Kevin J. Mumford. *Not Straight, Not White: Black Gay Men from the March on Washington to the AIDS Crisis*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2016. Pp.259. Hardcover. $30.95.

Kevin J. Mumford, a History Professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, addresses black gay men's struggles and the cultural battles they faced to overcome the stigma of race and homosexuality in the 1950s to the 1990s. Mumford identifies himself as a black gay man and wanted to demonstrates the hostile and dangerous social and political movements black gay men navigated to create a pivotal role in the Civil Rights Movement through the devastating rise of the AIDS epidemic because he found that there was not sufficient material on the intersections of homophobia and racism. He analyzes the erasure of black queer histories and how they continue to be oppressed by American culture, including within African American communities. Despite the extensive efforts to make black queer voices known in history, they are still overshadowed by the white-centered gay narratives in the field of Queer Studies. Despite the actual contributions of people of color to the beginning of the gay liberation, they are unable to identify with the history of the movement. Mumford explains in detail how the alienation of black gay men affected the way history remembers their achievements and accomplishment in American history.

Therefore, Mumford's research makes an excellent effort to remedy the overlooked histories of black queer men. His extensive historical study highlights the lives of established and unfamiliar black gay activists such as James Baldwin and Bayard Rustin to Joseph Beam and Brother Grant-Michael Fitzgerald to show how their importance and influence helped shape the movements for social change, which inspired and socially isolated them. Mumford's argument relies on a wide range of primary and secondary archival sources, which vary from organizations, activists, performers, and writers' personal records to numerous newspapers, magazines, films, pornography, and government documents.

Not Straight, Not White is chronologically and thematically structured into eight chapters. The author guides the reader through the major movements of Civil Rights, Black

Nationalism, Prison Culture, and ends with the AIDS crisis. Although the book holds a limited geographic scope, mainly focused on New York, Philadelphia, Washington D.C, and other parts of the East coast, Mumford adds a positive value by including an honorary mention of black lesbian leaders and their influence on black gay men. Ultimately *Not Straight, Not White* succeeds in exploring the countless ways black gay men contributed to social change and how their overlooked history empowered a lifetime of social justice for all Americans. Audiences interested in studying race and African American civil rights will enjoy reading this book, which is appropriate for both academic and general readers.

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