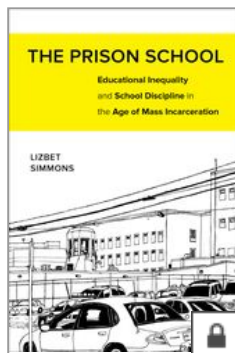


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Prison School: Educational Inequality and School Discipline in the Age of Mass Incarceration

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Public Schools in a Punitive Era

Lizbet Simmons

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This chapter first charts the complex dynamics that have pushed students from school and pulled them toward the criminal justice system, setting up the terms of a black prison diaspora that are maintained throughout the book. It then argues that harsh school disciplinary policies, emerging from the punishing culture of the War on Crime era, curtail youth academic achievement and accelerate incarceration risk in the African American community. It describes how the concentrated effect of punishment has a destabilizing effect on the African American community and the American democratic project as a whole, while benefiting larger social, political, and economic strategies in a neoliberal and postindustrial context.

Keywords: public schools, black prison diaspora, War on Crime, African American community, punishment

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