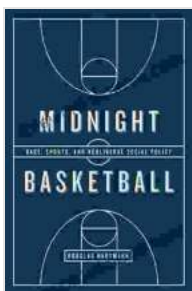


Midnight Basketball: Race, Sports, and Neoliberal Social Policy

Midnight basketball is a popular sports program that has been implemented in cities across the United States. The program is typically run by local law enforcement agencies and community organizations, and it provides a safe and supervised environment for young people to play basketball. Midnight basketball has been praised for its ability to reduce crime and violence, and it has been credited with helping to improve relationships between police and community members.

However, there is also a growing body of research that critiques midnight basketball. Critics argue that the program is a form of neoliberal social policy that reinforces existing racial and economic inequalities. They point out that midnight basketball is often implemented in poor and minority communities, and that it is used to justify increased police presence and surveillance in these communities. Critics also argue that midnight basketball does little to address the root causes of crime and violence, and that it may actually serve to criminalize young people of color.



Midnight Basketball: Race, Sports, and Neoliberal Social Policy by Douglas Hartmann

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Print length : 276 pages
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In this article, I will examine the intersections of race, sports, and neoliberalism in the context of midnight basketball. I will draw on ethnographic research conducted at a midnight basketball league in a predominantly Black neighborhood in the Midwest. Through this research, I will explore how sports are used as a tool of social control and pacification, and how midnight basketball is a form of neoliberal social policy that reinforces existing racial and economic inequalities.

Race, Sports, and Neoliberalism

Race and sports have a long and intertwined history in the United States. Sports have been used to both promote and challenge racial stereotypes, and they have been a site of both racial integration and segregation. In recent years, there has been a growing body of research that examines the intersections of race, sports, and neoliberalism.

Neoliberalism is a political and economic ideology that emphasizes the free market, privatization, and deregulation. It has been the dominant economic paradigm in the United States since the 1980s. Neoliberal policies have had a profound impact on social welfare programs and public services, leading to cuts in funding and increased reliance on private sector providers.

The rise of neoliberalism has coincided with a decline in the social safety net and an increase in poverty and inequality. This has had a disproportionate impact on communities of color, who are more likely to live

in poverty and to have less access to quality education, health care, and other essential services.

Sports have been used as a tool of neoliberal social policy in a number of ways. For example, sports have been used to promote individualism and competition, and to encourage people to take responsibility for their own lives. This is consistent with the neoliberal emphasis on self-reliance and the free market.

Sports have also been used to justify increased police presence and surveillance in communities of color. This is often done under the guise of crime prevention, but it can also serve to criminalize young people of color and to reinforce existing racial stereotypes.

Midnight Basketball

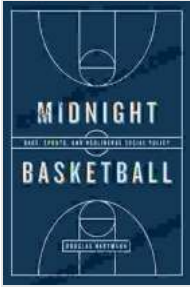
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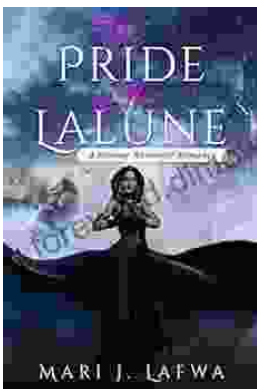


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