the new jim crow summary

the new jim crow summary provides an in-depth overview of Michelle Alexander's groundbreaking book, which explores the systematic racial discrimination embedded in the American criminal justice system. This article examines the core arguments of the book, highlighting how mass incarceration functions as a racial caste system that disproportionately impacts African Americans and other minorities. It delves into the historical context, the War on Drugs, and the social, legal, and economic consequences of felony disenfranchisement. The new jim crow summary also discusses the implications for civil rights and social justice movements, emphasizing the urgent need for reform. This comprehensive review offers valuable insights for scholars, policymakers, and anyone seeking to understand racial inequality in contemporary America. The following sections outline the key themes and critical analysis presented in the book.

- Historical Context of Racial Caste Systems
- The War on Drugs and Mass Incarceration
- The Mechanics of the New Jim Crow
- · Consequences of Felony Disenfranchisement
- Social and Economic Impact on Communities
- Legal Challenges and Civil Rights Implications
- Pathways Toward Reform and Justice

Historical Context of Racial Caste Systems

The new jim crow summary begins by situating the contemporary issues of mass incarceration within a broader historical framework. Michelle Alexander argues that the United States has maintained a racial caste system since the abolition of slavery, evolving through stages such as Jim Crow laws and segregation. These systems were designed to enforce racial hierarchies and restrict the freedoms of African Americans through legalized discrimination and social control.

Following the Civil War and Reconstruction, Jim Crow laws institutionalized racial segregation and disenfranchisement, primarily targeting Black Americans. This legal framework persisted well into the 20th century, shaping social and economic disparities. The new jim crow summary emphasizes that while explicit racial segregation was dismantled through civil rights legislation, covert systems of racial control emerged in its place.

From Slavery to Jim Crow

The book traces the transformation of racial oppression from slavery to the post-Reconstruction era, highlighting how laws were crafted to marginalize African Americans. Jim Crow laws mandated

segregation in public spaces, education, and employment, reinforcing white supremacy through legal means. This period also saw widespread disenfranchisement via poll taxes and literacy tests, effectively excluding Black citizens from political participation.

The Legacy of Segregation

Michelle Alexander underscores the enduring legacy of segregation, noting that racial inequalities persisted even after landmark Supreme Court decisions such as Brown v. Board of Education. The new jim crow summary details how systemic discrimination continued through housing policies, employment discrimination, and unequal educational opportunities, setting the stage for the modern era of racial control.

The War on Drugs and Mass Incarceration

A central theme in the new jim crow summary is the examination of the War on Drugs, initiated in the 1970s and escalating in the 1980s and 1990s, as a pivotal factor in driving mass incarceration. This policy disproportionately targeted African American communities, leading to unprecedented rates of imprisonment for drug offenses, despite similar rates of drug use among racial groups.

The book highlights how the rhetoric of the War on Drugs framed drug addiction as a criminal issue rather than a public health concern, enabling the expansion of the prison-industrial complex. This shift facilitated the systematic incarceration of millions, fostering a racial caste system under the guise of crime control.

Policies and Enforcement Disparities

Michelle Alexander details specific policies, such as mandatory minimum sentences and three-strikes laws, that contributed to the exponential growth of the prison population. The new jim crow summary explains that these policies disproportionately affected Black Americans, as law enforcement focused on urban neighborhoods with high minority populations, despite evidence of comparable drug use in white communities.

Impact on African American Communities

The War on Drugs devastated many Black communities by removing a significant portion of their population through incarceration. The new jim crow summary discusses how this led to family destabilization, economic hardship, and social stigmatization, further entrenching racial disparities.

The Mechanics of the New Jim Crow

The new jim crow summary outlines the mechanisms through which mass incarceration functions as a racial caste system. Michelle Alexander argues that individuals labeled as felons experience a form of social death, facing legal discrimination in employment, housing, education, and voting rights. This system effectively marginalizes a large segment of the African American population.

Labeling and Social Control

Felony convictions trigger a cascade of legal and social penalties that extend beyond prison sentences. The book emphasizes how the "criminal" label justifies exclusion and marginalization, perpetuating racial hierarchy. This labeling process is a critical component of the new Jim Crow system, maintaining control over marginalized populations.

