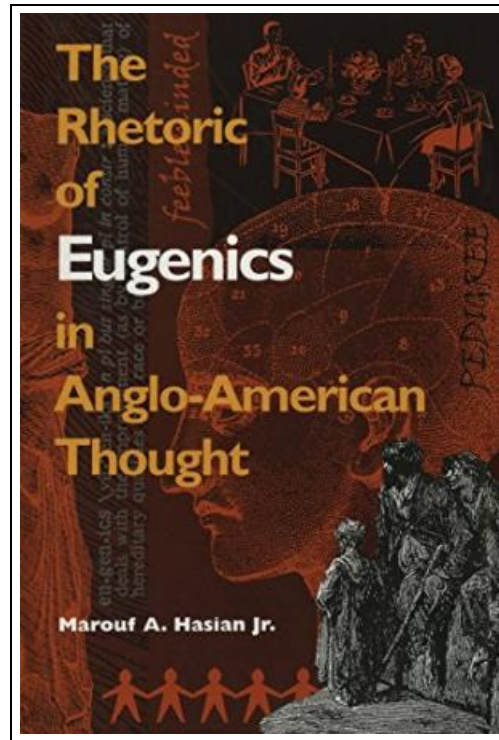


Rhetoric of Eugenics in Anglo-American Thought (Paperback)



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RHETORIC OF EUGENICS IN ANGLO-AMERICAN THOUGHT (PAPERBACK)



University of Georgia Press, United States, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Ranging in subject from England's poor laws to the Human Genome Project, *The Rhetoric of Eugenics in Anglo-American Thought* is one of the first books to look at the history and development of the eugenics movement in Anglo-American culture. Unlike other works that focus on the movement's historical aberrancies or the claims of its hardline proponents, this study highlights the often unnoticed ways in which the language and ideas of eugenics have permeated democratic discourse. Marouf A. Hasian, Jr. not only examines the attempts of philosophers, scientists, and politicians to balance the rights of the individual against the duties of the state, but also shows how African Americans, Catholics, women, and other communities--dominant and marginalized--have appropriated or confronted the rhetoric of eugenics. Hasian contends that eugenics is an ambiguous term that has allowed people to voice their concerns on a number of social issues--a form of discourse that influences the way ordinary citizens make sense of their material and spiritual world. While biological determinism and social necessity are discussed in the works of Plato, Malthus, and Darwin, among others, with theories ranging from equality for all to natural superiority, it is Galton's observations on positive and negative eugenics that have been widely used to justify a variety of social and political projects--including the sterilization and segregation of the unfit, immigration restrictions, marriage regulations, substance abuse, physical and mental testing, and the establishment of health programs that sought to improve hygiene. Women, African Americans, and other marginalized communities, for instance, have at times lost reproductive rights in the name of liberty, opportunity, or necessity.



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