

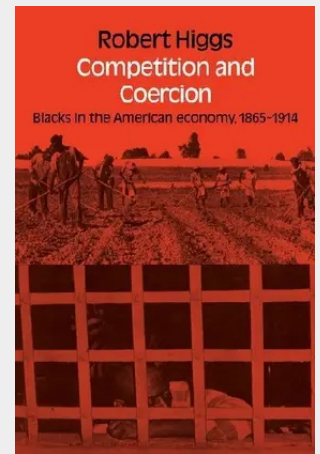
Higgs

Competition and Coercion

Blacks in the American Economy 1865-1914

Competition and Coercion: Blacks in the American economy, 1865-1914 is a reinterpretation of black economic history in the half-century after Emancipation. Its central theme is that economic competition and racial coercion jointly determined the material condition of the blacks. The book identifies a number of competitive processes that played important roles in protecting blacks from the racial coercion to which they were peculiarly vulnerable. It also documents the substantial economic gains realized by the black population between 1865 and 1914. Professor Higgs's account is iconoclastic. It seeks to reorganize the present conceptualization of the period and to redirect future study of black economic history in the post-Emancipation period. It raises new questions and suggests new answers to old questions, asserting that some of the old questions are misleadingly framed or not worth pursuing at all.

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47,10 €

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Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9780521088404

Medium: Buch

ISBN: 978-0-521-08840-4

Verlag: Cambridge University Press

Erscheinungstermin: 29.07.2008

Sprache(n): Englisch

Auflage: Erscheinungsjahr 2008

Produktform: Kartoniert

Gewicht: 365 g

Seiten: 220

Format (B x H): 152 x 229 mm

