

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law

A Perilous Path: Talking Race Inequality and the Law

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Editor: Professor David Miller, a renowned legal scholar and expert in civil rights law at Yale Law School. Professor Miller has dedicated his career to researching and advocating for legal reforms addressing systemic racism, lending his significant expertise to shaping this important work, "a perilous path talking race inequality and the law."

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Introduction: Navigating the Perilous Path

"A perilous path talking race inequality and the law" is a phrase that accurately captures the challenging journey towards racial justice within the legal system. This report delves into the pervasive and deeply rooted issue of race inequality as it manifests within the framework of law, exploring its historical context, contemporary manifestations, and potential pathways towards meaningful reform. We will examine how seemingly neutral laws and procedures can perpetuate and exacerbate racial disparities, impacting everything from arrests and sentencing to access to housing, employment, and education.

Historical Roots of Inequality: A Legacy of Injustice

The current state of racial inequality within the legal system is not accidental; it is a direct consequence of centuries of discriminatory laws and practices. From slavery and Jim Crow laws to the ongoing legacy of redlining and discriminatory housing policies, a perilous path talking race inequality and the law has been paved with systemic oppression. These historical injustices have created a lasting impact on wealth accumulation, educational attainment, and access to opportunity, all of which disproportionately affect communities of color. This historical context is crucial for understanding the persistence of racial disparities in the present day.

Modern Manifestations of Racial Bias: Data and Evidence

The claim that race inequality persists within the legal system is not merely anecdotal; it is supported by a substantial body of quantitative and qualitative research. Numerous studies consistently demonstrate significant racial disparities across various aspects of the legal system:

Policing: Studies show that people of color, particularly Black and Latino individuals, are disproportionately stopped, searched, and arrested compared to white individuals, even when controlling for factors like crime rates. This disparity is often attributed to racial profiling and implicit bias among law enforcement officers.

Criminal Justice: Data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics reveal stark racial disparities in sentencing. Black individuals receive significantly longer sentences than white individuals convicted of similar crimes. This disparity persists even after accounting for factors such as prior criminal history and the severity of the offense. Furthermore, the disproportionate incarceration of people of color contributes significantly to mass incarceration, a defining feature of the modern American criminal justice system. "A perilous path talking race inequality and the law" is directly linked to this overrepresentation.

Civil Justice: Racial disparities also exist in the civil justice system. People of color are less likely to receive favorable outcomes in civil cases, facing challenges in accessing legal representation and navigating complex legal procedures. This disparity contributes to inequality in areas such as housing, employment, and access to credit.

Implicit Bias and its Impact: A Subtle but Powerful Force

Understanding "a perilous path talking race inequality and the law" necessitates acknowledging the role of implicit bias. Implicit bias refers to unconscious attitudes or stereotypes that can influence judgments and decisions without conscious awareness. Research indicates that implicit biases towards race can affect various stages of the legal process, from police interactions to jury deliberations. These unconscious biases can lead to discriminatory outcomes even when individuals believe they are acting impartially. Addressing implicit bias requires focused efforts on education, training, and fostering awareness within the legal profession.

Systemic Racism: Beyond Individual Prejudice

While individual biases play a role, it's crucial to recognize that racial inequality within the legal system is not solely a product of individual prejudice. Systemic racism refers to the ways in which racial bias is embedded within institutions and policies, resulting in discriminatory outcomes even in the absence of explicit discriminatory intent. For example, mandatory minimum sentencing laws, although seemingly neutral on their face, have disproportionately impacted communities of color due to existing inequalities in policing and prosecution. This demonstrates how "a perilous path talking race inequality and the law" is often unintentionally perpetuated by seemingly neutral systems.

Pathways Towards Reform: A Roadmap for Change

Addressing "a perilous path talking race inequality and the law" requires a multifaceted approach encompassing various strategies:

Data Collection and Transparency: Improving data collection and transparency is crucial for identifying and addressing racial disparities. This includes collecting comprehensive data on arrests, sentencing, and outcomes in both criminal and civil cases, disaggregated by race and ethnicity.

Police Reform: Implementing comprehensive police reforms is essential to reduce racial profiling and excessive force. This includes enhanced training on implicit bias, community policing initiatives, and improved accountability mechanisms for police misconduct.

Sentencing Reform: Addressing racial disparities in sentencing requires reforming mandatory minimum sentencing laws, promoting alternatives to incarceration, and emphasizing restorative justice practices.

Improving Access to Legal Representation: Ensuring access to competent legal representation for all individuals, regardless of their socioeconomic status or race, is crucial for achieving a just legal system.

Addressing Implicit Bias through Training: Implementing and evaluating programs aimed at reducing implicit bias within the legal profession through ongoing training and education.

Conclusion: A Long and Difficult Journey

The journey towards racial justice within the legal system is long and arduous. "A perilous path talking race inequality and the law" accurately reflects the challenges inherent in dismantling deeply entrenched systems of oppression. However, acknowledging the problem, understanding its roots, and implementing evidence-based reforms are crucial first steps. By confronting the uncomfortable truths about race and inequality within the legal system, and by engaging in sustained and collective action, we can strive towards a more just and equitable future for all.

FAQs

1. What is systemic racism within the legal system? Systemic racism refers to the ways in which racial bias is embedded within policies, procedures, and practices of the legal system, leading to disparate outcomes for people of color, regardless of individual intent.
1. How does implicit bias impact legal decisions? Implicit bias, unconscious attitudes or stereotypes, can influence decisions made by law enforcement, judges, and juries, leading to discriminatory outcomes.
1. What are some examples of racial disparities in the criminal justice system? Examples include racial disparities in arrest rates, sentencing lengths, and incarceration rates.

