

Black Women and Politics in New York City: Women, Gender, and Sexuality in a Global Metropolis

Historical Roots: Black Women in the Early Political Landscape



Black Women and Politics in New York City (Women, Gender, and Sexuality in American History)

by Julie A. Gallagher

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 2586 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting: Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 274 pages



The political involvement of Black women in New York City has its roots in the fight for suffrage and civil rights. In the early 20th century, women such as Mary McLeod Bethune, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, and Florence Kelley worked tirelessly to secure voting rights for women and address issues of racial discrimination. Their activism paved the way for Black women to enter politics and make their voices heard.

Post-Suffrage Era: Emerging Political Participation

Following the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920, Black women began to run for and hold elected office in New York City. In 1933, Crystal Bird Fauset became the first Black woman elected to the New York State Assembly, representing Harlem. She served for 16 years, advocating for social justice, housing rights, and educational opportunities for Black communities.

In the decades that followed, other Black women entered the political arena, including Shirley Chisholm, the first African American woman elected to Congress (1968), and Basil Paterson, the first Black woman elected to the New York State Senate (1983). These trailblazing women challenged traditional notions of race, gender, and political representation.

Contemporary Landscape: Intersectionality and Empowerment

Today, Black women continue to be a driving force in New York City politics. They hold key positions in elected office, such as Speaker of the New York

City Council Adrienne Adams, and are involved in community organizing, advocacy, and policymaking.

Black women's political activism is often rooted in intersectionality, addressing the interconnectedness of race, gender, and class. They advocate for policies that address issues such as economic inequality, healthcare disparities, and police brutality. The Black Lives Matter movement, led by Black women such as Alicia Garza, has highlighted the ongoing struggle against racial injustice and police violence.

Gender, Sexuality, and Political Identity

The experiences of Black women in politics are shaped by their gender and sexuality. They face unique challenges and opportunities, including the need to navigate both racism and sexism.

LGBTQ+ Black women face additional layers of discrimination and marginalization. They have historically been underrepresented in political office and face barriers to participation. However, in recent years, LGBTQ+ Black women have made strides in visibility and representation, with activists such as Marsha P. Johnson and Staceyann Chin playing pivotal roles in the LGBTQ+ rights movement.

The history of Black women in politics in New York City is a rich and complex narrative of struggle, resilience, and empowerment. From the early suffragettes to contemporary activists, Black women have played a crucial role in shaping the social and political landscape of the city. Their ongoing activism and representation continue to challenge systems of oppression and pave the way for a more just and equitable society.

References

- Jones, Jacqueline. *Goddess of Mercy: The Human Face of Rockefeller Center*. New York: Atheneum, 1991.
- Keele, Lula. *Early Black Women in New York City Politics: The Women Who Paved the Way*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2013.
- Mitchell, Verta. *The Voices of Black Women in Politics: A Century of Leadership*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017.
- Ritter, Gretchen. *Women, Gender, and Politics in New York City*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019.



Black Women and Politics in New York City (Women, Gender, and Sexuality in American History)

by Julie A. Gallagher

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

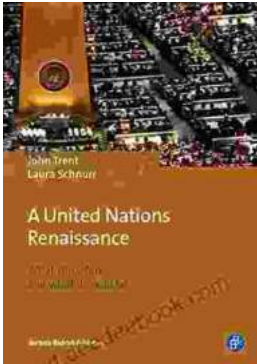
Language : English
File size : 2586 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 274 pages





The Rock Monsters Guide to Drums: The Essential Guide for Aspiring Drummers

If you're passionate about drumming and want to take your skills to the next level, The Rock Monsters Guide to Drums is the ultimate resource for...



The United Nations Renaissance: A New Era of Global Cooperation

The United Nations was founded in 1945 in the aftermath of World War II. Its mission was to prevent future wars and to promote peace, security, and human rights around the...