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Author Robin Bernstein Published On December
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Racial Innocence Performing American Childhood

Bernstein argues that children's play -- with, for example, Uncle Tom's Cabin memorabilia or topsy-turvy dolls -- helped to create

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a dichotomous view of childhood in which white kids were innocent, pure and sensitive and black kids were sly, tough and impure.

Racial Innocence: Performing American Childhood from ...

Racial Innocence: Performing American Childhood from Slavery to Civil Rights. by. Robin Bernstein (Goodreads Author) 4.43 · Rating details · 91 ratings · 8 reviews. Beginning in the mid-19th century in America, childhood became synonymous with innocence—a reversal of the previously-dominant Calvinist belief that children were depraved, sinful creatures.

Racial Innocence: Performing American Childhood from ...

Bernstein's powerful account of how the sentimental ideology of childhood innocence, and particularly its highly gendered manifestations, function to articulate racial hierarchies gives strong and detailed evidence for how paying attention to

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childhood serves to refocus many all too familiar, and troublesome, facets of American culture.

Racial Innocence: Performing American Childhood from ...

Robin Bernstein's impeccably researched book sets out to reveal the racial violence embedded in one of American culture's most cherished myths: the innocence of childhood. In the process, Bernstein acknowledges and offers a theoretical remedy for the difficulties of engaging the child as a historical and cultural actor.

Racial Innocence: Performing American Childhood from ...

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Racial Innocence: Performing American Childhood and Race ...

In *Racial Innocence*, Robin Bernstein argues that the concept of "childhood innocence" has been central to U.S. racial formation since the mid-nineteenth century. Children--white ones imbued with innocence, black ones excluded from it, and others of color erased by it--figured pivotally in sharply divergent racial agendas from slavery and abolition to antiblack violence and the early civil rights movement.

Racial Innocence: Performing American Childhood from ...

Racial Innocence. Book Description: Beginning in the mid nineteenth century in America, childhood became synonymous with innocence--a reversal of the previously-dominant Calvinist belief that children were depraved, sinful creatures. As the idea

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of childhood innocence took hold, it became racialized: popular culture constructed white children as innocent and vulnerable while excluding black youth from these qualities.

Racial Innocence: Performing American Childhood from ...

Part of the American Literatures Initiative Series Beginning in the mid nineteenth century in America, childhood became synonymous with innocence--a reversal of the previously-dominant Calvinist...

Racial Innocence: Performing American Childhood from ...

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Racial Innocence - NYU Press

(Racial Innocence: Performing American Childhood from Slavery to Civil Rights, p. 59) The Times 's reference to Michael Brown as "no angel" is so deeply hurtful because it extends a historical libel that African Americans, and African American children in particular, cannot be innocent.

Racial Innocence

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Racial Innocence: Performing American Childhood from ...

Racial Innocence: Performing American Childhood from Slavery to Civil Rights (America and the Long 19th Century) Paperback – 1 Dec. 2011. by. Robin Bernstein (Author) > Visit Amazon's Robin Bernstein Page. search results for this author.

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Racial Innocence: What I've Learned: Three Steps to ...

The performance of racial innocence is embodied by the act of forgetting as the domain of innocent childhood play contains anxieties regarding racial mixing and social hierarchy. Equally illuminating is Bernstein's account of the Raggedy Ann doll.

Racial Innocence: Performing American Childhood from ...

She engaged in dialogue with organizer and moderator Grace L.

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Chen '15 about ideas like this in Bernstein's new book, "Racial Innocence: Performing American Childhood from Civil Rights to ...

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african american studies; Racial Innocence; Racial Innocence Performing American Childhood from Slavery to Civil Rights America and the Long 19th Century. by Robin Bernstein. ... 2012 Winner of the Lois P. Rudnick Book Prize presented by the New England American Studies Association .

Racial Innocence - NYU Press

contends that they comprise a repertoire of performances about how childhood innocence in the nineteenth and twentieth-century United States was 'raced white' (p.8). In her recent book, Bernstein uses social artifacts such as dolls, illustrations, theater props, figurines, texts, and

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