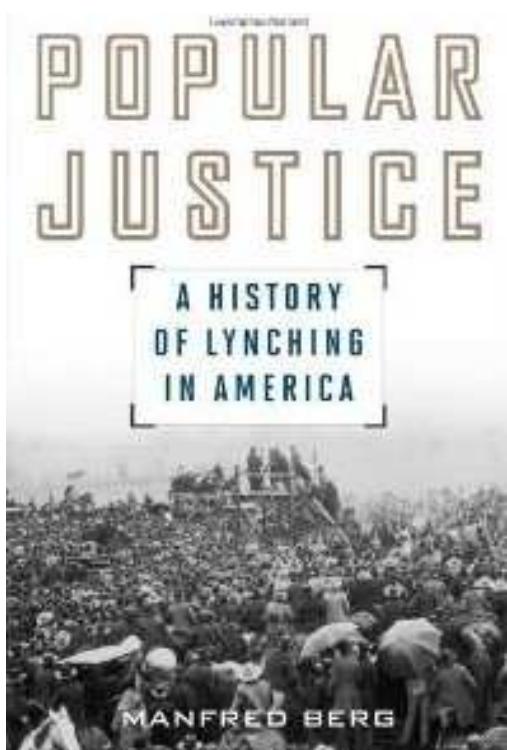


NEW BOOK

Manfred Berg Popular Justice A History of Lynching in America



Description

Lynching has often been called "America's national crime" that has defined the tradition of extralegal violence in America. Having claimed many thousand victims, "Judge Lynch" holds a firm place in the dark recesses of our national memory.

In *Popular Justice*, Manfred Berg explores the history of lynching from the colonial era to the present. American lynch law, he argues, has rested on three pillars: the frontier experience, racism, and the anti-authoritarian spirit of grassroots democracy. Berg looks beyond the familiar story of mob violence against African American victims, who comprised the majority of lynch targets, to include violence targeting other victim groups, such as Mexicans and the Chinese, as well as many of those cases in which race did not play a role. As he nears the modern era, he focuses on the societal changes that ended lynching as a public spectacle.

Reviews

"Manfred Berg's *Popular Justice* is a landmark contribution to the literature on American violence. This deeply researched, cogently argued book is the first modern single volume scholarly study of the practice of lynching in American history. Encompassing within its analysis all key dimensions of the historical development of mob violence in the United States, *Popular Justice* will be of great aid to all interested in the history of American lynching."—**Michael J. Pfeifer, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, The City University of New York**

"*Popular Justice* is a long overdue overview of the history of mob violence in American history. [Manfred Berg's] impressive study chronicles not only the deservedly well known history of extralegal violence against black victims but also the less familiar collective violence that targeting whites, Mexicans, Native Americans, and the Chinese. Berg's survey simultaneously engages in a thought-provoking discussion of critical issues in lynching scholarship while also providing an accessible summary of the history of mob violence in the United States."—**William D. Carrigan, Author, *The Making of a Lynching Culture: Violence and Vigilantism in Central Texas, 1836-1916***