Legalized Discrimination

The new jim crow summary identifies various legal barriers faced by formerly incarcerated individuals, including restrictions on public benefits, jury service, and employment opportunities. These legal disabilities reinforce the social stigma and economic marginalization experienced by millions, sustaining racial inequality.

Consequences of Felony Disenfranchisement

One of the most significant aspects covered in the new jim crow summary is felony disenfranchisement—the loss of voting rights for individuals convicted of felonies. This practice disproportionately affects African American men, undermining democratic participation and political power in minority communities.

Michelle Alexander highlights how disenfranchisement laws vary by state but collectively contribute to the political marginalization of millions of citizens. The book argues that this systematic exclusion from the democratic process perpetuates racial inequality and weakens the legitimacy of American democracy.

Scope and Scale of Disenfranchisement

The new jim crow summary presents statistics illustrating the scale of disenfranchisement, noting that in some states, a substantial percentage of the African American adult population is barred from voting due to felony convictions. This exclusion affects local, state, and national elections, shaping political representation and policy outcomes.

Implications for Civil Rights

Felony disenfranchisement undermines the gains of the civil rights movement by denying a fundamental right to a disproportionately affected group. The book discusses how this practice is a continuation of historical efforts to suppress Black political power, maintaining systemic racial control.

Social and Economic Impact on Communities

The new jim crow summary explores the broader social and economic consequences of mass incarceration on African American communities. The removal of large numbers of individuals from the workforce and family structures contributes to cycles of poverty, instability, and disenfranchisement.

Michelle Alexander argues that the criminal justice system acts as a mechanism of social control, limiting opportunities for education, employment, and housing. This systemic marginalization perpetuates inequality and hinders community development.

Economic Disadvantages

Formerly incarcerated individuals face significant barriers to employment and income stability, often relegated to low-wage jobs or unemployment. The new jim crow summary highlights how criminal records create lifelong obstacles to economic advancement, exacerbating racial wealth gaps.

Family and Community Disruption

The incarceration of a significant proportion of community members destabilizes family units, leading to increased rates of single-parent households and childhood trauma. These social disruptions contribute to intergenerational cycles of disadvantage and marginalization.

Legal Challenges and Civil Rights Implications

The new jim crow summary addresses the legal battles and civil rights challenges that arise from the systemic discrimination embedded in mass incarceration. Michelle Alexander calls attention to the failure of existing civil rights frameworks to adequately address the new racial caste system.

The book critiques the criminal justice system's complicity in perpetuating racial inequality and urges renewed advocacy for legal reforms that recognize mass incarceration as a civil rights issue.

Limitations of Anti-Discrimination Laws

Because much discrimination against felons is legally sanctioned, traditional civil rights protections do not apply. The new jim crow summary explains how this loophole allows for widespread racial discrimination under the guise of criminal justice.

Advocacy and Legal Reform Efforts

The book highlights various grassroots and legal initiatives aimed at challenging mass incarceration and felony disenfranchisement. Efforts include voting rights restoration campaigns, sentencing reform, and public awareness movements that seek to dismantle the new Jim Crow.

Pathways Toward Reform and Justice

In concluding the new jim crow summary, the focus shifts to potential strategies for dismantling the racial caste system perpetuated by mass incarceration. Michelle Alexander emphasizes the importance of public education, policy reform, and coalition-building across racial and political lines.

Addressing systemic racism in the criminal justice system requires a multifaceted approach, including

ending the War on Drugs, reforming sentencing laws, restoring voting rights, and investing in affected communities.

Policy Recommendations

- · Repeal of mandatory minimum sentencing laws
- Decriminalization of nonviolent drug offenses
- Restoration of voting rights for felons
- Investment in education, housing, and job training
- Implementation of police accountability measures

Building a Movement for Racial Justice

The new jim crow summary concludes by underscoring the need for a broad-based social movement that confronts racial injustice in all its forms. This includes coalition-building among activists, policymakers, and communities to create sustainable change and achieve true equality under the law.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main thesis of 'The New Jim Crow' by Michelle Alexander?

