

A SOCIAL HISTORY OF RACIAL VIOLENCE

Allen D. Grimshaw, editor

No topic has been discussed at greater length or with more vigor than the racial confrontations of the 1960s. Events of these years left behind hundreds dead; thousands injured and arrested, property damage beyond toll, and a population both outraged and conscience stricken. *A Social History of Racial Violence* places the events of the 1960s into historical perspective. The book includes accounts of racial violence from different periods in American history, showing these disturbing events in their historical context and providing suggestive analyses of their social, psychological, and political causes and implications.

Grimshaw includes reports and studies from the slave insurrections of the seventeenth century to urban disturbances of the 1960s. The result is more than a descriptive record. Its contents provide a review of major theoretical points of view. The volume defines patterns in past and present disturbances, isolates empirical generalizations, and samples the substantial body of literature that has attempted to explain this ultimate form of social conflict. It includes selections on the characteristics of rioters, on the ecology of riots, and on the role of law in urban violence, as well as theoretical interpretations developed by psychologists, sociologists, political scientists, and other observers. The resulting volume will help interested readers better understand the violence that accompanied the attempts of black Americans to gain for themselves full equality.

About the Editor

Allen D. Grimshaw is professor emeritus of sociology at Indiana University. His teaching focused on social conflict as well as on language and its use in social context. He is the author of *Conflict Talk: Socio-linguistic Investigations of Arguments in Conversations, Collegial Discourse—Professional Conversation among Peers*, and *Language as Social Resource*.