

# A Lynching in the Heartland

*Race and Memory in America*

James H. Madison



# Lynching In The Heartland

**Ashraf H. A. Rushdy**



## **Lynching In The Heartland:**

**A Lynching in the Heartland** NA NA,2016-04-30 On a hot summer night in 1930 three black teenagers accused of murdering a young white man and raping his girlfriend waited for justice in an Indiana jail A mob dragged them from the jail and lynched two of them No one in Marion Indiana was ever punished for the murders In this gripping account James H Madison refutes the popular perception that lynching was confined to the South and clarifies 20th century America s painful encounters with race justice and memory

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**The End of American Lynching** Ashraf H. A. Rushdy,2012-06-18 The End of American Lynching questions how we think about the dynamics of lynching what lynchings mean to the society in which they occur how lynching is defined and the circumstances that lead to lynching Ashraf H A Rushdy looks at three lynchings over the course of the twentieth century one in Coatesville Pennsylvania in 1911 one in Marion Indiana in 1930 and one in Jasper Texas in 1998 to see how Americans developed two distinct ways of thinking and talking about this act before and after the 1930s One way takes seriously the legal and moral concept of complicity as a way to understand the dynamics of a lynching this way of thinking can give us new perceptions into the meaning of mobs and the lynching photographs in which we find them Another way which developed in the 1940s and continues to influence us today uses a strategy of denial to claim that lynchings have ended Rushdy examines how the denial of lynching emerged and developed providing insight into how and why we talk about lynching the way we do at the dawn of the twenty first century In doing so he forces us to confront our responsibilities as American citizens and as human beings

*Lynching Photographs* Dora Apel,Shawn Michelle Smith,2007 A lucid smart engaging and accessible introduction to the impact of lynching photography on the history of race and violence in America Grace Elizabeth Hale author of Making Whiteness The Culture of Segregation in America 1890 1940 With admirable courage Dora Apel and Shawn Michelle Smith examine lynching photographs that are horrifying shameful and elusive with admirable sensitivity they help us delve into the meaning and legacy of these difficult images They show us how the images change when viewed from different perspectives they reveal how the photographs have continued to affect popular culture and political debates and they delineate how the pictures produce a dialectic of shame and atonement Ashraf H A Rushdy author of Neo Slave Narratives and Remembering Generations This thoughtful and engaging book offers a highly accessible yet theoretically sophisticated discussion of a painful complicated and unavoidable subject Apel and Smith employing complementary and sometimes overlapping methodological approaches to reading these images impress upon us how inextricable photography and lynching are and how

we cannot comprehend lynching without making sense of its photographic representations Leigh Raiford co editor of *The Civil Rights Movement in American Memory* Our newspapers have recently been filled with photographs of mutilated tortured bodies from both war fronts and domestic arenas How do we understand such photographs Why do people take them Why do we look at them The two essays by Apel and Smith address photographs of lynching but their analysis can be applied to a broader spectrum of images presenting ritual or spectacle killings Frances Pohl author of *Framing America A Social History of American Art* *Ethics and Images of Pain* Asbjørn Grønstad, Henrik Gustafsson, 2012 Few phenomena are as formative of our experience of the visual world as displays of suffering But what does it mean to have an ethical experience of disturbing or traumatizing images What kind of ethical proposition does an image of pain mobilize How may the spectator learn from and make use of the painful image as a source of ethical reflection Engaging with a wide range of visual media from painting theatre and sculpture to photography film and video this interdisciplinary collection of essays by leading and emerging scholars of visual culture offers a reappraisal of the increasingly complex relationship between images of pain and the ethics of viewing *Ethics and Images of Pain* reconsiders the persistent and ever pertinent nexus of aesthetics and ethics the role of painful images as generators of unpredictable forms of affect the moral transformation of spectatorship the ambivalence of the witness and the representation of affliction as a fundamental form of our shared scopic experience The instructive and illuminating essays in the collection introduce a phenomenological context in which to make sense of our current ecology of excruciating images one that accentuates notions of responsibility empathy and imagination Contributors trace the images of pain across a miscellany of case studies and amongst the topics addressed are the work of artists as disparate as Doris Salcedo Anselm Kiefer and Bendik Riis photographs from Abu Ghraib and Rwanda Hollywood war films and animated documentaries performances of self immolations and incidents of police brutality captured on mobile phones

