



Groping Toward Democracy: African American Social Welfare Reform in St. Louis, 1910-1949 (Hardback)

By Priscilla A. Dowden-White

University of Missouri Press, United States, 2011. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Decades before the 1960s, social reformers began planting the seeds for the Modern Civil Rights era. During the period spanning World Wars I and II, St. Louis, Missouri, was home to a dynamic group of African American social welfare reformers. The city's history and culture were shaped both by those who would construct it as a southern city and by the heirs of New England abolitionism. Allying with white liberals to promote the era's new emphasis on the common good, black reformers confronted racial segregation and its consequences of inequality and, in doing so, helped to determine the gradual change in public policy that led to a more inclusive social order. In *Groping toward Democracy: African American Social Welfare Reform in St. Louis, 1910-1949*, historian Priscilla A. Dowden-White presents an on-the-ground view of local institution building and community organizing campaigns initiated by African American social welfare reformers. Through extensive research, the author places African American social welfare reform efforts within the vanguard of interwar community and neighborhood organization, reaching beyond the racial uplift and behavior models of the studies preceding hers. She...



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