The main thesis of 'The New Jim Crow' is that mass incarceration in the United States functions as a contemporary system of racial control, similar to the Jim Crow laws, disproportionately targeting African Americans and effectively relegating them to a permanent second-class status.

How does Michelle Alexander explain the connection between the War on Drugs and racial discrimination in 'The New Jim Crow'?

Michelle Alexander argues that the War on Drugs has been used as a tool to disproportionately target African American communities, leading to mass incarceration rates that reinforce racial caste systems and social control similar to historical segregation laws.

What role does the criminal justice system play in

perpetuating racial inequality according to 'The New Jim Crow' summary?

According to 'The New Jim Crow,' the criminal justice system perpetuates racial inequality by disproportionately arresting, convicting, and sentencing people of color, especially African Americans, and by stripping them of civil rights, such as voting and employment opportunities, after incarceration.

How does 'The New Jim Crow' describe the impact of felony convictions on individuals' lives?

'The New Jim Crow' describes that felony convictions cause individuals to face lifelong discrimination in areas like employment, housing, education, and voting rights, effectively marginalizing them from mainstream society and maintaining racial caste divisions.

What historical parallels does Michelle Alexander draw in 'The New Jim Crow'?

Michelle Alexander draws parallels between mass incarceration and earlier systems of racial control, such as slavery and Jim Crow laws, showing how each system has been used to maintain racial hierarchy and social control over African Americans.

Why is 'The New Jim Crow' considered a significant work in discussions about race and criminal justice reform?

'The New Jim Crow' is significant because it challenges conventional views on crime and punishment, illuminating how racial bias is embedded in policies and practices, and it calls for systemic change to address mass incarceration and racial injustice in America.

What solutions or changes does 'The New Jim Crow' propose to address mass incarceration and racial injustice?

Michelle Alexander advocates for comprehensive criminal justice reform, including ending the War on Drugs, restoring voting rights to formerly incarcerated individuals, and addressing systemic racism through policy changes and grassroots activism to dismantle the racial caste system.

Additional Resources

1. The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness
Written by Michelle Alexander, this seminal book explores how the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control, disproportionately targeting African Americans. Alexander argues that mass incarceration has created a racial underclass and perpetuates social and economic inequalities. The book is a powerful critique of the War on Drugs and its devastating impact on communities of color.

2. Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption

Bryan Stevenson's memoir highlights the struggles of marginalized individuals caught in the criminal justice system, particularly those wrongfully convicted or unfairly sentenced. Through the story of Walter McMillian, Stevenson exposes systemic racism and advocates for reform. This book complements the themes in The New Jim Crow by emphasizing the human cost of injustice.

- 3. Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America Ibram X. Kendi provides a comprehensive history of racist ideas and their influence on American society and policies. This book traces the roots of systemic racism that underpin mass incarceration and racial discrimination explored in The New Jim Crow. Kendi's work offers essential context for understanding the ideological foundations of racial control.
- 4. Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America
 James Forman Jr. examines how some African American leaders and communities supported toughon-crime policies in the 1970s and 1980s, inadvertently contributing to mass incarceration. The book
 provides a nuanced perspective on the complexities within the African American community
 regarding crime and punishment. It deepens the conversation about internal and external forces
 shaping the criminal justice system.

5. Are Prisons Obsolete?

Angela Y. Davis critically analyzes the prison-industrial complex and advocates for the abolition of prisons. She explores the historical development of the prison system and its role in perpetuating racial and social inequalities. This book aligns with The New Jim Crow's critique of mass incarceration and offers visionary alternatives.

