

Download Lethal Punishment Lynchings And Legal Executions In The South

In rural northwest Tennessee, lynchings outnumbered legal executions by eleven to one and many African Americans were lynched for racial caste offenses rather than for actual crimes. In contrast, in Shelby County, which included the growing city of Memphis, more men were legally executed than lynched. The patterns of lynchings and executions in the seven counties of northwest Tennessee and in Shelby County reveal no evidence that legal executions replaced mob lynchings. In Marion County, Florida, in contrast, officials ended a long and deeply rooted tradition of illegal hangings by rushing three black men accused of the rape of white women to trial. In this well-researched and timely book, Margaret Vandiver explores the complex relationship between these two forms of lethal punishment, challenging the assumption that executions consistently grew out of-and replaced-lynchings. Why did some offenses in the South end in mob lynchings while similar crimes led to legal executions? Why did still other cases have nonlethal outcomes? In this well-researched and timely book ...