

# Three Strikes...

by **Bob Avakian,**  
**Chairman of the Revolutionary  
Communist Party, USA**

The book by Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow, Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, has shined a bright and much needed light on the reality of profound injustice at the very core of this country.

And this brings me back to a very basic point:

This system, in this country, in the whole history of its treatment of Black people, what has it been?

First, **Slavery...** Then, **Jim Crow**—segregation and Ku Klux Klan terror... And now, **The New Jim Crow**—police brutality and murder, wholesale criminalization and mass incarceration, and legalized discrimination yet again.

That's it for this system:

**Three strikes and you're out!**



Photo: AP



Photo: AP



Photo: AP

Top photo: 1863, Gordon, an escaped slave from Mississippi. Middle photo: 1936, the lynching of 45-year-old Lint Shaw, Royston, Georgia. Bottom photo: 1997, Martinsburg, West Virginia.