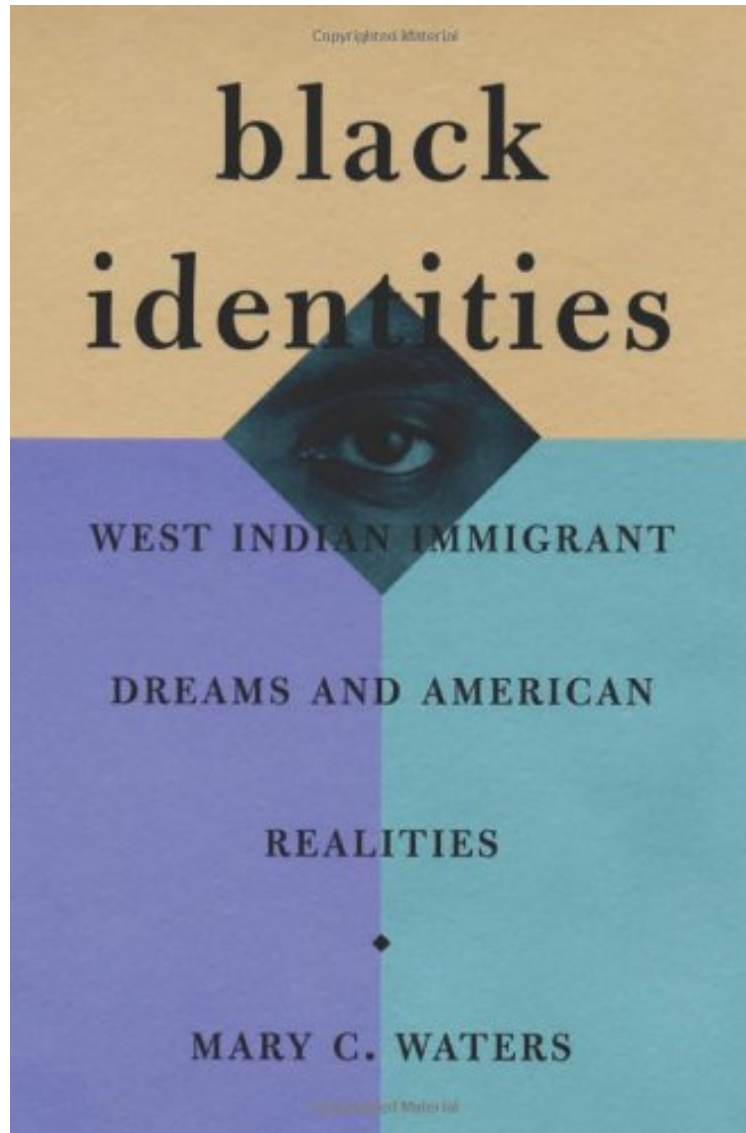


(Free download) Black Identities: West Indian Immigrant Dreams and American Realities

Black Identities: West Indian Immigrant Dreams and American Realities

Mary C. Waters

ebooks / Download PDF / *ePub / DOC / audiobook



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#439909 in Books 2001-09-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.42 x 1.15 x 6.201, 1.10 #File Name: 0674007247432 pages | File size: 20.Mb

Mary C. Waters : Black Identities: West Indian Immigrant Dreams and American Realities before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Black Identities: West Indian Immigrant Dreams and American Realities:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding sociological study of an immigrant community. By Theyreplayinggoodstuff81@A well-recommended sociological study about an immigrant community, how the

members differ from the surrounding population, and how they differ from each other. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. AndyB NYCBy Andy B. NYCGreat book! Some of the info is starting to become outdated but the information is all very relevant. - wonderful read for understanding the ethnic landscape in the US.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book! Very insightfulBy GWimsattThis was a required text for a class I took. The class was Sociology of Immigration, outstanding professor. Books like this should be standard reading in High School.

The story of West Indian immigrants to the United States is considered a great success. Many of these adoptive citizens have prospered, including General Colin Powell. But Mary Waters tells a very different story about immigrants from the West Indies, especially their children. She finds that when the immigrants first arrive, their knowledge of English, their skills and contacts, their self-respect, and their optimistic assessment of American race relations facilitate their integration into the American economic structure. Over time, however, the realities of American race relations begin to swamp their positive cultural values. Persistent, blatant racial discrimination soon undermines the openness to whites the immigrants have when they first arrive. Discrimination in housing channels them into neighborhoods with inadequate city services and high crime rates. Inferior public schools undermine their hopes for their children's future. Low wages and poor working conditions are no longer attractive for their children, who use American and not Caribbean standards to measure success. Ultimately, the values that gained these first-generation immigrants initial success--a willingness to work hard, a lack of attention to racism, a desire for education, an incentive to save--are undermined by the realities of life in the United States. In many families, the hard-won relative success of the parents is followed by the downward slide of their children. Contrary to long-held beliefs, Waters finds, those who resist Americanization are most likely to succeed economically, especially in the second generation.

