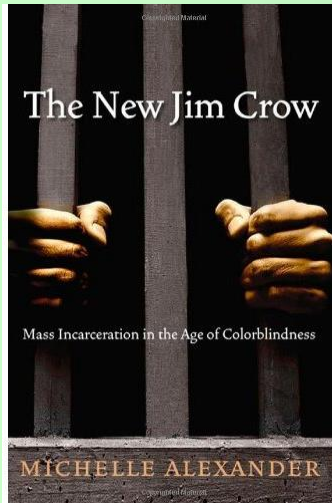


# The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness

## From Publishers Weekly



Starred Review. Contrary to the rosy picture of race embodied in Barack Obama's political success and Oprah Winfrey's financial success, legal scholar Michelle Alexander argues vigorously and persuasively that [w]e have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it. Jim Crow and legal racial segregation has been replaced by mass incarceration as a system of social control (More African Americans are under correctional control today... than were enslaved in 1850). Alexander reviews American racial history from the colonies to the Clinton administration, delineating its transformation into the war on drugs. She offers an acute analysis of the effect of this mass incarceration upon former inmates who will be discriminated against, legally, for the rest of their lives, denied employment, housing, education, and public benefits. Most provocatively, she reveals how both the move toward colorblindness and affirmative action may blur our vision of injustice:

most Americans know and don't know the truth about mass incarceration—but her carefully researched, deeply engaging, and thoroughly readable book should change that. (Feb.)

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## Review

“Explosive debut...alarming, provocative and convincing.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Michelle Alexander’s brave and bold new book paints a haunting picture in which dreary felon garb, post-prison joblessness, and loss of voting rights now do the stigmatizing work once done by colored-only water fountains and legally segregated schools. With dazzling candor, Alexander argues that we all pay the cost of the new Jim Crow.”

—Lani Guinier, professor at Harvard Law School and author of *Lift Every Voice: Turning a Civil Rights Setback into a New Vision of Social Justice* and *The Miner's Canary: Enlisting Race, Resisting Power, Transforming Democracy*

“For every century there is a crisis in our democracy, the response to which defines how future generations view those who were alive at the time. In the 18th century it was the transatlantic slave trade, in the 19th century it was slavery, in the 20th century it was Jim Crow. Today it is mass incarceration. Alexander's book offers a timely and original framework for understanding mass incarceration, its roots to Jim Crow, our modern caste system, and what must be done to eliminate it. This book is a call to action.”

—Benjamin Todd Jealous, President and CEO, NAACP

“With imprisonment now the principal instrument of our social policy directed toward poorly educated black men, Michelle Alexander argues convincingly that the huge racial disparity of punishment in America is not the mere result of neutral state action. She sees the rise of mass incarceration as opening up a new front in the historic struggle for racial justice. And, she’s right.

If you care about justice in America, you need to read this book!"

—Glenn C. Loury, economist at Brown University and author of *The Anatomy of Racial Inequality and Race, Incarceration and American Values*

"After reading *The New Jim Crow*, Michelle Alexander's stunning work of scholarship, one gains the terrible realization that, for people of color, the American criminal justice system resembles the Soviet Union's gulag—the latter punished ideas, the former punishes a condition."

—David Levering Lewis, Pulitzer-prize winning historian at NYU and author of *W.E.B. Du Bois: The Fight for Equality and the American Century, 1919-1963*

"We need to pay attention to Michelle Alexander's contention that mass imprisonment in the U.S. constitutes a racial caste system. Her analysis reflects the passion of an advocate and the intellect of a scholar."

—Marc Mauer, Executive Director, The Sentencing Project, author of *Race to Incarcerate*

"A powerful analysis of why and how mass incarceration is happening in America, *The New Jim Crow* should be required reading for anyone working for real change in the criminal justice system."

—Ronald E. Hampton, Executive Director, National Black Police Association



Professor Michelle Alexander has significant experience in the field of civil rights advocacy and litigation. She has litigated civil rights cases in private practice as well as engaged in innovative litigation and advocacy efforts in the non-profit sector. For several years, Professor Alexander served as the Director of the Racial Justice Project for the ACLU of Northern California, which spearheaded a national campaign against racial profiling by law enforcement. While an associate at Saperstein, Goldstein, Demchak & Baller, she specialized in plaintiff-side class action suits alleging race and gender discrimination.

Professor Alexander is a graduate of Stanford Law School and Vanderbilt University. Following law school, she clerked for Justice Harry A. Blackmun on the United States Supreme Court, and for Chief Judge Abner Mikva on the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

Professor Alexander joined the Ohio State University faculty in 2005. She holds a joint appointment with the Moritz College of Law and the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity. Prior to joining the OSU faculty, she was a member of the Stanford Law School faculty, where she served as Director of the Civil Rights Clinic.

### [Legal Scholar Michelle Alexander on "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness"](#)

A new book by legal scholar and civil rights advocate Michelle Alexander argues that although Jim Crow laws have been eliminated, the racial caste system it set up was not eradicated. It's simply been redesigned, and now racial control functions through the criminal justice system.

### [National Black Church Initiative Appalled - NY Public School System Has Given Up on Black Children](#) .pdf [182kb]

These Neglected Students Drop Out of School and Fill Our Prisons