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Hip-hop Revolution: The Culture And Politics Of Rap.

By Ogbar, Jeffrey O. G.

niversity Press of Kansas Lawrence, 2009. Softcover. Condition: New. 236 pages. Softcover. New book. BLACKS. Winner of the W. E. B. Du Bois Book Prize, North East Black Studies Alliance. In the world of hip-hop, "keeping it real" has always been a primary goal—and realness takes on special meaning as rappers mold their images for street cred and increasingly measure authenticity by ghetto-centric notions of "Who's badder?" In this groundbreaking book, Jeffrey O. G. Ogbar celebrates hip-hop and confronts the cult of authenticity that defines its essential character—that dictates how performers walk, talk, and express themselves artistically and also influences the consumer market. Hip-Hop Revolution is a balanced cultural history that looks past negative stereotypes of hip-hop as a monolith of hedonistic, unthinking noise to reveal its evolving positive role within American society. A writer who's personally encountered many of hip-hop's icons, Ogbar traces hip-hop's rise as a cultural juggernaut, focusing on how it negotiates its own sense of identity. He especially explores the lyrical world of rap as artists struggle to define what realness means in an art where class, race, and gender are central to expressions of authenticity—and how this realness is articulated in a society dominated by...



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Jeffrey Ogbonna Green Ogbar. *Hip-Hop Revolution: The Culture and Politics of Rap*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2007. 236 pp. \$29.95 (cloth), ISBN 978-0-7006-1547-6. Ogbar begins his work by aligning hip-hop with other forms of racialized cultural production in the United States, demonstrating their inextricable link to earlier representations of black pathology. Chapter 1 opens with a look at popular representations of minstrelsy in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and the black anti-hero in 1970s black exploitation cinema. These twinned figures fundamentally shape hip-hop, combining to become "the real nigga"--the most commercially and financially viable rap figure for white and non-white audiences alike. *Hip-Hop Revolution* compellingly examines race, gender, authenticity, and this African American generation's quest for true democracy and liberation.

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