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RELUCTANT REFORMERS

BOOK JACKET

CIRCA 1974



(continued from front flap)

**Robert L. Allen** is associate editor of *The Black Scholar*. Prior to joining its staff he taught for three years in the Black Studies Department and the New College at San Jose State College in California. Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, where he graduated from Morehouse College in 1963, he was active in the black student protest movement in that city.

Allen is the author of *Black Awakening in Capitalist America* published in 1969, and was also a by-line correspondent for the *Guardian* newsweekly in New York for three years. In 1967 he earned a master's degree in sociology from the New School for Social Research. His articles, reviews, and essays have appeared in *The Black Scholar*, *Guardian*, *International Socialist Review*, and *Village Voice*.

Pamela Parker Allen has taught seminars on the impact of racism on the woman suffrage movement at the Liberation School, a community school in San Francisco. In 1970 she helped to start Breakaway, a women's community school in that city.

A former freedom-school teacher in Mississippi, she recently wrote and produced "Votes for Women," a half-hour video tape on the woman suffrage movement, which is being distributed as an educational tool for women's studies.

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## Reluctant Reformers

*The Impact of Racism on American  
Social Reform Movements*

by **ROBERT ALLEN**  
with the collaboration of  
**PAMELA P. ALLEN**

This is a thought-provoking study of racism in six major reform movements in the United States. The Abolition, Populist, Progressive, Woman's Suffrage, Labor, Socialist, and Communist movements are analyzed. The author explores the reasons for their emergence, what they were purported to be and what they actually were, or became; and how each eventually succumbed to the racist elements in this country, even at the expense of the movement itself. Allen reveals the internal dynamics of these reform movements — which include practically all social, ideological, and organizational groupings found in American society — and traces their relationship to blacks as well as to America as a whole.

*Reluctant Reformers* also uncovers, through economic analysis, Darwinism, and the colonial mentality of Europeans, the sources and roots of prejudice and racism in America. In this manner *Reluctant Reformers* becomes a commentary on the society's ability or inability to transcend its inherent weaknesses, even at the expense of the reforms so many had sacrificed so much to realize.

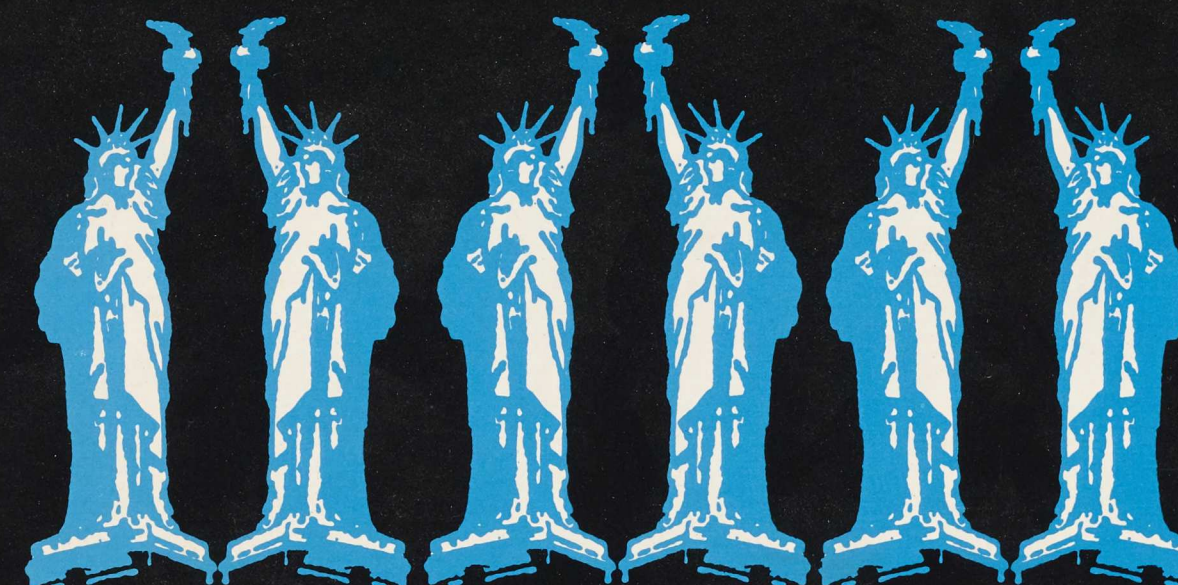
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