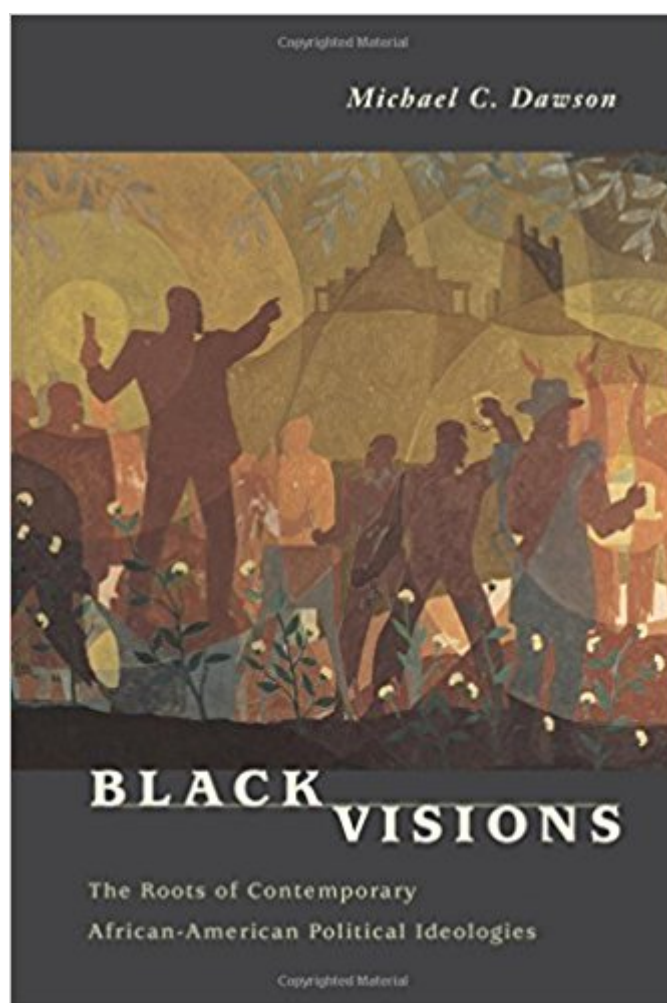


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Black Visions: The Roots Of Contemporary African-American Political Ideologies



Synopsis

This stunning book represents the most comprehensive analysis to date of the complex relationships between black political thought and black political identity and behavior. Ranging from Frederick Douglass to rap artist Ice Cube, Michael C. Dawson brilliantly illuminates the history and current role of black political thought in shaping political debate in America.

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Customer Reviews

In *Black Visions*, Michael Dawson brings us the most comprehensive analysis to date of the complex relationship of black political thought to black political identity and behavior. Combining a historical perspective with conceptual sophistication and empirical evidence, Dawson identifies which political ideologies are supported by blacks, then traces their historical roots and examines their effects on black public opinion, not only among intellectuals and activists, but also at the grassroots level. Although many (mostly white) commentators have argued that black political thought falls within the realm of American liberalism, many black commentators regard black political thought as a rejection of this liberalism. Here, Dawson argues that black visions are more varied and complex. Black ideologies, such as radical egalitarianism, disillusioned liberalism, and black conservatism do criticize American liberalism while still accepting its basic tenets. But other ideologies—black nationalism, black feminism, and black Marxism—challenge one or more of the premises of American liberalism. Ultimately, Dawson provocatively argues that the rise of a black counterpublic in the nineteenth century made the development of distinctive currents of black

political thought possible. Based on the most extensive study of black public opinion to date, Dawson shows how each ideology still affects blacks' views on such issues as their position in American society, the nature of whites, and separatism. Ranging from Frederick Douglass to rap artist Ice Cube, Dawson brilliantly illuminates the history and current role of black political thought in shaping political debate in America.

Michael C. Dawson is the William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Political Science and the college and director of the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture at the University of Chicago. He is the author of *Behind the Mule: Race, Class, and African-American Politics*.

The his/her stories really changed my outlook on past and present movements in Black politics. This is a must read for anyone wanting to learn more about the evolution of African American political agenda.

Had to get this book for a class. It was not a bad read. Very well written and very informative.

I like to be succinct and to put it in that way, this book was very interesting. Great discussion on black ideologies. A must read for those interested in black political ideologies.

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