Review of *Queer (In)Justice*

Jakeya Caruthers

Taking the lead from *Queer (In)Justice: The Criminalization of LGBT People in the United States*, by Mogul, Ritchie, and Whitlock, this book on *Social Justice* presents a critical take on LGBTQ rights and inequality. The authors, having deep knowledge in the field, offer an insightful perspective on how the criminal justice system affects the lives of LGBTQ individuals. They argue that the system often reinforces prejudices and discrimination, further entrenching inequalities. The book is recommended for those interested in understanding the complexities of LGBTQ rights and the need for systemic change. 

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*Note: This review was written by Ms. Caruthers, who draws on her experience in the field to offer a compelling analysis of the book.*

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over time and through popular consciousness to stilled narratives of "brutality" or the now-glossy legends of Stonewall. *Queer (In)Justice* adds nuance to these narratives to explain how baseless, discriminatory violence is rooted in a rigidly capitalist, moralist compulsion to police gender. Mogul et al. also illustrate how established, discursively "naturalized" authority to control gender and sexuality produces a systematic failure to afford incarcerated queer people basic rights to health and safety. They show how prison personnel routinely deny queer prisoners appropriate and necessary medical resources and often refuse to acknowledge and respond to the "rape/ability" of queer prisoners in single-gender penal institutions. The authors discuss the archetype of queer hypersexuality and its usage in prisons, where assumptions about the impossibility of nonconsensual sex construct a prisoner subject that is perpetually available and consenting to all same-sex encounters.

Beyond explorations of material violence, *Queer (In)Justice* takes on the problems and failures of hate crime legislation and other responses to the crisis of a grossly discriminatory legal system, offering readers progressive, alternative models for organizing around the issue. Though some of the archetypes and examples given may resist immediate resonance, one of the text's strengths is its refusal to offer a decontextualized onslaught of implausible and unproductive victim stories. *Queer (In)Justice* instead provides evidence of the fundamental culpabilities of the system—vast and intricate—through a remarkable variety of instances. Indeed, the generous illustrations and case studies in *Queer (In)Justice* add heft to a solid argument while rhythmically and relentlessly chipping away at the cultural and institutional logics of anti-queer discourse and action.

The text's greatest asset may be its accessibility and potential as a teaching tool in popular educational contexts. The examples effectively displace the stance of scholarly or activist "expertise," and though it will undoubtedly serve as an enormously useful reference for critical race theorists, queer theorists, and legal scholars, I look forward to sharing the book with friends and family in my home state of Tennessee, where even mention of the word "gay" might soon be considered a crime. To be sure, in a national moment that is as hostile to queer identities as ever, *Queer (In)Justice* 's tightly woven arguments and illustrations provide a comprehensive analysis that has emerged right on time.