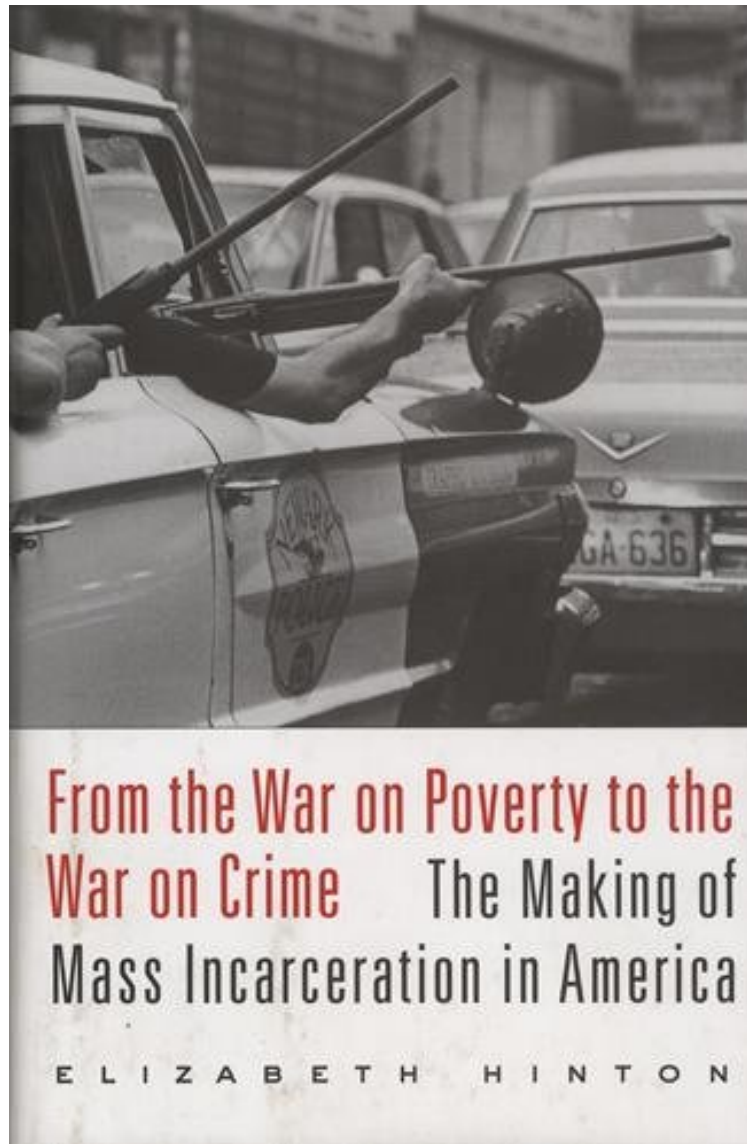


# From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime: The Making of Mass Incarceration in America

*Elizabeth Hinton*

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**Elizabeth Hinton : From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime: The Making of Mass Incarceration in America** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime: The Making of Mass Incarceration in America:

11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Essential Reading for todayBy Ed EppingMs. Hinton makes a very convincing case to locate baselines for our current mass incarceration strategies. While the threads of the incarceration-industrial complex are nefariously intertwined into our culture, the roots of these coursing networks are framed in our national disgraces: slavery, poverty and and a sustained inequality of power distribution. Ms. Hinton and Ms. Alexander ("The New Jim Crow") are voices that need amplification and reiteration in our society. Both are must reads.6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Excellent read on well intended policies that never achieve what ...By Bobbie R. MandellExcellent read on well intended policies that never achieve what they promised. and the politics that drive them.As young woman, Hinton has a very wise and realistic view of society.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. ... of the failure of our country to do anything useful about structural inequalityBy James FellmanVery well researched book that gives strong evidence of the failure of our country to do anything useful about structural inequality. It's detail can be tedious at times, but that is essential to the thesis.