- 6. The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America Richard Rothstein uncovers the government policies that led to residential racial segregation in America. This book helps explain the structural inequalities that contribute to racial disparities in incarceration rates. Understanding housing segregation is crucial to grasping the broader system of racial control discussed in The New Jim Crow.
- 7. Invisible No More: Police Violence Against Black Women and Women of Color
 Andrea Ritchie sheds light on the overlooked issue of police violence targeting Black women and
 other women of color. The book expands the conversation about systemic racism in law enforcement
 beyond what is typically discussed in The New Jim Crow. It provides critical insights into
 intersectionality and the diverse impacts of racialized policing.
- 8. The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime, and the Making of Modern Urban America Katherine Beckett and Heather Evans explore how racial stereotypes about Black criminality were constructed and used to justify discriminatory policies. Their research reveals the historical roots of mass incarceration and its racial biases. This book complements The New Jim Crow by providing a historical background on race and crime in America.
- 9. From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime: The Making of Mass Incarceration in America Elizabeth Hinton traces the political and social transformations from the 1960s onward that led to the rise of mass incarceration. She details how policies intended to control urban populations disproportionately affected African Americans. This book offers a detailed policy analysis that supports the arguments presented in The New Jim Crow.

The New Jim Crow Summary

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the new jim crow summary: The New Jim Crow (Summary) Summary Station Staff, 2015-06-09 Learn About American Minorities Are Targeted By Unjust Laws In Order To Keep Them Out Of Mainstream Society In A Fraction Of The Time It Takes To Read The Actual Book!!! Today only, get this 1# Amazon bestseller for just \$2.99. Regularly priced at \$9.99. Read on your PC, Mac, smart phone, tablet or Kindle device Michelle Alexander names three audiences whom she intends to reach and inform with her book. The first is composed of people who care profoundly about racial justice but who do not yet realize the enormous crisis of mass incarceration of people of color. The second is composed of the people who recognize a trend in the criminal justice system that resembles the racism of decades ago but who do not have the facts to back their beliefs. Last of all, she hopes to reach the many people incarcerated in the American prison system. She then uses an antidote to explain her main point, that the U.S. incarceration system continues the racial discrimination evident in our country's history. Jarvious Cotton's great-great grandfather was unable to vote because he was a slave. Cotton's great grandfather was killed by the Ku Klux Klan for attempting to vote. His grandfather did not vote because of the KKK's threats. Cotton's father could not vote because of poll taxes and literacy tests. And, finally, Cotton cannot vote because he was once convicted as a felon. Alexander explains that voting is the most basic democratic freedom and right, yet black people throughout U.S. history have been unable to hold or else exercise that right. Furthermore, racial discrimination continues today in a legalized form because once-convicted felons are legally required to explain their background and may be legally refused service or opportunities because of it. While the reasons and rationalizations that have been used to support racial exclusion and discrimination have changed over the years, the outcome is mostly the same. In other words, in spite of the seeming advances of today, discrimination continues under the pretext of a different language; while our society likes to exemplify a colorblind mentality, racist ideology is implicitly carried out through the criminal justice system. Once a person is labeled a felon, employment and housing discrimination are legal, even expected; furthermore, the right to vote, educational opportunities, jury service, and food stamps as well as other forms of public benefit are revoked. The pre-Civil War and pre-Civil Rights Movement discrimination has not ended but been redesigned. Here Is A Preview Of What You'll Learn When You Download Your Copy Today * How Jim Crow Laws Have Evolved Through American History* The Reason Why America Has The Highest Incarceration Rate* Learn How The war On Drugs Was Set Up To Target MinoritiesDownload Your Copy Today! The contents of this book are easily worth over \$9.99, but for a limited time you can download the summary of Michelle Alexander's The New Jim Crow by for a special discounted price of only \$2.99

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words of Benjamin Todd Jealous, president and CEO of the NAACP, this book is a call to action. Called stunning by Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David Levering Lewis, invaluable by the Daily Kos, explosive by Kirkus, and profoundly necessary by the Miami Herald, this updated and revised paperback edition of The New Jim Crow, now with a foreword by Cornel West, is a must-read for all people of conscience. Available in a variety of formats, this summary is aimed for those who want to capture the gist of the book but don't have the current time to devour all 336 pages. You get the main summary along with all of the benefits and lessons the actual book has to offer. This is a summary that is not intended to be used without reference to the original book.