1. What reforms are needed to address racial inequality in policing? Reforms include enhanced training on implicit bias, community policing initiatives, body cameras, and improved accountability mechanisms.
1. How can we improve access to legal representation for people of color? This can be achieved through expanding public defender services, providing legal aid resources, and promoting pro bono work by lawyers.
1. What is the role of data collection in addressing racial inequality? Comprehensive data collection helps identify and quantify racial disparities, allowing for evidence-based policy reforms.
1. What is restorative justice, and how can it address racial inequality? Restorative justice focuses on repairing harm caused by crime through dialogue and community involvement, offering alternatives to traditional incarceration.
1. What is the role of critical race theory in understanding racial inequality in the legal system? Critical race theory provides a framework for analyzing how race and racism are embedded within legal structures and practices.
1. How can individuals contribute to the fight against racial inequality within the legal system? Individuals can advocate for policy changes, support organizations working on racial justice, and engage in community education and dialogue.

Related Articles:

1. "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness" by Michelle Alexander: Examines the ways mass incarceration perpetuates racial inequality.
1. "Between the World and Me" by Ta-Nehisi Coates: A powerful personal essay exploring the

realities of race and systemic racism in America.

1. "Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption" by Bryan Stevenson: A memoir detailing the work of a lawyer defending wrongly convicted people, highlighting racial disparities in the criminal justice system.
1. "The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America" by Richard Rothstein: Explores the role of government policies in creating and maintaining residential segregation.
1. "Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City" by Matthew Desmond: Documents the devastating impact of eviction on low-income families, highlighting racial disparities in housing insecurity.
1. "Dying to Win: The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism" by Robert Pape: While not directly on race, it examines the root causes of violence and can inform discussions on the social factors driving crime and racial disparities.
1. Reports from the Sentencing Project: This organization provides extensive data and analysis on racial disparities in sentencing and incarceration.
1. Reports from the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund: This organization provides legal advocacy and research on racial justice issues.
1. Research publications from the American Bar Association: The ABA conducts research and publishes reports on various aspects of racial inequality within the legal system.

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: A Perilous Path Sherrilyn Ifill, Loretta Lynch, Bryan Stevenson, Anthony C. Thompson, 2018-03-06 A frank and enlightening discussion on

race and the law in America today, from some of our leading legal minds—including the bestselling author of *Just Mercy* This blisteringly candid discussion of the American racial dilemma in the age of Black Lives Matter brings together the head of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the former attorney general of the United States, a bestselling author and death penalty lawyer, and a star professor for an honest conversation the country desperately needs to hear. Drawing on their collective decades of work on civil rights issues as well as personal histories of rising from poverty and oppression, these titans of the legal profession discuss the importance of working for justice in an unjust time. Covering topics as varied as “the commonality of pain,” “when ‘public’ became a dirty word,” and the concept of an “equality dividend” that is due to people of color for helping America brand itself internationally as a country of diversity and acceptance, Sherrilyn Ifill, Loretta Lynch, Bryan Stevenson, and Anthony C. Thompson engage in a deeply thought-provoking discussion on the law’s role in both creating and solving our most pressing racial quandaries. *A Perilous Path* will speak loudly and clearly to everyone concerned about America’s perpetual fault line.

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: *A Perilous Path* Sherrilyn A. Ifill, Loretta Lynch, Bryan Stevenson, Anthony C. Thompson, 2018 A no-holds-barred, red-hot discussion of race in America today from some of the leading names in the field, including the bestselling author of *Just Mercy* This blisteringly candid discussion of the American dilemma in the age of Trump brings together the head of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the former attorney general of the United States, a bestselling author and death penalty lawyer, and a star professor for an honest conversation the country desperately needs to hear. Drawing on their collective decades of work on civil rights issues as well as personal histories of rising from poverty and oppression, these leading lights of the legal profession and the fight for racial justice talk about the importance of reclaiming the racial narrative and keeping our eyes on the horizon as we work for justice in an unjust time. Covering topics as varied as the commonality of pain, when lawyers are heroes, and the concept of an equality dividend that is due to people of color for helping America brand itself internationally as a country of diversity and acceptance, Ifill, Lynch, Stevenson, and Thompson also explore topics such as when did ‘public’ become a dirty word (hint, it has something to do with serving people of color), you know what Jeff Sessions is going to say, and what it means to be a civil rights lawyer in the age of Trump. Building on Stevenson’s hugely successful *Just Mercy*, Lynch’s national platform at the Justice Department, Ifill’s role as one of the leading defenders of civil rights in the country, and the occasion of Thompson’s launch of a new center on race, inequality, and the law at the NYU School of Law, *A Perilous Path* will speak loudly and clearly to everyone concerned about America’s perpetual fault line.

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: *On the Courthouse Lawn* Sherrilyn Ifill, 2007-02-15 Nearly 5,000 black Americans were lynched between 1890 and 1960. Over forty years later, Sherrilyn Ifill’s *On the Courthouse Lawn* examines the numerous ways that this racial trauma still resounds across the United States. While the lynchings and their immediate aftermath were devastating, the little-known contemporary consequences, such as the marginalization of political and economic development for black Americans, are equally pernicious. *On the Courthouse Lawn* investigates how the lynchings implicated average white citizens, some of whom actively participated in the violence while many others witnessed the lynchings but did nothing to stop them. Ifill observes that this history of complicity has become embedded in the social and cultural fabric of local communities, who either supported, condoned, or ignored the violence. She traces the lingering effects of two lynchings in Maryland to illustrate how ubiquitous this history is and issues a clarion call for American communities with histories of racial violence to be proactive in facing this legacy today. Inspired by South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission, as well as by techniques of restorative justice, Ifill provides concrete ideas to help communities heal, including placing gravestones on the unmarked burial sites of lynching victims, issuing public apologies, establishing mandatory school programs on the local history of lynching, financially compensating those whose family homes or businesses were destroyed in the aftermath of lynching, and creating commemorative public spaces. Because the contemporary effects of racial violence are experienced

most intensely in local communities, Ifill argues that reconciliation and reparation efforts must also be locally based in order to bring both black and white Americans together in an efficacious dialogue. A landmark book, *On the Courthouse Lawn* is a much-needed and urgent road map for communities finally confronting lynching's long shadow by embracing pragmatic reconciliation and reparation efforts.

