

# Police and Power in America: A Comprehensive Examination

The relationship between police and power in America is a complex and multifaceted one. It is a relationship that has been shaped by centuries of history, social change, and political struggle. In recent years, the issue of police and power has come to the forefront of public debate, as a series of high-profile incidents have raised questions about the use of force by police and the treatment of minority communities.



## Our Enemies in Blue: Police and Power in America

by Kristian Williams

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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This article will explore the history of police and power in America, examining the different ways in which police have been used to maintain social control and the impact that this has had on communities of color. We will also discuss the current state of police and power in America, and the challenges that we face in reforming the system.

## The History of Police and Power in America

The first police departments in America were established in the early 19th century. These departments were primarily responsible for maintaining order in urban areas, and they were often used to suppress dissent and protect the interests of the wealthy and powerful.

As the United States expanded westward, the role of the police changed. In the frontier towns and territories, police were often responsible for enforcing the law and protecting settlers from Native Americans and other threats.

The Civil War and the Reconstruction era saw a significant increase in the power of the police. During this time, police were used to suppress black civil rights activists and to enforce segregation.

In the early 20th century, the police played a key role in suppressing labor movements and radical political organizations. Police were also used to enforce Prohibition, which led to widespread corruption and violence.

The civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s brought about a new era of police and power in America. Police were used to suppress peaceful protests and to harass and intimidate civil rights activists.

In the years since the civil rights movement, the relationship between police and power has continued to evolve. Police have become increasingly militarized, and they have been given more power to stop, question, and search people.

### **The Impact of Police and Power on Communities of Color**

The use of police power has had a devastating impact on communities of color in America. Police have been used to suppress dissent, enforce

segregation, and target black and brown people for arrest and imprisonment.

The mass incarceration of black and brown people is one of the most pressing civil rights issues facing our country today. In 2016, African Americans made up 37% of the prison population, even though they only make up 13% of the general population.

The use of excessive force by police is another major problem facing communities of color. In 2015, black people were three times more likely to be killed by police than white people, even though they are less likely to be armed.

The impact of police and power on communities of color is a complex and multifaceted one. It is a relationship that has been shaped by centuries of history, social change, and political struggle. The use of police power has had a devastating impact on communities of color, and it is a problem that we must address.

## **The Current State of Police and Power in America**

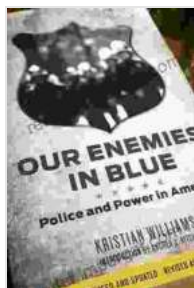
The current state of police and power in America is a complex and challenging one. Police are facing increasing scrutiny and criticism, and there is a growing demand for reform.

There are a number of different proposals for reforming the police. Some people believe that we need to reduce the number of police officers and invest more in social programs. Others believe that we need to better train police officers in de-escalation techniques and cultural sensitivity.

There is no easy solution to the problem of police and power in America. However, it is a problem that we must address. We need to have a national conversation about the role of police in our society, and we need to work together to develop solutions that will make our communities safer and more just.

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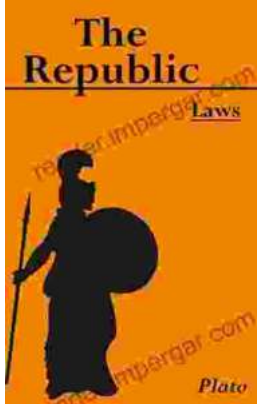
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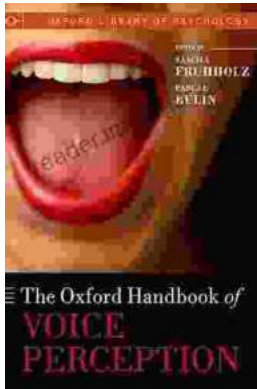
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