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the new jim crow summary: Summary of the New Jim Crow Michelle Alexander, FastReads, 2017-04-06 Don't miss this summary of Michelle Alexander's controversial and eye-opening book: The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness. This FastReads' Summary provides chapter synopses, key takeaways, and analysis to help you fully digest this stunning and explosive criticism of the modern racial caste system in America. What Will You Learn from Reading This Book? The history of racism, slavery, Jim Crow, and modern discrimination in America Evidence behind the systematic incarceration of black people in America How the stigma of black criminals isn't just for criminals The viscous cycle of crime and recidivism in black communities The racially-driven double standards that penetrate the American justice system How these current injustices were intentionally engineered to replace the old Jim Crow and maintain racial inequality Book Summary Overview Obama's election as the president might have seemed like the dawn of a new era of colorblindness in America, but Alexander argues that we are far from eradicating racism-we have just redesigned it. Alexander also presents sufficient evidence to help the reader come to terms with the horrifying realities of modern racism. Ultimately, she concludes that although the prison system is supposed to reform people, it acts primarily as method of control and servitude in America-very much like slavery. Alexander's disarming voice and candor make this an incredible book, despite the grimness of its overarching themes. Click Buy Now with 1-Click to Own Your Copy Today! Please note: This is a summary, analysis and review of the book and not the original book.

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citizens, which meant that they had no rights. This meant that African-American people had no right to vote, no right to participate in the judicial or legal system, and had no representatives of their own in the entire legal system. The mistreatment of the African American people did not end when these things ended; in fact, the problems regarding segregation of African-American people are still present today. Michelle Alexander's book is here to show us the truth about segregation, which is often hidden through political promises or even negligence. The New Jim Crow is an interesting, eye-opening book, which everyone should read in order to understand the issues of continued racial segregation in the United States. Here Is A Preview Of What You Will Get: A summarized version of the book. You will find the book analyzed to further strengthen your knowledge. Fun multiple choice quizzes, along with answers to help you learn about the book. Get a copy, and learn everything about The New Jim Crow.

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read Michelle Alexander's book. Crafted and edited with care, Worth Books set the standard for quality and give you the tools you need to be a well-informed reader. This short summary and analysis of The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander includes: Historical context Chapter-by-chapter summaries Detailed timeline of key events Profiles of the main characters Important quotes Fascinating trivia Glossary of terms Supporting material to enhance your understanding of the original work About The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander: Legal scholar and civil rights lawyer Michelle Alexander's invaluable and timely work, The New Jim Crow, examines what she calls the new racial caste system in United States: mass incarceration. Following the practices of slavery and institutional discrimination, Alexander argues, mass incarceration is part of America's legacy to dehumanize and disenfranchise African Americans and Latinos. According to Alexander, we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it. Thanks in a large part to the War on Drugs, more than two million people are in America's prisons today—an overwhelming majority of them are people of color who've been jailed for minor drug charges. When these adults leave prison, they are often denied employment, housing, the right to vote, and a quality education. As a result, they are rarely able to integrate successfully into society. The New Jim Crow is a well-argued call to dismantle a system of policies that continues to deny civil rights, decades after the passing of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts. The summary and analysis in this ebook are intended to complement your reading experience and bring you closer to a great work of nonfiction.

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specific form of oppression and disenfranchisement, a new form of racialized social control emerged in the 1980s: mass incarceration. With the launch of the War on Drugs and a series of draconian crime bills, the number of incarcerated Americans skyrocketed in less than three decades from 300,000 to over 2 million, most of them for drug convictions and most of them Black men. This transpired even though white and Black Americans sell and use drugs at roughly the same rates. Far from being an effective system of crime deterrence, Alexander argues that mass incarceration increases violent crime. Given that the United States declared the War on Drugs before Americans even perceived drug use to be a serious problem, this leads Alexander to conclude that mass incarceration was designed as a system of racial control rather than an effort to combat violent crime...

