



The Critical Reception of Barack Obama in American Rap Music

By Florian Arleth

GRIN Verlag. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 28 pages. Dimensions: 8.5in. x 5.5in. x 0.1in. Seminar paper from the year 2009 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Culture and Applied Geography, grade: 1, 3, University of Heidelberg (Anglistisches Seminar), language: English, abstract: Traditionally, hip-hop culture has been very skeptical of American government. Much hip-hop music . . . serves a sort of watchdog function (Riggs, Tectonic). Since groups like Boogie Down Productions and Public Enemy introduced political rap music during the late Eighties, a certain branch of this sub culture took over the mission they inherited from their predecessors, namely artists like Gil Scott Heron and groups like the Last Poets. Those rap musicians consider their task as artists to give expression to their function as part of the national conscience. Lyrics from different artist range from anti-American to revolutionary to more sobering ideas that encourage listeners to simply stay aware and involved (Riggs, Obama). What they all have in common is that they were more often than not directed at American presidents. The list of examples is long and even dates back to the Reagan-era, but especially George W. Bush was a very prominent target. It can...



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