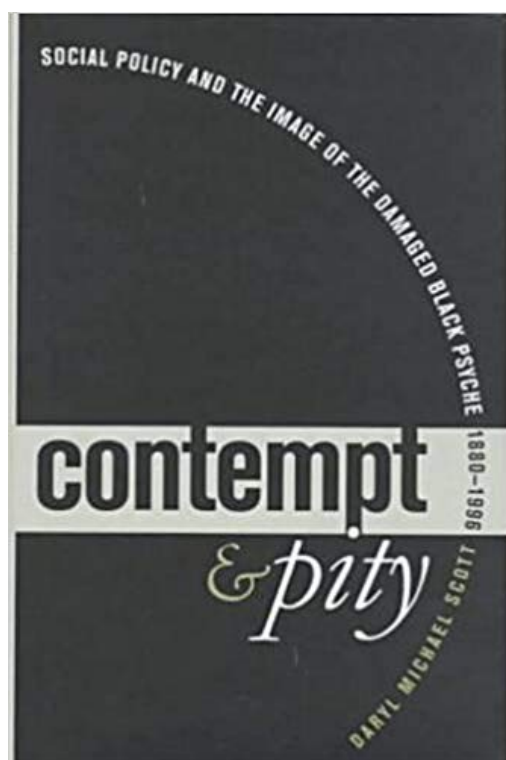


Contempt and Pity: Social Policy and the Image of the Damaged Black Psyche, 1880-1996 by Daryl Michael Scott



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For over a century, the idea that African Americans are psychologically damaged has played an important role in discussions of race. In this provocative work, Daryl Michael Scott argues that damage imagery has been the product of liberals and conservatives, of racists and antiracists. While racial conservatives, often playing on white contempt for blacks, have sought to use findings of black pathology to justify exclusionary policies, racial liberals have used damage imagery primarily to promote policies of inclusion and rehabilitation. In advancing his argument, Scott challenges some long-held beliefs about the history of damage imagery. He rediscovers the liberal impulses behind Stanley Elkins's Sambo hypothesis and Daniel Patrick Moynihan's *Negro Family* and exposes the damage imagery in the work of Ralph Ellison, the leading anti-pathologist. He also corrects the view that the Chicago School depicted blacks as pathological products of matriarchy. New Negro experts such as Charles Johnson and E. Franklin Frazier, he says, disdained sympathy-seeking and refrained from exploring individual pathology. Scott's reassessment of social science sheds new light on *Brown v. Board of Education*, revealing how experts reversed four decades of theory in order to represent segregation as inherently damaging to blacks. In this controversial work, Scott warns the Left of the dangers in their recent rediscovery of damage imagery in an age of conservative reform.



Reviews of the **Contempt and Pity: Social Policy and the Image of the Damaged Black Psyche, 1880-1996** by Daryl Michael Scott

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This book details the twenty or so years of preparatory work which led up to the 1954 Supreme Court "Brown vs the Board of Education" decision and how it was based on eliciting pity for African Americans from the white majority. The obverse side of pity, of course, is contempt. Contempt for African-American schools meant that thousands of highly qualified African American teachers were laid off and their schools closed as their students were integrated into previously all white schools. Any rethinking of the history of civil rights in America must take into account that what was hailed as historic achievements for African Americans at the time has ultimately helped destroy many strong and self-reliant black communities.

Knights from Bernin

The book is bound incorrect with several pages missing

Steelcaster

Scott's book is a comprehensive and insightful overview of the story surrounding the Black psyche as it has been understood by those that create American race policy. It is an invaluable text to anyone seriously interested in the intellectual history of Psychology, and/or race in America.

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