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BLIND GODDESS

A Reader on Race and Justice

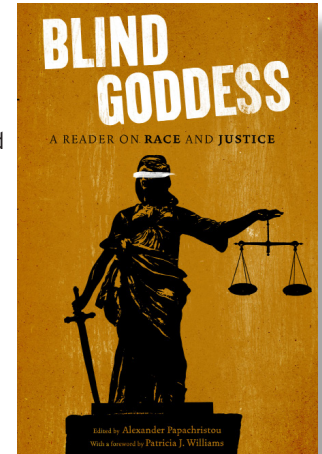
EDITED BY **Alexander Papachristou**
WITH A FOREWORD BY **Patricia J. Williams**

"America's embrace of overcriminalization and mass incarceration is inextricably tangled up with its long history of racism. *Blind Goddess* helps us to understand and exorcise this disabling legacy." –Jonathan Simon, professor of law, University of California, Berkeley

"The provocative, hard-hitting essays in *Blind Goddess* expose the racial inequities that drive the national sin of mass incarceration and give us the tools to challenge and overcome this phenomenon." –Deborah Archer, New York Law School

"*Blind Goddess* is a trenchant distillation of the nation's very best thinking about race, crime, and the rise of 'hyper-incarceration' in the twentieth century. Essential reading for anyone concerned about the future of black America." –Tanya E. Coke, senior consultant, Atlantic Philanthropies Children & Youth Programme

"[This] collection has the coherence of a single narrative that's scholarly enough to satisfy the pickiest reader and readable (and important) enough for the layman." –*Publishers Weekly*



Blind Goddess is a rich and nuanced guide to how our understanding of race permeates the criminal justice system. This compendium of works features the nation's premiere experts in the field, including **Michelle Alexander, Paul Butler, David Cole, Lani Guinier, Glenn Loury, and Marc Mauer**, who examine the undercurrent of race in the criminal justice system through the lenses of sociology, political science, advocacy, and the law.

At a time when more black men are incarcerated than were ever enslaved at any point in the country's history, the systemized racism of the criminal justice system remains largely unnoticed. African Americans make up half of the nation's prisoners, even though they make up just 13% of the U.S. population, and yet, the justice system purports to be blind to race. *Blind Goddess* explores these disconnects, and reveals how race underlies every part of the system.

Blind Goddess guides readers through each step of the criminal justice system—from policing to sentencing to imprisonment to post-incarceration life. At every phase in the process, the rules of each institution mechanize an inherent racial bias. Coupled with the mass incarceration of the War on Drugs, the criminal justice system has essentially targeted poor, minority communities—failing the very people who need the most help.

"*Blind Goddess* promises to break Americans out of the mind-prisons that keep them indifferent to racialized mass incarceration. But lurking underneath is a terrible fear: maybe, far from being "blind" to the systematic imprisonment of the black and brown poor, this is what much of America craves. This is a book for reformers and protesters both. Turn the page, feel the rage." –Ian Haney Lopez, professor of law, University of California, Berkeley

Alexander Papachristou began his legal career representing prisoners and went on to practice corporate law both domestically and internationally. He now leads and advises social justice organizations focusing on human rights, education reform, and socioeconomic development.

Patricia J. Williams is the James L. Dohr Professor of Law at Columbia University and writes the monthly column "Diary of a Mad Law Professor" for *The Nation*. The author of four books, she is a recipient of a MacArthur Foundation "genius" fellowship. They both live in New York City.

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