

# CHOICE

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HUMANITIES

Communication

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*The following review appeared in the January 2014 issue of CHOICE:*

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Heitner, Devorah. **Black power TV**. Duke, 2013. 190p bibl index afp ISBN 9780822354093, \$79.95; ISBN 9780822354246 pbk, \$22.95

This book examines black public-affairs television programming in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Heitner provides a fascinating exploration of how national programs such as *Black Journal* and *Soul!*, along with local programs like *Say Brother* and *Inside Bedford-Stuyvesant*, "intervened in both the history of television and in the project of rearticulating racial formations that occurred in the Black Power era." These programs provided a space for vibrant discussions of black philosophy, politics, and art within a television structure that largely ignored such topics. The programs also operated as a training ground for black filmmakers, editors, and producers who were often shut out of those roles in that same structure. Heitner smartly combines archival work, textual analysis, and interviews to bring this period and these important programs to life for the reader. This book is a model of what great scholarship looks like. It is informative and engaging, and makes a considerable contribution to scholarship on the history of television.

**Summing Up:** Highly recommended. All readers. -- *S. Pepper, Northeastern Illinois University*