In the United States today, one in every thirty-one adults is under some form of penal control, including one in eleven African American men. How did the land of the free become the home of the worlds largest prison system? Challenging the belief that Americas prison problem originated with the Reagan administrations War on Drugs, Elizabeth Hinton traces the rise of mass incarceration to an ironic source: the social welfare programs of Lyndon Johnsons Great Society at the height of the civil rights era.Johnson's War on Poverty policies sought to foster equality and economic opportunity. But these initiatives were also rooted in widely shared assumptions about African Americans role in urban disorder, which prompted Johnson to call for a simultaneous War on Crime. The 1965 Law Enforcement Assistance Act empowered the national government to take a direct role in militarizing local police. Federal anticrime funding soon incentivized social service providers to ally with police departments, courts, and prisons. Under Richard Nixon and his successors, welfare programs fell by the wayside while investment in policing and punishment expanded. Anticipating future crime, policymakers urged states to build new prisons and introduced law enforcement measures into urban schools and public housing, turning neighborhoods into targets of police surveillance.By the 1980s, crime control and incarceration dominated national responses to poverty and inequality. The initiatives of that decade were less a sharp departure than the full realization of the punitive transformation of urban policy implemented by Republicans and Democrats alike since the 1960s.

Readers will appreciate Hinton's archival deep dive into the various and successive congressional acts responsible, sometimes unwittingly, sometimes not, for what amounts in her terms to criminalizing poverty. She discusses the prevailing social science theories that informed those laws and frequently cites official reports and informal intergovernmental communications that expose the policymakers thinking. General readers will be appalled at her portrayal of outrageous police practices. (Kirkus s 2016-04-01)An outstanding bookclear, compelling, and essential. Hinton excavates the deep roots of police militarization, surveillance of minority communities, and the punitive shift in urban policy. Her argument that liberals were key architects of the war on crime is a necessary and even urgent corrective to conventional thinking about mass incarceration. (Matthew Lassiter, author of The Silent Majority: Suburban Politics in the Sunbelt South)A superb work that is a major and timely contribution to the history of mass incarceration. It powerfully resets and sharpens the debate among scholars on the interaction of federal and state dynamics in shaping the modern carceral state. (Jonathan Simon, author of Mass Incarceration on Trial: A Remarkable Court Decision and the Future of Prisons in America)A clear-eyed and timely book, it traces the countrys cannibalistic prison industrial complex back to the social welfare programs created by Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty. This history is heartbreaking, but it is one that affects an enormous percentage of the countryRead it and voteespecially for the state legislators, judges, and district attorneys who exert the greatest influence over the system. (Molly McArdle Brooklyn Magazine 2016-03-21)Magisterial. (Steven W. Thrasher The Guardian 2016-04-19)At a moment when policings impact on African Americans and mass incarceration have again become topic of national conversation, Hinton's book is significant for its reminder that both liberals and conservatives share the blame. (Jeff Guo Washington Post blog 2016-05-02)From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime requires slow and careful reading for anyone seeking to grasp the full implications of this exceedingly well-researched workThe book is vivid with detail and sharp analysisHinton's book is more than an argument; it is a revelationThere are moments that will make your skin crawlThis is history, but the implications for today are striking. Readers will learn how the militarization of the police that we've witnessed in Ferguson and elsewhere had roots in the 1960sA reader cannot help reckoning with the truth that the problem of police brutality and mass incarceration wont be remedied with technology and training. Those of us who believe in the principles of democracy and justice would do well to witness, as detailed in Hinton's pages, the shameful theft of liberty in this so-called land of the free. (Imani Perry New York Times Book 2016-05-29)An extraordinary and important new book. (Jill Lepore New Yorker 2016-07-12)Hinton's well-researched book is filled with historical anecdotes painting a colorful picture of the nations persistent struggle with crime since President Johnson coined the phrase War on Crime more than fifty years agoFrom the War on Poverty to the War on Crime is smart, engaging, and well-argued. (Lauren-Brooke Eisen National )Hinton's book constitutes the most comprehensive

analysis of the historical roots of mass incarceration to date. Those wanting to deepen the understanding of this history that they may have gained from *The New Jim Crow*, *the Golden Gulag* and *The First Civil Right* would do well to seriously engage this wonderful work. (James Kilgore Truthout 2016-07-05) About the Author Elizabeth Hinton is Assistant Professor of History and African and African American Studies at Harvard University.