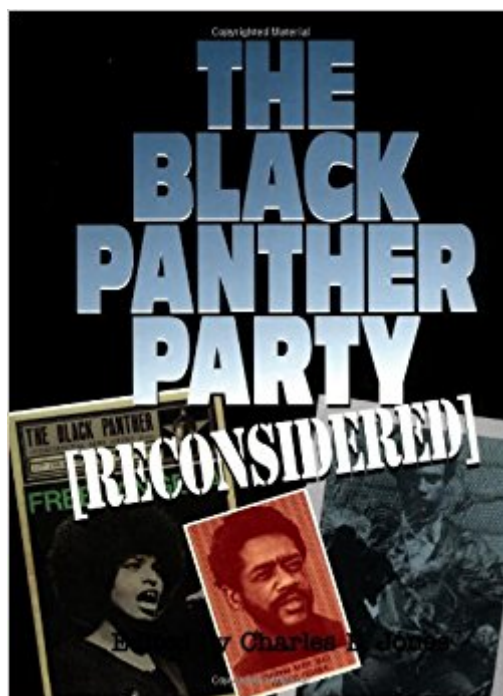


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The Black Panther Party [Reconsidered]



Synopsis

This new collection of essays, contributed by scholars and former Panthers, is a ground-breaking work that offers thought-provoking and pertinent observations about the many facets of the Party. By placing the perspectives of participants and scholars side by side, Dr. Jones presents an insider view and initiates a vital dialogue that is absent from most historical studies.

Book Information

Hardcover: 350 pages

Publisher: Black Classic Press (February 10, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0933121962

ISBN-13: 978-0933121966

Product Dimensions: 9.6 x 6.5 x 1.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,461,992 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #148 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Race Relations > General](#) #761 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Ideologies & Doctrines > Radicalism](#) #868 in [Books > History > Americas > United States > African Americans > History](#)

Customer Reviews

This is the first book to attempt to discuss the legacy of the Black Panther Party. The fact that a second book, *Liberation, Imagination and the Black Panther Party*, managed to continue the work begun here without significant overlap shows what a rich legacy it was. One essay, "The Black Panthers and the 'Undiscovered Country' of the Left" proposes the novel idea that the Panthers had begun to emulate many aspects of an emerging nation-state by taking on the functions of providing services for the community, setting up independent relations with other nations, etc.. While this seemed to be unintentional, it does suggest the larger potential of the Party. It's important to realize that there were many Black Panther "chapters" that were inspired by the Oakland Panthers but developed autonomously and had different levels of political development. The Oakland BPP attempted to gather them all into one big centralized organization but had neither the political experience, or the time [they were attacked by city, state and federal governments almost from day one] to properly pull it together. The essays by some of the ex-Party members in this volume provide great insight into the different ways in which the BPP were able to speak to local Black

communities while encapsulating the grievances and hopes common to them all. The one weakness of the book is its defensiveness. The city, state and federal governments used the Panthers' militant politics and gun imagery to portray them as reckless thugs who covered up their criminal tendencies with political rhetoric. The authors in this book attempt to refute that by emphasizing the community organizing aspects of the BPP such as the free breakfast programs.

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