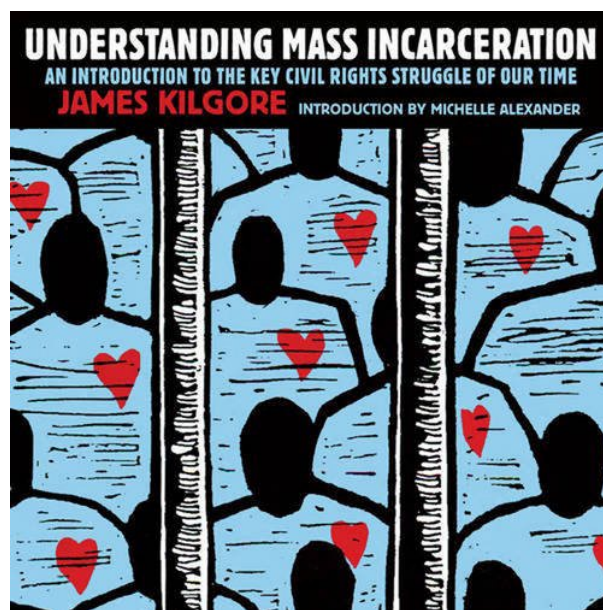
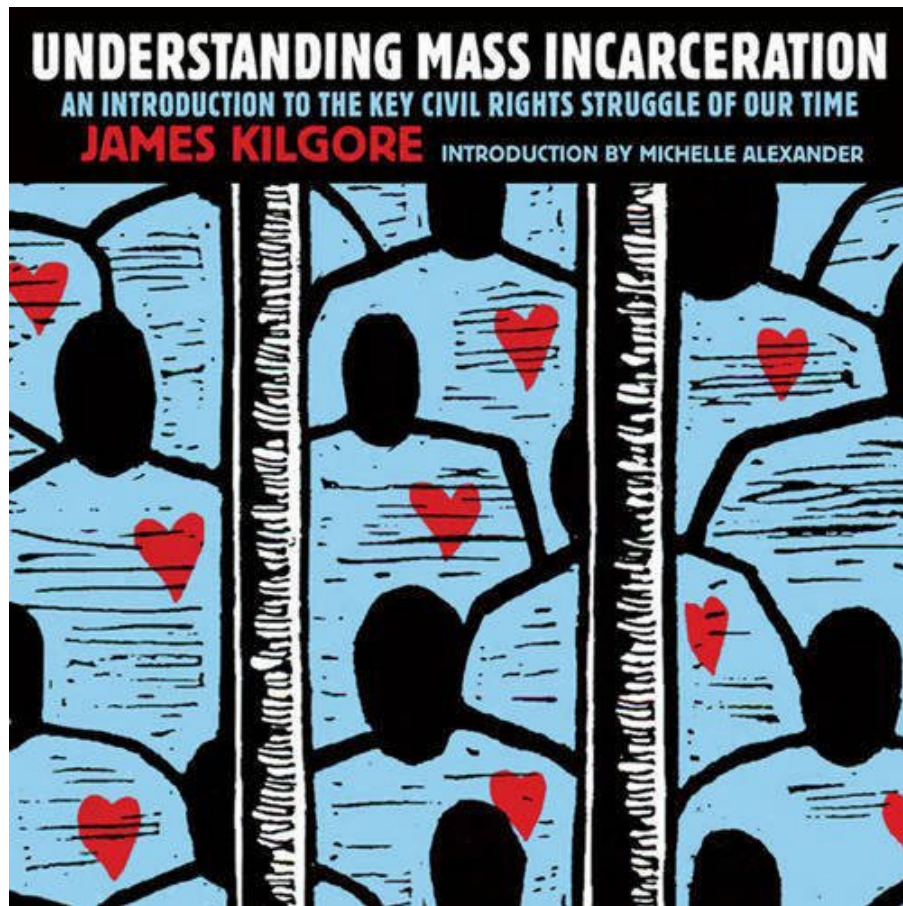


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A PEOPLE'S GUIDE TO THE KEY CIVIL
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Review

Praise for Understanding Mass Incarceration:

“This important polemic from Kilgore presents a grim picture of the U.S. criminal justice system...With stunning statistics and heartbreaking stories, the book reveals how the system prevents individuals and their families from moving beyond incarceration.”

—Publishers Weekly

“[A] graphically pleasing, very readable, emotionally and intellectually engaging work. It is concise, fairly complete, and quite convincing in its presentation of the facts surround the inhumane and socially destructive policy of mass incarceration.”

—Counterpunch

"James Kilgore is one of my favorite commentators regarding the phenomenon of mass incarceration and the necessity of pursuing truly transformative change. Understanding Mass Incarceration provides an excellent, much-needed introduction to the racial, political, and economic dimensions of mass incarceration, as well as a brilliant overview of the competing schools of thought regarding what must be done to end it."

—Michelle Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow*

"Useful for anyone with a horse in the race regarding law enforcement—in other words, most American citizens."

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About the Author

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We all know that orange is the new black and mass incarceration is the new Jim Crow, but how much do we actually know about the structure, goals, and impact of our criminal justice system? Understanding Mass Incarceration offers the first comprehensive overview of the incarceration apparatus put in place by the world's largest jailer: the United States.

Drawing on a growing body of academic and professional work, Understanding Mass Incarceration describes in plain English the many competing theories of criminal justice—from rehabilitation to retribution, from restorative justice to justice reinvestment. In a lively and accessible style, author James Kilgore illuminates the difference between prisons and jails, probation and parole, laying out key concepts and policies such as the War on Drugs, broken windows policing, three-strikes sentencing, the school-to-prison pipeline, recidivism, and prison privatization. Informed by the crucial lenses of race and gender, he addresses issues typically omitted from the discussion: the rapidly increasing incarceration of women, Latinos, and transgender people; the growing imprisonment of immigrants; and the devastating impact of mass incarceration on communities.

Both field guide and primer, Understanding Mass Incarceration will be an essential resource for those engaged in criminal justice activism as well as those new to the subject.

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Most helpful customer reviews

11 of 12 people found the following review helpful.

Wonderful book for understanding one of the most important social

By Bryan Hwu

Whether you know nothing about mass incarceration or have an advanced understanding of mass incarceration, this book is for you. Kilgore does a beautiful job of composing this book in a way that is absolutely approachable and could even be a fast read for some. However, don't let this approachable style fool you. The text is rich with perspective. Kilgore presents the complexity of mass incarceration in a way that is balanced and informative. Yet, the message of this text is not lost. And that message is that mass incarceration is truly the civil rights struggle of our time and it is our urgent responsibility to critically engage with it.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Looking for something to help put the US prison system in context? This is a superb introduction

By Alan Mills

This is a great introduction to mass incarceration. A good overview, a few stories, and enough facts and figures so you are armed with facts, but not so many to bog down the narrative.

Kilgore also does a great job exploring the causes of the growth of the system, deconstructing the term "Prison Industrial Complex," and exploring alternatives, including restorative justice, transformative justice, and abolition.

Final note: It took me a month to finish this book. During that month I visited 6 prisons, and reading about prisons was not exactly the best way to unwind at the end of a long, emotionally draining day of visiting prisons. But doing so puts the immediacy of the horrors I saw everyday in perfect context. It is a good, quick read.

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

Great read on important subject

By Stephen Kaufman

Kilgore has an amazing talent for gathering and presenting the facts on this important subject. His lucid, economic writing style and the unique formatting of this book kept my attention cover to cover. An important read for every taxpayer who wonders where their tax dollars are going and more so for anyone concerned with judicial justice and incarceration. He writes from the heart and head.

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