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: *Selma*, Lord, Selma Sheyann Webb, Rachel West Nelson, Frank Sikora, 1997-04-30 This moving firsthand account puts the 1965 struggle for Civil Rights in Selma, Alabama, in very human terms.

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: *Courage to Dissent* Tomiko Brown-Nagin, 2012 Offers a sweeping history of the civil rights movement in Atlanta from the end of World War II to 1980, arguing the motivations of the movement were much more complicated than simply a desire for integration.

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: *Eyes on the Prize* Juan Williams, 2013-09-03 *Eyes on the Prize* traces the movement from the landmark *Brown v. the Board of Education* case in 1954 to the march on Selma and the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. This is a companion volume to the first part of the acclaimed PBS series.

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: *"Exterminate All the Brutes"* Sven Lindqvist, 2021-03-30 Now part of the eponymous HBO docuseries written and directed by Raoul Peck, "*Exterminate All the Brutes*" is a brilliant intellectual history of Europe's genocidal colonization of Africa—and the terrible myths and lies that it spawned "A book of stunning range and near genius. . . . The catastrophic consequences of European imperialism are made palpable in the personal progress of the author, a late-twentieth-century pilgrim in Africa. Lindqvist's astonishing connections across time and cultures, combined with a marvelous economy of prose, leave the reader appalled, reflective, and grateful." —David Levering Lewis "*Exterminate All the Brutes*," Sven Lindqvist's widely acclaimed masterpiece, is a searching examination of Europe's dark history in Africa and the origins of genocide. Using Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* as his point of departure, the award-winning Swedish author takes us on a haunting tour through the colonial past, interwoven with a modern-day travelogue. Retracing the steps of European explorers, missionaries, politicians, and historians in Africa from the late eighteenth century onward, "*Exterminate All the Brutes*" exposes the roots of genocide in Africa through Lindqvist's own journey through the Saharan desert. As he shows, fantasies not merely of white superiority but of actual extermination—"cleansing" the earth of the so-called lesser races—deeply informed the colonialism and racist ideology that ultimately culminated in Europe's own Holocaust. Conquerors' stories are the ones that inform the self-mythology of the West—whereas the lives and stories of those displaced, enslaved, or killed are too often ignored and forgotten. "*Exterminate All the Brutes*" forces a crucial reckoning with a past that still echoes in our collective psyche—a reckoning that compels us to acknowledge the exploitation and brutality at the heart of our modern, globalized society. As Adam Hochschild has written, "Lindqvist's work leaves you changed."

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: *I Know This to be True*: Bryan Stevenson Geoff Blackwell, Ruth Hobday, 2020-03-24 The *I Know This to Be True* series is a collection of extraordinary figures from diverse backgrounds answering the same questions, as well as sharing their compelling stories, guiding ideals, and insightful wisdom. Bryan Stevenson has committed his career to fighting wrongful convictions, systemic poverty, and mass incarceration—here, he shares the lessons he's learned throughout his life. Stories include how his slave ancestry shaped his childhood, how a poignant conversation with a death row inmate impacted his work, and why he believes the worst thing that happens to a person shouldn't define their life. • Bryan Stevenson is one of today's most influential social justice attorneys and author of the bestselling book *Just Mercy* • This book is an encouraging road map for aspiring activists and anyone who believes in second chances • The landmark book series brims with messages of leadership, courage, compassion, and hope Inspired by Nelson Mandela's legacy and created in collaboration with the Nelson Mandela Foundation, *I Know This to Be True* is a global series of

books created to spark a new generation of leaders. This series offers encouragement and guidance to graduates, future leaders, and anyone hoping to make a positive impact on the world. • Royalties from sales of the series support the free distribution of material from the series to the world's developing economy countries • Great for those who loved Letters of Note: An Eclectic Collection of Correspondence Deserving of a Wider Audience by Shaun Usher, Long Walk to Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela by Nelson Mandela, and Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: Getting Ghost Luke Bergmann, 2010-09-22 [Bergmann] chronicles the drug trading, the risks and rewards, and the demarcations between the city and suburbs even as he witnessed suburbanites come into the city to buy drugs. ---Booklist Not just illustrative and emotive, this pummeling, immersive social text is grounded in street-level reportage and seeded with wisdom. ---Kirkus Reviews In prose that is equally eloquent and enlightening, Luke Bergmann brings to the surface the lives of two young men living in a place that is regarded by too many people as a forgotten city. --- Alford A. Young, Jr., Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and Associate Professor, Sociology and Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan Luke Bergmann sometimes risks life and limb to bring us firsthand the lives of young people who mainstream media and academic research have ignored---except for the occasional crime story or impersonal policy brief. Getting Ghost is a journey worth taking . . . It sets a new standard for documentary reportage. --- Sudhir Venkatesh, author of Gang Leader for a Day and Off the Books Postapocalyptic Detroit---infamous for its abandoned buildings, empty lots, and blighted streets---may be the only American city to have earned such an epithet. As a teenager who frequently visited Detroit with his father, Luke Bergmann saw the devastation caused by the collapse of the automobile industry. Years later, he returned to the city as an anthropologist to study the incarceration of inner-city youth, and his research connected him with two teenaged drug dealers, Dude Freeman and Rodney Phelps. For nearly three years Bergmann lived on the city's West Side, hanging out with Dude and Rodney, driving around, hearing their stories and dreams, and witnessing the intricacies of Detroit's urban drug trade. Bergmann is soon more than an observer, as he intervenes with Dude's probation officer when he misses a hearing and becomes Rodney's only contact when he flees the city to escape criminal charges. Through it all, he strives to understand their lives, their families, and the neighborhoods they call home. In an effort to break through the conventional wisdom about who sells drugs and why, Bergmann chronicles the unsettling alchemy of choice, force of habit, structural inequality, and political neglect that combine to restrict the horizons of too many young people in America's cities. As Rodney and Dude spin through the revolving door of juvenile detention, getting ghost becomes a rich metaphor---for leaving a scene; for quitting the trade; and, ultimately, for mortality. With stunning insight, courage, and even humor, Getting Ghost illuminates complex inner lives that are too often diminished by empty stereotypes as it reveals the common yearnings in all of our American dreams. Luke Bergmann is a research director at the Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion and an adjunct faculty associate at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan. Cover photo © Simon Wheatley, Magnum Photos

