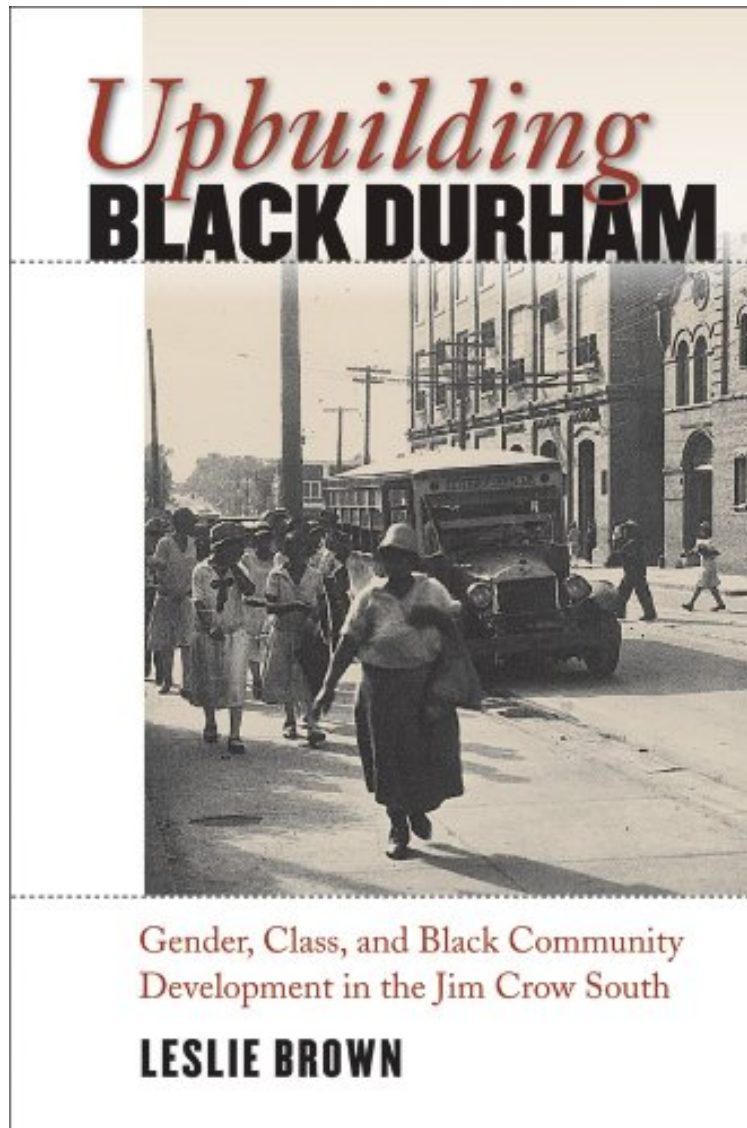


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Upbuilding Black Durham: Gender, Class, and Black Community Development in the Jim Crow South (The John Hope Franklin Series in African American History and Culture)

Leslie Brown

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Leslie Brown : Upbuilding Black Durham: Gender, Class, and Black Community Development in the Jim Crow South (The John Hope Franklin Series in African American History and Culture) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Upbuilding Black Durham: Gender, Class, and

Black Community Development in the Jim Crow South (The John Hope Franklin Series in African American History and Culture):

In the 1910s, both W. E. B. Du Bois and Booker T. Washington praised the black community in Durham, North Carolina, for its exceptional race progress. Migration, urbanization, and industrialization had turned black Durham from a post-Civil War liberation community into the "capital of the black middle class." African Americans owned and operated mills, factories, churches, schools, and an array of retail services, shops, community organizations, and race institutions. Using interviews, narratives, and family stories, Leslie Brown animates the history of this remarkable city from emancipation to the civil rights era, as freedpeople and their descendants struggled among themselves and with whites to give meaning to black freedom. Brown paints Durham in the Jim Crow era as a place of dynamic change where despite common aspirations, gender and class conflicts emerged. Placing African American women at the center of the story, Brown describes how black Durham's multiple constituencies experienced a range of social conditions. Shifting the historical perspective away from seeing solidarity as essential to effective struggle or viewing dissent as a measure of weakness, Brown demonstrates that friction among African Americans generated rather than depleted energy, sparking many activist initiatives on behalf of the black community.

This book follows in a distinguished line of scholarly research providing a strong and in-depth analysis of a local subject that is broad enough to attract readers across interdisciplinary fields. . . . This book is an important addition to the historiography of African American studies. The author skillfully recounts the advocates and activists who engineered the approaches used by the civil right activists during the mid-twentieth century.--American Historical Association
Brown ingeniously frames her history as an evolution of consciousness across generations. . . . A deftly rendered study of a place that once fascinated and bedeviled America's foremost black individuals.--Southern Historian
A well-researched, textured, and eloquent community study that highlights the forms of cooperation and conflict between white and black Durhamites and within Durham's black community.--Journal of Social History
Brown's powerful writing and careful research come alive in the many voices she uses in tracing the development of Durham's black community from emancipation to the early 1940s.--The North Carolina Historical Offer[s] a rich and textured portrait that illuminates many themes in the existing literature. . . . A worthy addition to the mosaic of studies charting the black experience in southern cities and states.--The Journal of American History
Insightful. . . . A study in community transformation and a commentary on gender, race, and class within the African American community. . . . Highly recommended.--Choice
In this meticulously researched and intelligently rendered history of black Durham, Leslie Brown masterfully documents the ways in which the 'capital of the black middle class' was forged through the cooperation of--and conflict between--African American women and men of the elite, aspiring, and working classes. This is a significant achievement and warrants a wide readership.--Martin Summers, University of Texas at Austin, author of *Manliness and Its Discontents: The Black Middle Class and the Transformation of Masculinity, 1900-1930*
About the Author
Leslie Brown is assistant professor of history at Williams College.