

Book Review: Antiracism by Moon-Kie Jung & João H. Costa Vargas

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Jung, Moon Kie, Vergas, Joao Costa H., eds. *Antiracism*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2021. ix + 382 pages. Paperback, \$29.95.

The world in which we inhabit at this moment is beset by violence against black people. In recent years, violence on black people has triggered discourses whether Black lives matter. The killings reached its crescendo with the death of George Floyd in the hands of police brutality. To illustrate, they were colonized by Western powers, enslaved, and forced from their homelands, subjected to sale like a piece of furniture, and forced to relocate from their ancestral homes. In most cases it involved the breakup of families.

Although slavery ended more than 150 years ago, one can argue that White society has not come to recognize Blacks as humans. The downside is that the vestiges of colonization and enslavement are still felt in wherever they live. Black people are still imperiled and devalued by a racial calculus and political arithmetic that were entrenched centuries ago. Anti-Blackness remains the extreme anti-social affliction in our modern world.

This book, *Anti-Blackness*, is a collection of essays that underscores the de-humanization of black people. The book draws its sources from Black Feminism, Afro-Pessimism, and Critical Race Theory. *Anti-Blackness* is written for understanding those people that are collectively racialized as Black. The concept, as used, is not a monolithic concept of Blackness. In fact, Anti-Blackness is an all-embracing concept that includes all non-black people of color such as African Americans, Afro-Latin-X, African-indigenous, Caribbean, and other marginalized ethnic groups. The term applies to all non-Black people of color.

The focus of this book is to respond to the prevailing current situation in which Black people are being killed. The book as a whole is a collection of essays assembled by Jung and his collaborators from a cross section of thinkers who write from a host of different disciplines. They critically analyze, reveal, and expose how slavery and Anti-Blackness is structured, thereby

providing meaning to Anti-Blackness. The authors rationalized how Black people were enslaved and colonized and forced out of their homelands. They conclude that the effect of centuries of colonization and enslavement are still felt today.

The book is an outgrowth of the dissatisfaction with the breadth of current violence. To address the problem, the editors reached out to reputable scholars to engage in the subject of Anti-Blackness. The collection serves as an important contribution of critical intervention concerning race as they examined and analyzed the contours of racism.

Overall, the book accomplishes its major objectives. Firstly, the book assembles eminent scholars who “provide robust retheorization of anti-blackness” couched with empirical investigations. Secondly, the book examines anti-blackness across the globe. The authors find a coherent pattern of anti-blackness. Also, they define Anti-blackness as an antisocial behavior that dehumanizes Black people but renders abject all that is associated with Blackness. Thirdly, the authors differentiate racism from anti-blackness, unlike racism, which is based on analogous experience, whereas Anti-Blackness isolates the perceived singularity of Black people. Finally, the book emphasizes that slavery is still with us under the code name of Anti-Blackness. The authors emphasize that every arena of distribution of societal values follows the color line.

Anti-Blackness is an interesting book that crosses many disciplines. It is highly recommended to students of African Studies, History, Religious Studies, Sociology, and Political Science. The book will serve as a starting for scholars who are seeking to understand to understand the genesis of racism and Anti-Blackness. Significantly, the book will be useful to teach students in high schools and universities to understand the long history of Anti-Blackness and how to combat such problems in our societies.

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