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: Utopia Thomas More, 2019-04-08 Utopia is a work of fiction and socio-political satire by Thomas More published in 1516 in Latin. The book is a frame narrative primarily depicting a fictional island society and its religious, social and political customs. Many aspects of More's description of Utopia are reminiscent of life in monasteries.

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: Mastering Respectful Confrontation Joe Weston, 2011-09

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: The Unsteady March Philip A. Klinkner, Rogers M. Smith, 2002-04 With its insights into contemporary racial politics, The Unsteady March offers a penetrating and controversial analysis of American race relations across two centuries.

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: Just Mercy (Adapted for Young Adults) Bryan Stevenson, 2019-09-10 Bryan Stevenson's incredible fight to end mass incarceration, excessive punishment, and racial inequality comes to life in this young adult adaptation of the acclaimed, #1 New York Times bestseller that was adapted into a major motion picture starring Michael B. Jordan, Jaime Foxx, and Brie Larson. In this very personal work--adapted from the original #1 bestseller, which the New York Times calls as compelling as *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and in some ways more so--renowned lawyer and social justice advocate Bryan Stevenson offers a glimpse into the lives of the wrongfully imprisoned and his efforts to fight for their freedom as the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative. Stevenson's story is one of working to protect basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society--the poor, the wrongly convicted, and those whose lives have been marked by discrimination and marginalization. Through this adaptation, young people of today will find themselves called to action and compassion in the pursuit of justice. A portion of the proceeds of this book will go to charity to help in Stevenson's important work to benefit the voiceless and the vulnerable as they attempt to navigate the broken U.S. justice system. A KIRKUS REVIEWS BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR A BOOKLIST EDITORS' CHOICE FEATURED ON CBS THIS MORNING A NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR PRAISE FOR JUST MERCY: A TRUE STORY OF THE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE: It's really exciting that young people are getting a version tailored for them. --Salon A deeply moving collage of true stories. . . . This is required reading. --Kirkus Reviews, starred review Compassionate and compelling, Stevenson's narrative is also unforgettable. --Booklist, starred review PRAISE FOR JUST MERCY: A STORY OF JUSTICE AND REDEMPTION: Gripping. . . . What hangs in the balance is nothing less than the soul of a great nation. --DESMOND TUTU, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Important and compelling. --Pulitzer Prize-winning author TRACY KIDDER Inspiring and powerful. --#1 New York Times bestselling author JOHN GRISHAM

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: Lynching in America Christopher Waldrep, 2006-01-01 Whether conveyed through newspapers, photographs, or Billie Holliday's haunting song "Strange Fruit," lynching has immediate and graphic connotations for all who hear the word. Images of lynching are generally unambiguous: black victims hanging from trees, often surrounded by gawking white mobs. While this picture of lynching tells a distressingly familiar story about mob violence in America, it is not the full story. Lynching in America presents the most comprehensive portrait of lynching to date, demonstrating that while lynching has always been present in American society, it has been anything but one-dimensional. Ranging from personal correspondence to courtroom transcripts to journalistic accounts, Christopher Waldrep has extensively mined an enormous quantity of documents about lynching, which he arranges chronologically with concise introductions. He reveals that lynching has been part of American history since the Revolution, but its victims, perpetrators, causes, and environments have changed over time. From the American Revolution to the expansion of the western frontier, Waldrep shows how communities defended lynching as a way to maintain law and order. Slavery, the Civil War, and especially Reconstruction marked the ascendancy of racialized lynching in the nineteenth century, which has continued to the present day, with the murder of James Byrd in Jasper, Texas, and Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas's contention that he was lynched by Congress at his confirmation hearings. Since its founding, lynching has permeated American social, political, and cultural life, and no other book documents American lynching with historical texts offering firsthand accounts of lynchings, explanations, excuses, and criticism.

