

Policing Black Chicago From Red Summer To Black Power: Justice, Power, And Politics

Chicago has a rich and complex history when it comes to the relationship between its police force and the Black community. From the era of the Red Summer in 1919 to the rise of the Black Power movement in the 1960s, the story of policing in Black Chicago is one that is intertwined with issues of justice, power, and politics.

The Red Summer

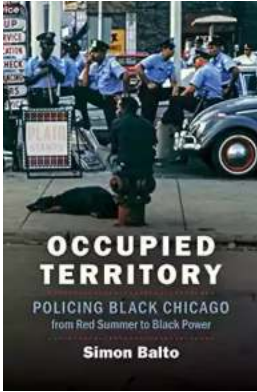
The Red Summer of 1919 marked a turning point in the relationship between the Chicago Police Department and the Black community. Racial tensions were at an all-time high, as Black migrants from the South faced discrimination and violence in their new northern homes. This period saw a significant increase in police brutality and racial profiling, with Black Chicagoans facing harassment and abuse at the hands of law enforcement.

One of the most notable incidents of the Red Summer was the violent race riot that erupted in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood. Sparked by the drowning of a black teenager who had drifted into a white swimming area, the riot resulted in dozens of deaths and widespread destruction. The police, instead of protecting the Black community, sided with the white mobs, further exacerbating the hostility and anger felt by the Black population.

Occupied Territory: Policing Black Chicago from Red Summer to Black Power (Justice, Power, and Politics) by Simon Balto (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 355 pages



Throughout the following decades, the Chicago Police Department continued its discriminatory practices, with little accountability for officers who abused their power. Black neighborhoods were disproportionately targeted for arrests and subjected to excessive force, perpetuating a cycle of mistrust and fear.

The Rise of the Black Power Movement

In the 1960s, a new era of activism and resistance emerged with the rise of the Black Power movement. Organizations like the Black Panther Party challenged the systemic racism and police brutality that plagued Black communities across the nation. In Chicago, the Party played a crucial role in empowering and organizing Black residents against the oppressive practices of law enforcement.

One of the most significant events during this period was the police raid at the home of Black Panther leader Fred Hampton. In December 1969, Chicago police, along with the FBI, raided Hampton's apartment, resulting in his tragic death. This event further illuminated the corrupt and violent nature of policing in Black Chicago.

The resistance against police brutality and the demand for justice gained momentum, ultimately leading to the formation of organizations that focused on protecting the rights of Black individuals. The creation of police accountability groups, community organizations, and legal aid services helped to empower the Black community and challenge the systemic injustices they faced.

Justice, Power, and Politics

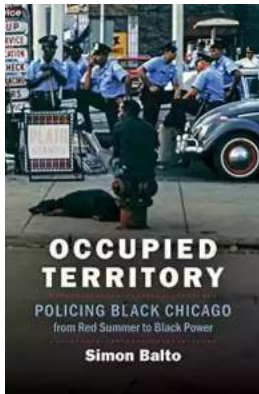
The fight for justice, power, and politics in Black Chicago continues to this day. Recent events have highlighted the ongoing struggle against police brutality and the urgent need for comprehensive police reform.

Communities and activists are demanding accountability for officers who engage in misconduct, as well as investment in alternative strategies for community safety. The conversation around defunding the police and reallocating resources to social services and community organizations is gaining traction as a potential solution to the systemic issues embedded within the policing system.

It is crucial to recognize the historical context and deeply rooted problems that have led to the current state of policing in Black Chicago. By understanding the legacy of the Red Summer and the rise of the Black Power movement, we can better comprehend the complexities of power dynamics, injustice, and the necessity for change.

The story of policing in Black Chicago is a story of struggle, resistance, and resilience. From the Red Summer to the Black Power movement, the relationship between law enforcement and the Black community in Chicago has been marred by systemic racism and abuse of power. However, through collective action and a demand for justice, progress is being made. The fight for policing reform and

accountability continues, as the Black community and its allies work together to build a more just and equitable future.



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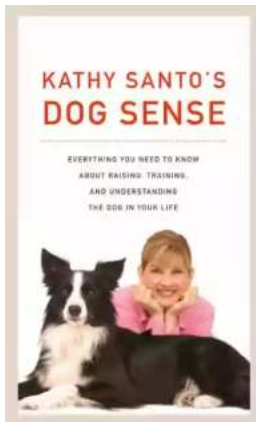
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In July 1919, an explosive race riot forever changed Chicago. For years, black southerners had been leaving the South as part of the Great Migration. Their arrival in Chicago drew the ire and scorn of many local whites, including members of the city's political leadership and police department, who generally sympathized with white Chicagoans and viewed black migrants as a problem population. During Chicago's Red Summer riot, patterns of extraordinary brutality, negligence, and discriminatory policing emerged to shocking effect. Those patterns shifted in subsequent decades, but the overall realities of a racially discriminatory police system persisted.

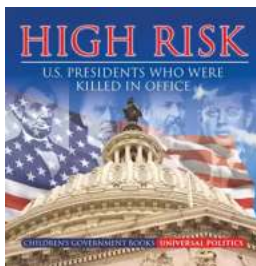
In this history of Chicago from 1919 to the rise and fall of Black Power in the 1960s and 1970s, Simon Balto narrates the evolution of racially repressive policing in black neighborhoods as well as how black citizen-activists challenged that repression. Balto demonstrates that punitive practices by and inadequate

protection from the police were central to black Chicagoans' lives long before the late-century "wars" on crime and drugs. By exploring the deeper origins of this toxic system, Balto reveals how modern mass incarceration, built upon racialized police practices, emerged as a fully formed machine of profoundly antiblack subjugation.



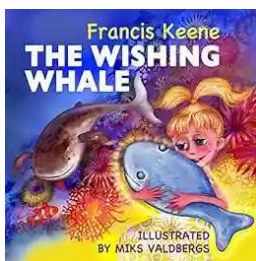
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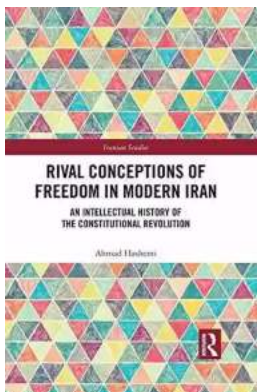
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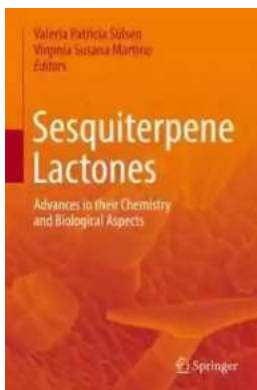
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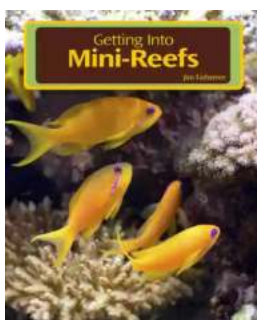
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