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Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness By Michelle Alexander and is not the original book. This
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Jim Crow (2010) unveils an appalling system of discrimination in the United States that has led to
the unprecedented mass incarceration of African-Americans. The so-called War on Drugs, under the
jurisdiction of an ostensibly colorblind justice system, has only perpetuated the problem through
unconscious racial bias in judgments and sentencing. ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Michelle Alexander is
an acclaimed civil rights lawyer and legal professor at Stanford Law School.

the new jim crow summary: Summary of the New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander Bookhabits, 2017-11-23 The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander: Conversation Starters When Barack Obama won the presidency in 2009, the world thought that America has finally won over racial discrimination. Legal scholar and civil rights lawyer Michelle Alexander however realizes that this is far from the truth. The New Jim Crow is an exposition of how America has created a caste system through the mass incarceration of blacks who are imprisoned through harsh drug laws. Just like the Jim Crow laws that rendered blacks second-class citizens in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, today's incarcerated blacks are prevented by the criminal legal system from taking advantage of the their economic, political and social rights as American citizen. Published in 2010, the book was on The New York Times bestseller list for over a year. It is the 2011 NAACP Image Award for best nonfiction. A Brief Look Inside: EVERY GOOD BOOK CONTAINS A WORLD FAR DEEPER than the surface of its pages. The characters and their world come alive, and the characters and its world still live on. Conversation Starters is peppered with questions designed to bring us beneath the surface of the page and invite us into the world that lives on. These questions can be used to... Create Hours of Conversation: - Promote an atmosphere of discussion for groups - Foster a deeper understanding of the book - Assist in the study of the book, either individually or corporately - Explore unseen realms of the book as never seen before Disclaimer: This book you are about to enjoy is an independent resource meant to supplement the original book. If you have not yet read the original book, we encourage you to before purchasing this unofficial Conversation Starters.

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system today.*You will also discover that: the American justice system is based on mass incarceration; the first priority, the war on drugs, fills prisons without any concrete justification or positive impact; people of color make up a disproportionate share of the prison population; the discrimination affecting ex-prisoners is brutal and long-lasting; structural racism in the criminal process makes it a true system of racial control.*Years after desegregation and the civil rights movement in the United States, it is often thought that racism as a system is a sad memory. American society believes that it can live without racial prejudice and ensure equality of opportunity. For the vast majority of the African-American population, however, this hope is far from reality. For many young black men, prison is the most likely prospect for the future. Entire communities live under the threat of social stigma and the loss of all their rights.*Buy now the summary of this book for the modest price of a cup of coffee!

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the new jim crow summary: An Analysis of Michelle Alexander's The New Jim Crow Ryan Moore, 2017-07-05 Michelle Alexander's The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness is an unflinching dissection of the racial biases built into the American prison system. Named after the laws that enforced racial segregation in the southern United States until the mid-1960s, The New Jim Crow argues that while America is now legally a colorblind society – treating all races equally under the law – many factors combine to build profound racial weighting into the legal system. The US now has the world's highest rate of incarceration, and a disproportionate percentage of the prison population is comprised of African-American men. Alexander's argument is that different legal factors have combined to mean both that African-Americans are more likely to be targeted by police, and to receive long jail sentences for their crimes. While many of Alexander's arguments and statistics are to be found in other books and authors' work, The New Jim Crow is a masterful example of the reasoning skills that communicate arguments persuasively. Alexander's skills are those fundamental to critical thinking reasoning: organizing evidence, examining other sides of the question, and synthesizing points to create an overall argument that is as watertight as it is persuasive.

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Crow. Beginning in the seventeenth century, institutions emerged in colonial America that contributed to the creation of a racial caste system. America's current racial caste system builds upon the legacy of both chattel slavery that existed in the United States prior to the Civil War and on the system of Jim Crow laws that designated African Americans to second-class citizenship in many parts of the American South prior to the civil rights movement. This racial caste system is perpetuated across the country by members of both political parties. It has resulted in a large number of African American men who cannot vote, serve on juries, or find employment and housing. Discrimination against convicts is legally accepted and widespread... PLEASE NOTE: This is key takeaways and analysis of the book and NOT the original book. Inside this Instaread Summary of The New Jim Crow \cdot Overview of the book \cdot Important People \cdot Key Takeaways \cdot Analysis of Key Takeaways About the Author With Instaread, you can get the key takeaways, summary and analysis of a book in 15 minutes. We read every chapter, identify the key takeaways and analyze them for your convenience.

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