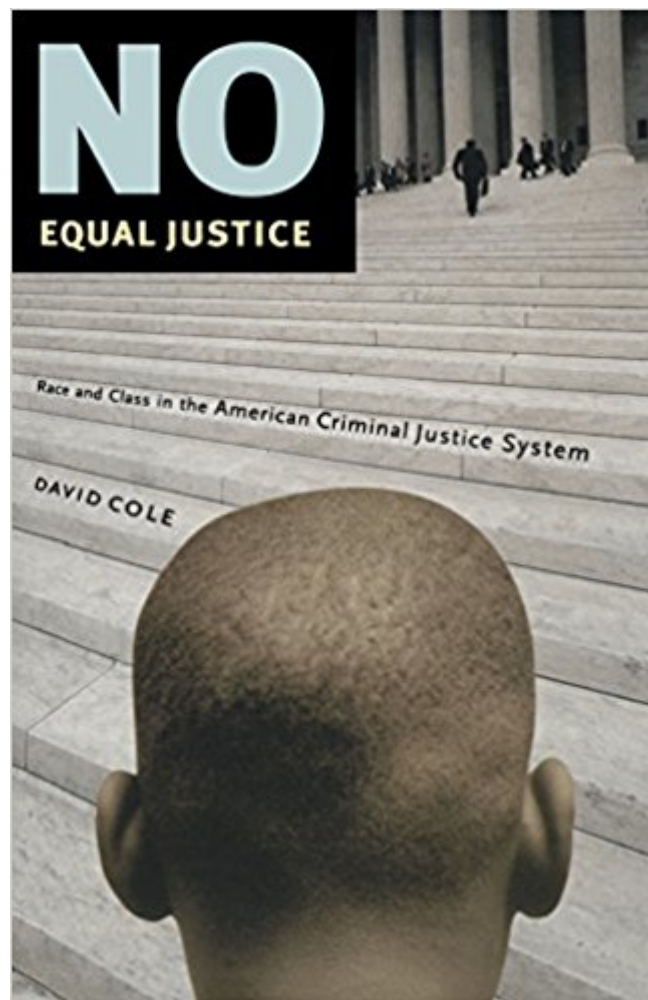




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No Equal Justice: Race And Class In The American Criminal Justice System



Synopsis

No Equal Justice is the seminal work on race- and class-based double standards in criminal justice. Hailed as a "shocking and necessary book" by The Economist, it has become the standard reference point for anyone trying to understand the fundamental inequalities in the American legal system. The book, written by constitutional law scholar and civil liberties advocate David Cole, was named the best nonfiction book of 1999 by the Boston Book Review and the best book on an issue of national policy by the American Political Science Association. No Equal Justice examines subjects ranging from police behavior and jury selection to sentencing, and argues that our system does not merely fail to live up to the promise of equality, but actively requires double standards to operate. Such disparities, Cole argues, allow the privileged to enjoy constitutional protections from police power without paying the costs associated with extending those protections across the board to minorities and the poor.

Book Information

Paperback: 218 pages

Publisher: New Press; 1st edition (1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1565845668

ISBN-13: 978-1565845664

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #271,591 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #140 in Books > Law > Rules & Procedures > Courts #466 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Class #510 in Books > Textbooks > Law > Criminal Law

Customer Reviews

The American criminal-justice system, writes Georgetown law professor David Cole, has effectively become a two-tiered system, with differing levels of regard depending on the race or class of a given citizen who comes into contact with it. The thousands of African Americans who have been confronted by law-enforcement agents nationwide for "fitting the description" of alleged perpetrators would likely concur, but, according to Cole, it isn't just the cops that operate this way; judges, prosecutors, juries, and legislators are equally complicit. If the barrage of illustrative cases he presents in No Equal Justice paints a picture of an antidemocratic society, his proposed

solution--making the criminal-justice system more "community-based," strengthening the relationships between citizens to "stop" crime before it starts--holds out a promise of equality. Critics may argue that such a plan is unrealistic, but the problems he describes are all too real, and deserve the attention No Equal Justice provides. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Cole, a lawyer and Georgetown University professor, puts teeth into the argument that America has two separate systems of justice—one for the privileged and educated, another for the poor and less educated, which often means black and Latino people living in inner cities. Citing recent cases from around the country, he documents widespread police brutality and corruption, including planting evidence and lying to win convictions. He demonstrates the likelihood that several police tactics—e.g., pretextual traffic stops—that are routinely applied to racial minorities would not be tolerated if applied to more privileged citizens. Cole's catalogue of inequities is no less damning for being familiar: defendants charged with killing white victims get the death penalty far more often than defendants charged with killing black victims; state-appointed lawyers for indigent defendants are often overburdened and grossly incompetent. Cole goes beyond complaint, however, and offers a reform strategy. Among the measures he calls for are a shift away from mass incarceration toward community policing, "shaming" penalties in lieu of jail for some offenders and offering monetary or other incentives to disadvantaged youth to stay in school. Cole's book is a well-argued, passionate plea for an unabashedly liberal program to fight crime while honoring the constitution's protection of individual rights. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Though published nearly 20 years ago, many of the points made in the book are timeless. As one example "Our Criminal Justice system affirmatively depends in inequality." Moreover, "The rhetoric of the criminal justice system sends the message that our society carefully protects everyone's constitutional rights, but in practice the rules assure that law enforcement prerogatives will generally prevail over the right of minorities and the poor." Put another way, the system is designed to be unequal and to oppress the poor & minorities. The only mild weakness of the book is in its prescriptions for change as it is unconnected to social movements for greater civil & human rights. To gain substantial reforms of the criminal system of injustice, such movements are necessary.

Good Sell

informative

Really well written. Author does a great job in explaining the racial disparities that pollute the American Criminal Justice System. Sad to think that skin color is even relevant when judging a persons character. Yet, The American criminal Justice System is not colorblind. People should be punished for the crimes they commit. Not what they believe, look like, and or what social class they fall under. Labels can destroy people socially on paper. Face to Face communication is the best way to Eliminate Racial and or personal bias. America has far to many social issues to solve. To be bogged down by racial prejudices. Proof is in the data. No one does it better than delivering my College Knowledge.

Hard reading, but a lot of awaking to discrimination and the need for Supreme Court rulings to help so many minorities.

Great item! Fast shipping. Product came as described.

Everyone involved in law - especially criminal law - should read this book. I intend to go to law school and have a better view of how the legal system works in favor of "the haves" as opposed to "the have nots"

It was in great condition and was exactly what I needed. I like that it is a hard cover as well. I hate paper backs. Thank you!

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