



# Democracy Remixed: Black Youth and the Future of American Politics (Transgressing Boundaries: Studies in Black Politics and Black Communities)

By Cathy J. Cohen

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In *Democracy Remixed*, award-winning scholar Cathy J. Cohen offers an authoritative and empirically powerful analysis of the state of black youth in America today. Utilizing the results from the Black Youth Project, a groundbreaking nationwide survey, Cohen focuses on what young Black Americans actually experience and think--and underscores the political repercussions. Featuring stories from cities across the country, she reveals that black youth want, in large part, what most Americans want--a good job, a fulfilling life, safety, respect, and equality. But while this generation has much in common with the rest of America, they also believe that equality does not yet exist, at least not in their lives. Many believe that they are treated as second-class citizens. Moreover, for many the future seems bleak when they look at their neighborhoods, their schools, and even their own lives and choices. Through their words, these young people provide a complex and balanced picture of the intersection of opportunity and discrimination in their lives. *Democracy Remixed* provides the insight we need to transform the future of young Black Americans and American democracy.

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## **Editorial Review**

### Review

"Clear, hones, and insightful, Cohen authors an incredibly important and well-researched book that provides and analysis of the state of black youth in the US today. The real contribution of this book is Cohen's success at connecting politics and culture to demonstrate that black youth continue to be promised equality, but the structures in place limit that possibility...Summing Up: Highly recommended." --*CHOICE*

"An important and fresh look at the crises facing young black Americans, *Democracy Remixed* is a fierce, critical examination of the newest generation of black youth caught between American democracy's promise and its failure. Bold, uncompromising, and fearless, Cathy Cohen points us toward solutions." --Bakari Kitwana, author of *The Hip-Hop Generation*

"After decades of listening to elected officials and cultural critics talk about young black people, Cathy Cohen offers an opportunity to listen to black youth speak for themselves. There are two very different stories told about American youth today. One celebrates a post-racial revolution led by Obama-inspired young voters. The other condemns the cultural expressions and personal choices of black youth as a source of moral degradation. Cohen examines the meanings and consequences of these competing narratives by talking to black youth about their own experiences in contemporary America. The result is a compelling account of the complex struggles and innovative strategies of young black people who are facing a dynamic political world." --Melissa Harris-Lacewell, Associate Professor of Politics and African American Studies, Princeton University, and author of *Barbershops, Bibles and BET: Everyday Talk and Black Political Thought*

"A mashup of political theory, challenges to the cult of black respectability, progressive thought and just good ol' common sense, *Democracy Remixed*, is Cathy Cohen at her brilliant best. Perfectly pitched for both the skeptics and converts of post-Race America, *Democracy Remixed* is must read for all those navigating the troubled waters of race, class, gender and sexuality in the 21st Century." --Mark Anthony Neal, author *New Black Man: Rethinking Black Masculinity*

"*Democracy Remixed* does what so many pundits, politicians and scholars alike have refused to do: actually talk and listen to the thoughts, experiences and perceptions of young black people. But Cathy Cohen's powerful new work does more than this: it combines careful empirical research with nuanced analysis to reveal much more complex conditions and responses among black youth. Instead of the usual pontificating, Cohen has rolled up her sleeves to find meaningful answers to a terrible crisis in U.S. society. This is a transforming, humanizing, and politically-smart must read!" --Tricia Rose, author of *The Hip Hop Wars*

"*Democracy Remixed* is an insightful, data-rich study of the paradoxes associated with the political marginalization of black youth in an era marked by the election of America's first black president."  
--*American Journal of Sociology*

#### About the Author

Cathy J. Cohen is the David and Mary Winton Green Professor of Political Science and the College at the University of Chicago. She is the author of *The Boundaries of Blackness: A.I.D.S. and the Breakdown of Black Politics*.

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