that take into account the past, present, and future experiences of blacks in the United States, it opens up new ways to help in the analysis of the unequal positioning of blacks historically and at present.

The chief novelty of this textbook lies in its wide-ranging pedagogical approach to Black Studies. It begins with an introductory chapter titled "Key Concepts, Ideas, and Issues that have Formed Black Political Thought." Each part of the textbook starts with an introduction of around 3500 to 4500 words written by black scholars Brenda E. Stevenson, Nikki L. M. Brown, Babacar M'Baye, Charisse Burden-Stelly, Sherrow O. Pinder, and Erica F. Cooper respectively, working in the field of Black Studies. The introduction provides an overview of the topic presented under the border heading of, for example, Slavery and Its Discontents

by highlighting the most important concepts, ideas, and purpose of each of the chapters in the section. This provides students with the context they need to read effectively. Key concepts, facts, and ideas are stressed in the text, and referred back to a glossary, which is included before the index. Cross-referencing is thus used throughout the text.

In addition, a short biography of the authors of the chapters is included at the beginning of each chapter so that students can become acquainted with the author and his/her work and understand his/her importance in the area. The short biography aims to encourage students to conduct their own research to learn more about an author and his/her other works. An annotated bibliography provided at the end of each part also guides students and instructors seeking additional information and lists further readings such as works of scholars that should be included in the book, but, because of limited space, could not be included.

Study questions at the end of each part and chapter are provided. The questions are, for the most part, conceptual and require answers that are provided in an essay format. Questions represent an important pedagogical tool. Many instructors find it very useful to have reflective questions following each part of a textbook that can help students think about the concepts and make meaningful connections with the materials provided in the book. Furthermore, the aim of these questions is to help students organize and process the objectives, ideas, argumentation, and concepts presented in the chapters. These questions will increase students' comprehension of the material and help them think critically about Black Studies. *Black Political Thought* has a sequence and is organizational but instructors do not have to follow the sequence and will be able to select their own reading sequences. In short, this volume constitutes a standard textbook that will contribute to the dissemination of further knowledge of black political thought.

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