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: Colour-Coded Constance Backhouse, 1999-11-20 Historically Canadians have considered themselves to be more or less free of racial prejudice. Although this conception has been challenged in recent years, it has not been completely dispelled. In *Colour-Coded*, Constance Backhouse illustrates the tenacious hold that white supremacy had on our legal system in the first half of this century, and underscores the damaging legacy of inequality that continues today. Backhouse presents detailed narratives of six court cases, each giving evidence of blatant racism created and enforced through law. The cases focus on

Aboriginal, Inuit, Chinese-Canadian, and African-Canadian individuals, taking us from the criminal prosecution of traditional Aboriginal dance to the trial of members of the 'Ku Klux Klan of Kanada.' From thousands of possibilities, Backhouse has selected studies that constitute central moments in the legal history of race in Canada. Her selection also considers a wide range of legal forums, including administrative rulings by municipal councils, criminal trials before police magistrates, and criminal and civil cases heard by the highest courts in the provinces and by the Supreme Court of Canada. The extensive and detailed documentation presented here leaves no doubt that the Canadian legal system played a dominant role in creating and preserving racial discrimination. A central message of this book is that racism is deeply embedded in Canadian history despite Canada's reputation as a raceless society. Winner of the Joseph Brant Award, presented by the Ontario Historical Society

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: The Hidden Rules of Race Andrea Flynn, Susan R. Holmberg, Dorian T. Warren, Felicia J. Wong, 2017-09-08 This book explores the racial rules that are often hidden but perpetuate vast racial inequities in the United States.

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: LatCrit Francisco Valdes, Steven W. Bender, 2021-06-15 This book comprehensively but succinctly tells the story of LatCrit's emergence and sustainable presence as a scholarly and activist community within and beyond the US legal academy, finding its place alongside such other schools of critical legal knowledge as Feminist Legal Theory and Critical Race Theory that aim to combust social and legal transformative change--

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: The Racial Contract Charles W. Mills, 2022-04-15 The Racial Contract puts classic Western social contract theory, deadpan, to extraordinary radical use. With a sweeping look at the European expansionism and racism of the last five hundred years, Charles W. Mills demonstrates how this peculiar and unacknowledged contract has shaped a system of global European domination: how it brings into existence whites and non-whites, full persons and sub-persons, how it influences white moral theory and moral psychology; and how this system is imposed on non-whites through ideological conditioning and violence. The Racial Contract argues that the society we live in is a continuing white supremacist state. As this 25th anniversary edition—featuring a foreword by Tommy Shelby and a new preface by the author—makes clear, the still-urgent The Racial Contract continues to inspire, provoke, and influence thinking about the intersection of the racist underpinnings of political philosophy.

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: Why We Can't Wait Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 2011-01-11 Dr. King's best-selling account of the civil rights movement in Birmingham during the spring and summer of 1963 On April 16, 1963, as the violent events of the Birmingham campaign unfolded in the city's streets, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., composed a letter from his prison cell in response to local religious leaders' criticism of the campaign. The resulting piece of extraordinary protest writing, "Letter from Birmingham Jail," was widely circulated and published in numerous periodicals. After the conclusion of the campaign and the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963, King further developed the ideas introduced in the letter in *Why We Can't Wait*, which tells the story of African American activism in the spring and summer of 1963. During this time, Birmingham, Alabama, was perhaps the most racially segregated city in the United States, but the campaign launched by King, Fred Shuttlesworth, and others demonstrated to the world the power of nonviolent direct action. Often applauded as King's most incisive and eloquent book, *Why We Can't Wait* recounts the Birmingham campaign in vivid detail, while underscoring why 1963 was such a crucial year for the civil rights movement. Disappointed by the slow pace of school desegregation and civil rights legislation, King observed that by 1963—during which the country celebrated the one-hundredth anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation—Asia and Africa were "moving with jetlike speed toward gaining political independence but we still creep at a horse-and-buggy pace." King examines the history of the civil rights struggle, noting tasks that future generations must accomplish to bring about full equality, and asserts that African Americans have already waited over three centuries for civil rights and that it is time to be proactive: "For years now, I have heard the word 'Wait!' It rings in the ear of every Negro with piercing familiarity.

This 'Wait' has almost always meant 'Never.' We must come to see, with one of our distinguished jurists, that 'justice too long delayed is justice denied.'"

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: American Epidemic John McMillian, 2019-10-22 A first-of-its kind collection of the most vivid reporting about the most lethal addiction crisis ever. Just a few years ago, the opioid crisis could be referred to as a silent epidemic, but it is no longer possible to argue that the scourge of opiate addiction being overlooked. This is in large part thanks to the extraordinary writings featured in this volume, which includes some of the most impactful reporting in the United States in recent years addressing the opiate addiction crisis. *American Epidemic* collects, for the first time, the key works of reportage and analysis that provide the best picture available of the origins, consequences, and human calamity associated with the epidemic. Spirited, informed, and eloquently written, *American Epidemic* will serve as an essential introduction for anyone seeking insight into the deadliest drug crisis in American history.

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: Daughter of a Daughter of a Queen Sarah Bird, 2018-09-04 You'll be swept away by the passion and power of this remarkable, trailblazing woman who risked everything to follow her own heart. – Kristin Hannah, #1 New York Times bestselling author An epic page-turner. – Christina Baker Kline Named Best Fiction Writer in the Austin Chronicle's Austin's Best 2018 Named one of Lone Star Literary Life's Top 20 Texas Books of 2018 The compelling, hidden story of Cathy Williams, a former slave and the only woman to ever serve with the legendary Buffalo Soldiers. "Here's the first thing you need to know about Miss Cathy Williams: I am the daughter of a daughter of a queen and my mama never let me forget it." Though born into bondage on a "miserable tobacco farm" in Little Dixie, Missouri, Cathy Williams was never allowed to consider herself a slave. According to her mother, she was a captive, destined by her noble warrior blood to escape the enemy. Her chance at freedom presents itself with the arrival of Union general Phillip Henry "Smash 'em Up" Sheridan, the outcast of West Point who takes the rawboned, prideful young woman into service. At war's end, having tasted freedom, Cathy refuses to return to servitude and makes the monumental decision to disguise herself as a man and join the Army's legendary Buffalo Soldiers. Alone now in the ultimate man's world, Cathy must fight not only for her survival and freedom, but she also vows to never give up on finding her mother, her little sister, and the love of the only man strong enough to win her heart. Inspired by the stunning, true story of Private Williams, this American heroine comes to vivid life in a sweeping and magnificent tale about one woman's fight for freedom, respect and independence.

