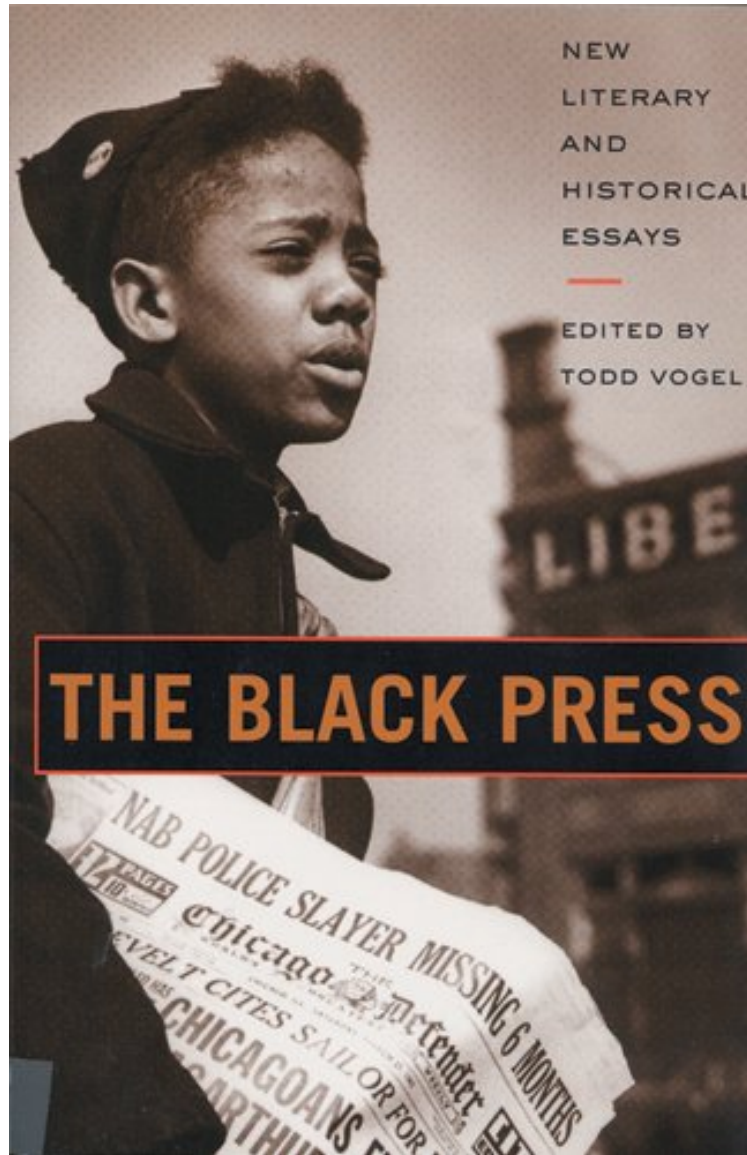


The Black Press: New Literary and Historical Essays

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From Brand: Rutgers University Press : The Black Press: New Literary and Historical Essays before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Black Press: New Literary and Historical Essays:

1 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Insightful Analysis By Mr August Todd Vogel does a fine job of putting together some well written essays that promote the culture of the Black Press. But, while the book is complete in its analysis of the historical run of Black literary mediums, the book fails to contrast the significant historical steps

taken in mainstream news outlets. Many of the essays routinely focus on the approach and impact the Black Press had (and still has) but unfortunately didn't do a sufficient job of comparing other mediums. This book would work well in a journalism diversity or history class. But it would be up to the readers to analytically compare the mainstream media.

In a segregated society in which black scholars, writers, and artists could find few ways to reach an audience, journalism was a means of dispersing information to communities throughout the United States. The black press has offered incisive critiques of such issues as racism, identity, class, and economic injustice, but that contribution to public discourse has remained largely unrecognized until now. The original essays in this volume broaden our understanding of the public sphere and show how marginalized voices attempted to be heard in the circles of debate and dissent that existed in their day. The Black Press progresses chronologically from slavery to the impact and implications of the Internet to reveal how the press's content and its very form changed with evolving historical and cultural conditions in America. The first papers fought for rights for free blacks in the North. The early twentieth-century black press sought to define itself and its community amidst American modernism. Writers in the 1960s took on the task of defining revolution in that decade's ferment. It was not until the mid-twentieth century that African American cultural study began to achieve intellectual respectability. The Black Press addresses the production, distribution, regulation, and reception of black journalism in order to illustrate a more textured public discourse, one that exchanges ideas not just within the black community, but also within the nation at large. The essays demonstrate that the black press redefined class, restaged race and nationhood, and reset the terms of public conversation, providing a fuller understanding of not just African American culture, but also the varied cultural battles fought throughout our country's history.

"The work of historical recuperation provided by The Black Press is especially valuable not only for what it tells us about the evolution of black culture in the United States, but also for what it reveals about the undercurrents of American culture at key moments in history." - Eric J. Sundquist, Northwestern University "Ambitious and wideranging, a number of the essays in The Black Press reflect the best and most innovative interpretive strategies in African American and Black diaspora studies." - Kevin Gaines, University of Michigan

From the Back Cover
In a segregated society in which minority writers and artists could find few ways to reach an audience, journalism gave them access to diverse U.S. communities. The original essays in this volume show how marginalized voices attempted to be heard in their day. The Black Press progresses chronologically from abolitionist newspapers to today's Internet and reveals how the black press's content and its very form changed with evolving historical conditions in America. The essays address the production, distribution, regulation, and reception of black journalism, illustrating a more textured public discourse, one that exchanges ideas not just within the black community, but also within the nation at large. The contributors demonstrate that African American journalists redefined class, restaged race and nationhood, and reset the terms of public conversation, providing a fuller understanding of the varied cultural battles fought throughout our country's history.

About the Author
Todd Vogel is the director of American Studies and a visiting assistant professor of English and American Studies at Trinity College, Connecticut. His journalistic work has appeared in Business Week, the Washington Post, the Boston Globe, and the Dallas Morning News.