*Our Town* Cynthia Carr, 2006-03-21 The brutal lynching of two young black men in Marion Indiana on August 7 1930 cast a shadow over the town that still lingers It is only one event in the long and complicated history of race relations in Marion a history much ignored and considered by many to be best forgotten But the lynching cannot be forgotten It is too much a part of the fabric of Marion too much ingrained even now in the minds of those who live there In *Our Town* journalist Cynthia Carr explores the issues of race loyalty and memory in America through the lens of a specific hate crime that occurred in Marion but could have happened anywhere Marion is our town America's town and its legacy is our legacy Like everyone in Marion Carr knew the basic details of the lynching even as a child three black men were arrested for attempted murder and rape and two of them were hanged in the courthouse square a fate the third miraculously escaped Meeting James Cameron the man who'd survived led her to examine how the quiet Midwestern town she loved could harbor such dark secrets Spurred by the realization that like her millions of white Americans are intimately connected to this hidden history Carr began an investigation into the events of that night racism in Marion the presence of the Ku Klux Klan past and present in Indiana and

her own grandfather's involvement. She uncovered a pattern of white guilt and indifference of black anger and fear that are the hallmark of race relations across the country. In a sweeping narrative that takes her from the angry energy of a white supremacist rally to the peaceful fields of Weaver once an all black settlement neighboring Marion in search of the good and the bad in the story of race in America Carr returns to her roots to seek out the fascinating people and places that have shaped the town. Her intensely compelling account of the Marion lynching and of her own family's secrets offers a fresh examination of the complex legacy of whiteness in America. Part mystery part history part true crime saga *Our Town* is a riveting read that lays bare a raw and little chronicled facet of our national memory and provides a starting point toward reconciliation with the past. On August 7 1930 three black teenagers were dragged from their jail cells in Marion Indiana and beaten before a howling mob. Two of them were hanged by fate the third escaped. A photo taken that night shows the bodies hanging from the tree but focuses on the faces in the crowd some enraged some laughing and some subdued perhaps already feeling the first pangs of regret. Sixty three years later journalist Cynthia Carr began searching the photo for her grandfather's face.

**Global Lynching and Collective Violence** Michael J. Pfeifer, 2017-09-22. In this second volume of the groundbreaking survey Michael J. Pfeifer edits a collection of essays that illuminates lynching and other extrajudicial rough justice as a transnational phenomenon responding to cultural and legal issues. The volume's European-themed topics explore why three communities of medieval people turned to mob violence and the ways exclusion from formal institutions fueled peasant rough justice in Russia. Essays on Latin America examine how lynching in the United States influenced Brazilian debates on race and informal justice and how shifts in religious and political power drove lynching in twentieth-century Mexico. Finally scholars delve into English Canadians' use of racist and mob violence to craft identity, the Communist Party's Depression-era campaign against lynching in the United States and the transnational links that helped form and later emanated from Wisconsin's notoriously violent skinhead movement in the late twentieth century. Contributors: Brent M. S. Campney, Amy Chazkel, Stephen P. Frank, Dean J. Kotlowski, Michael J. Pfeifer, Gema Santamaría, Ryan Shaffer and Hannah Skoda.

**Lynching in America** Christopher Waldrep, 2006. Ranging from personal correspondence to courtroom transcripts to journalistic accounts, Christopher Waldrep has extensively mined an enormous quantity of documents about lynching, which he arranges chronologically with concise introductions. He reveals that lynching has been part of American history since the Revolution, but its victims, perpetrators, causes, and environments have changed over time. From the American Revolution to the expansion of the western frontier, Waldrep shows how communities defended lynching as a way to maintain law and order. Publisher description: [American Lynching](#) Ashraf H. A. Rushdy, 2012-10-30. A history of lynching in America over the course of three centuries from colonial Virginia to twentieth-century Texas. After observing the varying reactions to the 1998 death of James Byrd Jr. in Texas, called a lynching by some, denied by others, Ashraf Rushdy determined that to comprehend this event he needed to understand the long history of lynching in the United States. In this meticulously

researched and accessibly written interpretive history Rushdy shows how lynching in America has endured evolved and changed in meaning over the course of three centuries from its origins in early Virginia to the present day A work of uncommon breadth written with equally uncommon concision Excellent N D B Connolly Johns Hopkins University Provocative but careful opinionated but persuasive Beyond synthesizing current scholarship he offers a cogent discussion of the evolving definition of lynching the place of lynchers in civil society and the slow in coming end of lynching This book should be the point of entry for anyone interested in the tragic and sordid history of American lynching W Fitzhugh Brundage author of Lynching in the New South Georgia and Virginia 1880 1930 A sophisticated and thought provoking examination of the historical relationship between the American culture of lynching and the nation s political traditions This engaging and wide ranging meditation on the connection between democracy lynching freedom and slavery will be of interest to those in and outside of the academy William Carrigan Rowan University In this sobering account Rushdy makes clear that the cultural values that authorize racial violence are woven into the very essence of what it means to be American This book helps us make sense of our past as well as our present Jonathan Holloway Yale University

**Coatesville and the Lynching of Zachariah Walker** Dennis B Downey, Raymond M. Hyser, 2012-10-02 A compelling narrative that moves crisply through the murder the lynching and the cover up by silence that local residents thereafter affected The Journal of American History On a warm August night in 1911 Zachariah Walker was lynched burned alive by an angry mob on the outskirts of Coatesville a prosperous Pennsylvania steel town At the time of his very public murder Walker an African American millworker was under arrest for the shooting and killing of a respected local police officer Investigated by the NAACP the horrific incident garnered national and international attention Despite this scrutiny a conspiracy of silence shrouded the events and the accused men and boys were found not guilty at trial More than 100 years after the lynching authors Dennis B Downey and Raymond M Hyser bring new insight to events that rocked a community

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