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Imperial Blues: Geographies of Race and Sex in Jazz Age New York

By Fiona I. B. Ngo

Duke University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Imperial Blues: Geographies of Race and Sex in Jazz Age New York, Fiona I. B. Ngo, In this path breaking study, Fiona I. B. Ngo examines how geographies of U.S. empire were perceived and enacted during the 1920s and 1930s. Focusing on New York during the height of the Harlem Renaissance, Ngo traces the city's multiple circuits of jazz music and culture. In considering this cosmopolitan milieu, where migrants from the Philippines, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Japan, and China crossed paths with blacks and white "slummers" in dancehalls and speakeasies, she investigates imperialism's profound impact on racial, gendered, and sexual formations. As nightclubs overflowed with the sights and sounds of distant continents, tropical islands, and exotic bodies, tropes of empire provided both artistic possibilities and policing rationales. These renderings naturalized empire and justified expansion, while establishing transnational modes of social control within and outside the imperial city. Ultimately, Ngo argues that domestic structures of race and sex during the 1920s and 1930s cannot be understood apart from the imperial ambitions of the United States.



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