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: Women, Race, & Class Angela Y. Davis, 2011-06-29 From one of our most important scholars and civil rights activist icon, a powerful study of the women's liberation movement and the tangled knot of oppression facing Black women. "Angela Davis is herself a woman of undeniable courage. She should be heard."—The New York Times Angela Davis provides a powerful history of the social and political influence of whiteness and elitism in feminism, from abolitionist days to the present, and demonstrates how the racist and classist biases of its leaders inevitably hampered any collective ambitions. While Black women were aided by some activists like Sarah and Angelina Grimke and the suffrage cause found unwavering support in Frederick Douglass, many women played on the fears of white supremacists for political gain rather than take an intersectional approach to liberation. Here, Davis not only contextualizes the legacy and pitfalls of civil and women's rights activists, but also discusses Communist women, the murder of Emmitt Till, and Margaret Sanger's racism. Davis shows readers how the inequalities between Black and white women influence the contemporary issues of rape, reproductive freedom, housework and child care in this bold and indispensable work.

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: White Space, Black Hood Sheryll Cashin, 2021-09-14 A 2021 C. Wright Mills Award Finalist Shows how government created "ghettos" and affluent white space and entrenched a system of American residential caste that is the linchpin of US inequality—and issues a call for abolition. The iconic Black hood, like slavery and Jim Crow, is a peculiar American institution animated by the ideology of white supremacy. Politicians and people of all colors propagated "ghetto" myths to justify racist policies that concentrated poverty in the

hood and created high-opportunity white spaces. In *White Space, Black Hood*, Sheryll Cashin traces the history of anti-Black residential caste—boundary maintenance, opportunity hoarding, and stereotype-driven surveillance—and unpacks its current legacy so we can begin the work to dismantle the structures and policies that undermine Black lives. Drawing on nearly 2 decades of research in cities including Baltimore, St. Louis, Chicago, New York, and Cleveland, Cashin traces the processes of residential caste as it relates to housing, policing, schools, and transportation. She contends that geography is now central to American caste. Poverty-free havens and poverty-dense hoods would not exist if the state had not designed, constructed, and maintained this physical racial order. Cashin calls for abolition of these state-sanctioned processes. The ultimate goal is to change the lens through which society sees residents of poor Black neighborhoods from presumed thug to presumed citizen, and to transform the relationship of the state with these neighborhoods from punitive to caring. She calls for investment in a new infrastructure of opportunity in poor Black neighborhoods, including richly resourced schools and neighborhood centers, public transit, Peacemaker Fellowships, universal basic incomes, housing choice vouchers for residents, and mandatory inclusive housing elsewhere. Deeply researched and sharply written, *White Space, Black Hood* is a call to action for repairing what white supremacy still breaks. Includes historical photos, maps, and charts that illuminate the history of residential segregation as an institution and a tactic of racial oppression.

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: *Enquiry Concerning Political Justice, and Its Influence on Morals and Happiness* William Godwin, 1798

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: *Discourse on the Sciences and Arts* Jean-Jacques Rousseau, 1992 Rousseau attacks the social and political effects of the dominant forms of scientific knowledge. Contains the entire First Discourse, contemporary attacks on it, Rousseau's replies to his critics, and his summary of the debate in his preface to *Narcissus*. A number of these texts have never before been available in English. The First Discourse and *Polemics* demonstrate the continued relevance of Rousseau's thought. Whereas his critics argue for correction of the excesses and corruptions of knowledge and the sciences as sufficient, Rousseau attacks the social and political effects of the dominant forms of scientific knowledge.

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: *Racecraft: The Soul of Inequality in American Life* Karen Fields, Barbara J. Fields, 2012-10-09 No Marketing Blurb

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: *The Tyranny of Merit* Michael J. Sandel, 2020-09-15 A Times Literary Supplement's Book of the Year 2020 A New Statesman's Best Book of 2020 A Bloomberg's Best Book of 2020 A Guardian Best Book About Ideas of 2020 The world-renowned philosopher and author of the bestselling *Justice* explores the central question of our time: What has become of the common good? These are dangerous times for democracy. We live in an age of winners and losers, where the odds are stacked in favor of the already fortunate. Stalled social mobility and entrenched inequality give the lie to the American credo that you can make it if you try. The consequence is a brew of anger and frustration that has fueled populist protest and extreme polarization, and led to deep distrust of both government and our fellow citizens--leaving us morally unprepared to face the profound challenges of our time. World-renowned philosopher Michael J. Sandel argues that to overcome the crises that are upending our world, we must rethink the attitudes toward success and failure that have accompanied globalization and rising inequality. Sandel shows the hubris a meritocracy generates among the winners and the harsh judgement it imposes on those left behind, and traces the dire consequences across a wide swath of American life. He offers an alternative way of thinking about success--more attentive to the role of luck in human affairs, more conducive to an ethic of humility and solidarity, and more affirming of the dignity of work. *The Tyranny of Merit* points us toward a hopeful vision of a new politics of the common good.

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: *Uneven Roads* Todd Shaw, Louis DeSipio, Dianne Pinderhughes, Lorrie Frasure, Toni-Michelle C. Travis, 2024-01-12 *Uneven Roads* helps students grasp how, when, and why race and ethnicity matter in U.S. politics. Using the metaphor of a road, with twists, turns, and dead ends, this incisive text takes students on a journey

to understanding political racialization and the roots of modern interpretations of race and ethnicity. The book's structure and narrative are designed to encourage comparison and reflection. Students critically analyze the history and context of U.S. racial and ethnic politics to build the skills needed to draw their own conclusions. In the Third Edition of this groundbreaking text, authors Shaw, DeSipio, Pinderhughes, Frasure, and Travis bring the historical narrative to life by addressing the most contemporary debates and challenges affecting U.S. racial and ethnic politics. Students will explore important issues regarding voting rights, political representation, education and criminal justice policies, and the immigrant experience.

