

in undergraduate and graduate courses on social stratification, social change, and cultural demography.

— Brij B. Khare  
California State University, San Bernardino

**Jewelle Taylor Gibbs.** *Young, Black and Male in America: An Endangered Species.* (New York: Auburn House, 1988) 363 pp., \$17.95.

This is a collection of summaries of studies conducted over the past decade or more focusing on such problems or problem areas as: Education and Achievement of Young Black Males, Employment and Unemployment of Young Black Males, Delinquency Among Black Male Youth, and Teenage Fathers—Issues Confronting Young Black Males. In fact, the central focus of the studies cited in this anthology are on young black males ranging from their mid-teens to mid-twenties. Besides Gibbs, the other contributors are Ann Brunswick of Columbia University; Michael Connors of Cal State University, Long Beach; Richard Dembo of the University of South Florida; Tom E. Larson of Cal State University, Los Angeles; Rodney J. Reed of UC Berkeley; and Barbara Solomon of the University of Southern California.

The major thesis of this research strongly suggests that many of the problems facing this segment of the black population have their origins in ill-conceived social policies of the past several decades. One might conclude, as this reviewer does, that the real problem exists in a lack of political commitment on the part of key policy makers at all levels. To what extent this lack of commitment extends to major segments of the electorate is an open question at this point, since one cannot ignore the impact of race and class on politics in the United States.

This collection of analyses of major studies is useful for social scientists as well as for community activists. The last chapter, "Conclusions and Recommendations," has some useful insights, and attempts to bridge the gap between academicians and community organizers. This is particularly true of the section focusing on coalition building. Gibbs suggests that advocacy groups with overlapping interests in such fields as welfare for children and families need to organize in order to maximize their political effectiveness. This reviewer would add that organizing across social class lines even within the black community can present challenges in coalition building. While not necessarily covering new ground, this anthology could serve as a useful tool for policy makers and community organizers to the extent that it is continually buttressed by more current research which either validates past research or subjects it to closer scrutiny.

— Calvin E. Harris  
Suffolk University