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Hoodlums: Black Villains and Social Bandits in American Life

By William L. Van Deburg

University Of Chicago Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 298 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.8in. Martin Luther King Jr. Malcolm X. Muhammad Ali. When you think of African American history, you think of its heroes and 8212; individuals endowed with courage and strength who are celebrated for their bold exploits and nobility of purpose. But what of black villains Villains, just as much as heroes, have helped define the black experience. Ranging from black slaveholders and frontier outlaws to serial killers and gangsta rappers, Hoodlums examines the pivotal role of black villains in American society and popular culture. Here, William L. Van Deburg offers the most extensive treatment to date of the black badman and the challenges that this figure has posed for race relations in America. He first explores the evolution of this problematic racial stereotype in the literature of the early Republic and 8212; documents in which the enslavement of African Americans was justified through exegetical claims. Van Deburg then probes antebellum slave laws, minstrel shows, and the works of proslavery polemicists to consider how whites conceptualized blacks as members of an inferior and dangerous race. Turning to key works by blacks themselves, from the writings of Frederick Douglass...



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