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: *The Conduct of Life* Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1860

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a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: *The State Must Provide* Adam Harris, 2021-08-10 "A book that both taught me so much and also kept me on the edge of my seat. It is an invaluable text from a supremely talented writer." —Clint Smith, author of *How the Word is Passed* The definitive history of the pervasiveness of racial inequality in American higher education America's colleges and universities have a shameful secret: they have never given Black people a fair chance to succeed. From its inception, our higher education system was not built on equality or accessibility, but on educating—and prioritizing—white students. Black students have always been an afterthought. While governments and private donors funnel money into majority white schools, historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), and other institutions that have high enrollments of Black students, are struggling to survive, with state legislatures siphoning away federal funds that are legally owed to these schools. In *The State Must Provide*, Adam Harris reckons with the history of a higher education system that has systematically excluded Black people from its benefits. Harris weaves through the legal, social, and political obstacles erected to block equitable education in the United States, studying the Black Americans who fought their way to an education, pivotal Supreme Court cases like *Plessy v. Ferguson* and *Brown v. Board of Education*, and the government's role in creating and upholding a segregated education system. He explores the role that Civil War-era legislation intended to bring agricultural education to the masses had in creating the HBCUs that have played such a major part in educating Black students when other state and private institutions refused to accept them. *The State Must Provide* is the definitive chronicle of higher education's failed attempts at equality and the long road still in front of us to remedy centuries of racial discrimination—and poses a daring solution to help solve the underfunding of HBCUs. Told through a vivid cast of characters, *The State Must Provide* examines what happened before and after schools were supposedly integrated in the twentieth century, and why higher education remains broken to this day.

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: *Weak Strongman* Timothy Frye, 2022-09-27 Media and public discussion tends to understand Russian politics as a direct reflection of Vladimir Putin's seeming omnipotence or Russia's unique history and culture. Yet Russia is remarkably similar to other autocracies -- and recognizing this illuminates the inherent limits to Putin's power. *Weak Strongman* challenges the conventional wisdom about Putin's Russia, highlighting the difficult trade-offs that confront the Kremlin on issues ranging from election fraud and repression to propaganda and foreign policy. Drawing on three decades of his own on-the-ground experience and research as well as insights from a new generation of social scientists that have received little attention outside academia, Timothy Frye reveals how much we overlook about today's Russia when we focus solely on Putin or Russian exceptionalism. Frye brings a new understanding to a host of crucial questions: How popular is Putin? Is Russian propaganda effective? Why are relations with the West so fraught? Can Russian cyber warriors really swing foreign elections? In answering these and other questions, Frye offers a highly accessible reassessment of Russian politics that highlights the challenges of governing Russia and the nature of modern

autocracy. Rich in personal anecdotes and cutting-edge social science, *Weak Strongman* offers the best evidence available about how Russia actually works--

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: *I Know This to Be True: Ruth Bader Ginsburg* Geoff Blackwell, Ruth Hobday, 2020-03-24 The *I Know This to Be True* series is a collection of extraordinary figures from diverse backgrounds answering the same questions, as well as sharing their compelling stories, guiding ideals, and insightful wisdom. The inimitable Ruth Bader Ginsburg, former associate justice of the US Supreme Court, embodied the power of persistence and integrity. Throughout her legal career, spanning nearly five decades, she was an unwavering force for progress and a leading voice for equality and justice. Here, she reflects on her many years of service to the law, as well as her family life and struggle with cancer. With disarming honesty, Ginsburg discusses everything from gender equality and fitness to literature and the importance of hard work. Strong, hopeful and wise, this empowering book for women and teen girls stands as a guide for budding feminists and those who fight for justice around the world. Inspired by Nelson Mandela's legacy and created in collaboration with the Nelson Mandela Foundation, *I Know This to Be True* is a global series of empowering books created to spark a new generation of leaders. This series offers encouragement and guidance to graduates, future leaders, and anyone hoping to make a positive impact on the world. • Other luminaries interviewed in the *I Know This to Be True* series include: Nelson Mandela, Brian Stevenson, Gloria Steinem, Greta Thunberg, Stephen Curry, Rene Redzepi, and Simone Biles. • Royalties from sales of the series support the free distribution of material from the series to the world's developing economy countries.

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: *Plunder* Ugo Mattei, Laura Nader, 2008-03-17 *Plunder* examines the dark side of the Rule of Law and explores how it has been used as a powerful political weapon by Western countries in order to legitimize plunder – the practice of violent extraction by stronger political actors victimizing weaker ones. Challenges traditionally held beliefs in the sanctity of the Rule of Law by exposing its dark side Examines the Rule of Law's relationship with 'plunder' – the practice of violent extraction by stronger political actors victimizing weaker ones – in the service of Western cultural and economic domination Provides global examples of plunder: of oil in Iraq; of ideas in the form of Western patents and intellectual property rights imposed on weaker peoples; and of liberty in the United States Dares to ask the paradoxical question – is the Rule of Law itself illegal?

