

Chokehold: Policing Black Men Paul Butler

An Urgent Call to Action to End the Deadly Practice of Chokeholds

In his groundbreaking book, "Chokehold: Policing Black Men," Professor Paul Butler exposes the systemic use of chokeholds by police officers against Black men, a practice that has resulted in countless deaths and immeasurable suffering. Through a combination of gripping personal narratives, rigorous data analysis, and incisive legal arguments, Butler paints a damning portrait of a policing system that is biased, brutal, and ultimately deadly.

The Devastating Impact of Chokeholds

Chokeholds, also known as carotid restraints, involve applying pressure to the carotid arteries in the neck, which can restrict blood flow to the brain and lead to unconsciousness or even death. While police officers claim that chokeholds are a necessary use of force to subdue suspects, Butler presents compelling evidence that their use is excessive, unwarranted, and often fatal.

Unarmed Black men are at the highest risk of being killed by chokeholds. According to data collected by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Black men are three times more likely than white men to be killed by police chokeholds.

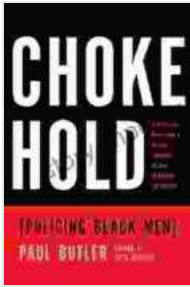
Chokehold: Policing Black Men by Paul Butler

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 4096 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled



Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
X-Ray : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 318 pages



Butler highlights several high-profile cases of Black men who died after being subjected to chokeholds by police officers. These include Eric Garner, a Staten Island man who died in 2014 after being choked by an NYPD officer, and George Floyd, a Minneapolis man who died in 2020 after being kneeled on by a Minneapolis police officer.

The deaths of these men sparked outrage and protests around the world, calling attention to the deadly consequences of chokehold policing. However, despite the public outcry, Butler argues that chokeholds continue to be used with impunity by police departments across the country.

The Systemic Bias of Chokehold Policing

Butler argues that chokehold policing is a manifestation of the systemic racism that pervades the criminal justice system. He shows how police officers are more likely to use chokeholds against Black suspects, even when they are not posing a threat.

This bias is rooted in the racist stereotypes and negative perceptions of Black men that are prevalent in society. Black men are often seen as dangerous, violent, and criminal, which leads police officers to use excessive force against them.

The systemic bias of chokehold policing is also reflected in the fact that police officers who kill Black men using chokeholds are rarely held accountable. In most cases, these officers face no criminal charges or disciplinary action.

The Urgent Need for Reform

Butler calls for an urgent end to the use of chokeholds by police officers. He argues that this deadly practice has no place in a civilized society and that it must be banned outright.

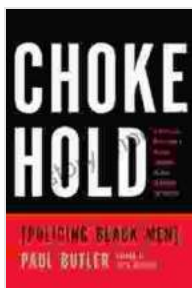
In addition to banning chokeholds, Butler proposes a number of other reforms to address the systemic racism in policing. These reforms include:

- **Increasing diversity in police departments:** Police departments must hire more Black officers and other officers of color to reflect the communities they serve.
- **Implementing bias training for police officers:** Police officers must be trained to recognize and challenge their own biases and to interact with Black people in a respectful and non-threatening manner.
- **Establishing independent civilian oversight of police departments:** Civilian oversight boards can help to ensure that police departments are accountable to the communities they serve.
- **Prosecuting police officers who commit crimes:** Police officers who kill or injure Black people must be held accountable for their actions.

"Chokehold: Policing Black Men" is a powerful and necessary indictment of the deadly practice of chokehold policing. Through his meticulous research

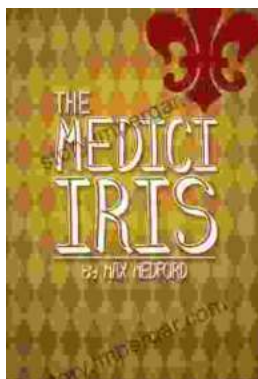
and passionate advocacy, Professor Paul Butler exposes the systemic racism that underlies this practice and calls for urgent reform.

The book is a must-read for anyone who cares about racial justice and the future of policing in America. It is a wake-up call to demand an end to chokehold policing and to build a more just and equitable society for all.



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