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Derrick Darby and John L. Rury

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The authors focus on three related ideas: the black is criminal, the black is pathological, and the black is inferior. They explore how the black person, from slavery to the present day, has been subjected to a range of forms and experiences that have reinforced these ideas. Because of the ongoing condemnation of blackness, a range of social policies have been implemented to keep black people in their place. These policies have taken on a range of forms, from slavery to segregation to mass incarceration.

The authors argue that the condemnation of blackness has served as a way to keep black people in their place, and that this has been achieved through a variety of means, including the use of force, deprivation, and discrimination.

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The Case for Contention

An educator and philosopher of education, professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and author of *Why the Origins of the Achievement Gap Matter*, Derrick Darby and John L. Rury offer a powerful argument for why the origins of the achievement gap matter. They argue that the origins of the achievement gap are rooted in the U.S. history of slavery and racism, and that the current achievement gap is a direct result of these historical injustices. The authors provide evidence to support their argument and call for a reimagining of education and the ways in which we approach teaching and learning.

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