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: *The Challenge of Crime in a Free Society* United States. President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice, 1967 This report of the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice -- established by President Lyndon Johnson on July 23, 1965 -- addresses the causes of crime and delinquency and recommends how to prevent crime and delinquency and improve law enforcement and the administration of criminal justice. In developing its findings and recommendations, the Commission held three national conferences, conducted five national surveys, held hundreds of meetings, and interviewed tens of thousands of individuals. Separate chapters of this report discuss crime in America, juvenile delinquency, the police, the courts, corrections, organized crime, narcotics and drug abuse, drunkenness offenses, gun control, science and technology, and research as an instrument for reform. Significant data were generated by the Commission's National Survey of Criminal Victims, the first of its kind conducted on such a scope. The survey found that not only do Americans experience far more crime than they report to the police, but they talk about crime and the reports of crime engender such fear among citizens that the basic quality of life of many Americans has eroded. The core conclusion of the Commission, however, is that a significant reduction in crime can be achieved if the Commission's recommendations (some 200) are implemented. The recommendations call for a cooperative attack on crime by the Federal Government, the States, the counties, the cities, civic organizations, religious institutions, business groups, and individual citizens. They propose basic changes in the operations of police, schools, prosecutors, employment agencies, defenders, social workers, prisons, housing authorities, and probation and parole officers.

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: *Right of Way* Angie Schmitt, 2020-08-27

The face of the pedestrian safety crisis looks a lot like Ignacio Duarte-Rodriguez. The 77-year old grandfather was struck in a hit-and-run crash while trying to cross a high-speed, six-lane road without crosswalks near his son's home in Phoenix, Arizona. He was one of the more than 6,000 people killed while walking in America in 2018. In the last ten years, there has been a 50 percent increase in pedestrian deaths. The tragedy of traffic violence has barely registered with the media and wider culture. Disproportionately the victims are like Duarte-Rodriguez—immigrants, the poor, and people of color. They have largely been blamed and forgotten. In *Right of Way*, journalist Angie Schmitt shows us that deaths like Duarte-Rodriguez's are not unavoidable "accidents." They don't happen because of jaywalking or distracted walking. They are predictable, occurring in stark geographic patterns that tell a story about systemic inequality. These deaths are the forgotten faces of an increasingly urgent public-health crisis that we have the tools, but not the will, to solve. Schmitt examines the possible causes of the increase in pedestrian deaths as well as programs and movements that are beginning to respond to the epidemic. Her investigation unveils why pedestrians are dying—and she demands action. *Right of Way* is a call to reframe the problem, acknowledge the role of racism and classism in the public response to these deaths, and energize advocacy around road safety. Ultimately, Schmitt argues that we need improvements in infrastructure and changes to policy to save lives. *Right of Way* unveils a crisis that is rooted in both inequality and the undeterred reign of the automobile in our cities. It challenges us to imagine and demand safer and more equitable cities, where no one is expendable.

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: *Are Prisons Obsolete?* Angela Y. Davis, 2011-01-04

With her characteristic brilliance, grace and radical audacity, Angela Y. Davis has put the case for the latest abolition movement in American life: the abolition of the prison. As she quite correctly notes, American life is replete with abolition movements, and when they were engaged in these struggles, their chances of success seemed almost unthinkable. For generations of Americans, the abolition of slavery was sheerest illusion. Similarly, the entrenched system of racial segregation seemed to last forever, and generations lived in the midst of the practice, with few predicting its passage from custom. The brutal, exploitative (dare one say lucrative?) convict-lease system that succeeded formal slavery reaped millions to southern jurisdictions (and untold miseries for tens of thousands of men, and women). Few predicted its passing from the American penal landscape. Davis expertly argues how social movements transformed these social, political and cultural institutions, and made such practices untenable. In *Are Prisons Obsolete?*, Professor Davis seeks to illustrate that the time for the prison is approaching an end. She argues forthrightly for decarceration, and argues for the transformation of the society as a whole.

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: *What Goes Up* Michael Sorkin, 2018-04-17

A radical architect examines the changing fortunes of the contemporary city Michael Sorkin is one of the most forthright and engaging architectural writers in the world. In *What Goes Up* he takes to task the public officials, developers, "civic" organizations, and other heroes of big money, who have made of Sorkin's beloved New York a city of glittering towers and increasing inequality. He unpacks not simply the forms and practices—from zoning and political deals to the finer points of architectural design—that shape cities today but also offers spirited advocacy for another kind of city, reimagined from the street up on a human scale, a home to sustainable, just, and fulfilling neighborhoods and public spaces. Informing his writing is a lifetime's experience as an architect and urbanist. Sorkin writes of the joys and techniques of observing and inhabiting cities and buildings in order to both better understand and to more happily be in them. Sorkin has never been shy about naming names. He has been a scourge of design mediocrity and of the supine compliance of "starchitects," who readily accede to the demands of greed and privilege. *What Goes Up* casts the net wide, as he directs his arguments to students, professionals, and urban citizens with vigor, expertise, respect, and barbed wit.

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: *I Can Write the World* Joshunda Sanders, 2020-06-15

Lovely and timely. So glad Joshunda is telling our stories. - Jacqueline Woodson

Eight-year-old Ava Murray wants to know why there's a difference between the warm, friendly Bronx neighborhood filled with music and art in which she lives and the Bronx she sees in news stories on TV and on the Internet. When her mother explains that the power of stories lies in the hands of those who write them, Ava decides to become a journalist. *I Can Write the World* follows Ava as she explores her vibrant South Bronx neighborhood - buildings whose walls boast gorgeous murals of historical figures as well as intricate, colorful street art, the dozens of different languages and dialects coming from the mouths of passersby, the many types of music coming out of neighbors' windows and passing cars. In reporting how the music and art and culture of her neighborhood reflect the diversity of the people of New York City, Ava shows the world as she sees it, revealing to children the power of their own voice.

a perilous path talking race inequality and the law: *The American Commonwealth* James Bryce, 1891

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