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The Myth of Mob Rule: Violent Crime and Democratic Politics (Hardback)

By Lisa Lynn Miller

Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 2016. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 216 x 148 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Scholars and lay persons alike routinely express concern about the capacity of democratic publics to respond rationally to emotionally charged issues such as crime, particularly when race and class biases are invoked. This is especially true in the United States, which has the highest imprisonment rate in the developed world, the result, many argue, of too many opportunities for elected officials to be highly responsive to public opinion. Limiting the power of democratic publics, in this view, is an essential component of modern governance precisely because of the risk that broad democratic participation can encourage impulsive, irrational and even murderous demands. These claims about panic-prone mass publics-about the dangers of mob rule -are widespread and are the central focus of Lisa L. Miller s The Myth of Mob Rule. Are democratic majorities easily drawn to crime as a political issue, even when risk of violence is low? Do they support rational alternatives to wholly repressive practices, or are they essentially the bellua multorum capitum, the many-headed beast, winnowing problems of crime and violence down to inexorably harsh retributive justice?...



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