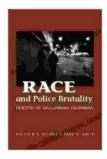
# Roots of an Urban Dilemma: SUNY in Deviance and Social Control

The State University of New York (SUNY) system is the largest comprehensive state university system in the United States, with 64 campuses across New York State. SUNY has a long and complex history of dealing with deviance and social control, a history that is rooted in the university's urban origins.

In this article, we will explore the roots of SUNY's urban dilemma, examining the historical, social, and political factors that have shaped the university's relationship with deviance and social control. We will also discuss the current challenges facing SUNY in addressing deviance and social control, and we will propose some possible solutions.



# Race and Police Brutality: Roots of an Urban Dilemma (SUNY series in Deviance and Social Control)

by Malcolm D. Holmes

↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ 4.2 out of 5

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X-Ray for textbooks : Enabled



### **Historical Roots**

SUNY was founded in 1848 as the University of the State of New York. The university's original mission was to provide affordable, accessible higher education to the citizens of New York State. However, the university's urban origins soon presented a significant challenge to this mission.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, New York City was a hotbed of crime and deviance. The city's slums were filled with poverty, disease, and violence. And as SUNY expanded its presence in New York City, it increasingly came into contact with the city's criminal element.

This contact between SUNY and deviance led to a number of tensions and conflicts. For example, in 1903, SUNY's president, Charles A. Gardiner, was forced to resign after he was accused of accepting bribes from organized crime figures. And in 1910, SUNY's campus in the Bronx was the site of a violent riot that left one student dead.

These incidents reflected the growing tension between SUNY's mission of providing higher education and its need to maintain order and control on its campuses. In the years that followed, SUNY would continue to struggle with this tension, as it sought to balance its commitment to providing access to higher education with its need to ensure the safety and security of its students and faculty.

### **Social Roots**

In addition to its historical roots, SUNY's urban dilemma is also rooted in the social and economic conditions of the communities it serves. Many of SUNY's campuses are located in low-income, minority communities. These communities are often plagued by poverty, crime, and social disorganization.

These social conditions can contribute to deviance and social control problems on SUNY campuses. For example, students who come from low-income, minority communities are more likely to experience poverty, homelessness, and food insecurity. These factors can make it difficult for students to succeed in college, and they can also lead to students engaging in risky behavior, such as drug use, theft, and violence.

In addition, the social conditions of SUNY's communities can also make it difficult for the university to maintain order and control on its campuses. For example, in 2015, SUNY's campus in Buffalo was the site of a mass shooting. The shooter was a former SUNY student who had a history of mental illness. This incident highlighted the challenges that SUNY faces in keeping its campuses safe, in part due to the social conditions of the communities it serves.

#### **Political Roots**

Finally, SUNY's urban dilemma is also rooted in political factors. The university is a state-run institution, and it is subject to the political winds that blow through Albany. In recent years, the state government has increasingly pressured SUNY to crack down on deviance and social control on its campuses.

This pressure has led to a number of changes in SUNY's policies and procedures. For example, in 2014, SUNY implemented a new code of conduct that increased the penalties for students who engage in disruptive behavior. And in 2016, SUNY created a new Office of Campus Safety and Security to oversee safety and security on its campuses.

These changes have been controversial. Some critics argue that they have made SUNY campuses less welcoming to students of color. And others argue that they have not done enough to address the root causes of deviance and social control problems on SUNY campuses.

## **Current Challenges**

SUNY continues to face a number of challenges in addressing deviance and social control on its campuses. These challenges include:

- \* The social and economic conditions of the communities that SUNY serves
- \* The political pressure to crack down on crime and disorder \* The need to balance the university's commitment to providing access to higher education with its need to ensure the safety and security of its students and faculty

#### **Possible Solutions**

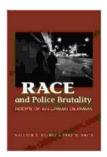
There are a number of possible solutions to the challenges facing SUNY in addressing deviance and social control on its campuses. These solutions include:

\* Investing in programs and services that address the root causes of deviance and social control problems, such as poverty, homelessness, and food insecurity \* Providing more support to students who come from low-income, minority communities \* Rethinking the university's approach to safety and security, with a focus on prevention and community policing \* Advocating for changes in state policy that would support SUNY's efforts to address deviance and social control problems

SUNY's urban dilemma is a complex and long-standing problem. The university's history, its social context, and its political environment have all contributed to the challenges that SUNY faces in addressing deviance and social control on its campuses. However, SUNY is not alone in facing these challenges. All universities that serve urban communities face similar challenges.

There are no easy solutions to the challenges facing SUNY. However, by investing in programs and services that address the root causes of deviance and social control problems, by providing more support to students who come from low-income, minority communities, by rethinking the university's approach to safety and security, and by advocating for changes in state policy, SUNY can make progress in addressing these challenges.

By ng so, SUNY can create safer and more welcoming campuses for all of its students.



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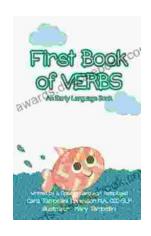
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