.com New York City, the melting pot of the United States, contains the nation's largest West Indian immigrant population. Since the immigration explosion of 1965, the Afro-Caribbean influx has impacted the social dynamic of the United States and its native-born African Americans, often with volatile results. *Black Identities*, an important sociological work by Mary C. Waters, explores the question, "How similar or different is it to be a black immigrant or descendent of immigrants in Brooklyn in the late twentieth century from what it was like to be an Irish, Italian, or Jewish immigrant in the earlier part of the century?" Waters interviews blacks from Jamaica, Guyana, Trinidad, and other islands and deconstructs the mutual myths, truths, allegiances, and distrusts between these communities and whites (as well as African Americans with deeper family roots in the U.S.). Among the stereotypes Waters addresses, the most dangerous one is the perceived superiority of Afro-Caribbeans to African Americans. She deflates this and other myths with a combination of sharp scholarship and dead-on analysis. --Eugene Holley Jr. From *Library Journal*It would be fair to say that most Americans are not aware of the wide variety of ethnicities that exist among the black Caribbeans migrating to this country. Determined to render visible Caribbean immigrants and their families, Waters (sociology, Harvard Univ.) undertook an exhaustive research project. Here she compares Jamaican, Barbadian, Trinidadian, and Guyanese immigrants to their Irish and Italian counterparts of the turn of the last century, and because the issue of race so strongly shapes everyday life for people of color in this society, she examines the relationships between (and differences among) American blacks and black Caribbean immigrants. Drawing from interviews with several generations of immigrants, Waters reports a wide range of discoveries--including her finding that the Caribbean immigrants who resist Americanization are the most likely to succeed. An excellent history and a multifaceted analysis of current immigration issues, this book is recommended for academic and larger public libraries. -Deborah Bigelow, *Leonia P.L., NJ* Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. It would be fair to say that most Americans are not aware of the wide variety of ethnicities that exist among the black Caribbeans migrating to this country. Determined to render visible Caribbean immigrants and their families, Waters undertook an exhaustive research project. Here she compares Jamaican, Barbadian, Trinidadian, and Guyanese immigrants to their Irish and Italian counterparts of the turn of the last century, and because the issue of race so strongly shapes everyday life for people of color in this society, she examines the relationships between (and differences among) American blacks and black Caribbean immigrants. Drawing from interviews with several generations of immigrants, Waters reports a wide range of discoveries--including her finding that the Caribbean immigrants who resist Americanization are the most likely to succeed. And excellent history and a multifaceted analysis of current immigration issues. (Deborah Bigelow *Library Journal*)*Black Identities*, Mary Waters' new study of West Indian immigrants and their troubled encounter with the American dream, is an accomplishment of the first order. Full of rich material, Waters' book is delivered in clean, crisp prose, offering an original argument sure to provoke controversy, even as readers will admire its good sense. An outstanding work, *Black Identities* will be eagerly read by sociologists, historians, political scientists, and anyone interested in the emerging shape of American ethnic life. (Roger Waldinger, author of *Still the Promised City?: African-Americans and New Immigrants in Postindustrial New York* (Harvard))*Black Identities* establishes a new landmark in the study of West Indian immigrant experiences in the United States. Mary C. Waters' perceptive and

authoritative study challenges conventional views of the Americanization of West Indian immigrants. Also, her comprehensive coverage of their experiences and contacts with native Americans enriches our understanding of race relations in this country. (William Julius Wilson, author of *When Work Disappears: The World of the New Urban Poor*) This is a very ambitious and important book that offers a sophisticated and highly nuanced treatment of several complex social issues that lie at the core of American politics and society in the late 20th century. The work is distinguished by the sensitivity and imagination of the analysis, its firm grounding in solid empirical work, and a clear and engaging style that makes *Black Identities* a pleasure to read. (Douglas S. Massey, coauthor of *American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass* (Harvard)) Waters tackles an important problem, one filled with implications, to say nothing of consequences, for our new century. It is, however, the story of ordinary West Indian immigrants that Waters wants to tell, and here is where her field work, which is to say, the collection of immigrant voices across a spectrum of attitudes and generations, is of enormous value. (Sanford Pinsker *The Virginia Quarterly*)