Manfred Berg traces the history of lynching in America from the colonial era to the present. Berg focuses on lynching as extralegal communal punishment performed by “ordinary” people. He confronts racially fragmented historical memory and legacies of popular justice to help the reader make better sense of lynching as part of American history. Berg analyses lynching cases with victims ranging from African American men to white women to cattle rustlers as he explores the concepts of „frontier justice“ and „popular justice."

„To the terrible tragedy of mob violence Manfred Berg brings vivid detail and narrative, capturing the sweep of violence across all regions and every ethnic group, a comprehensive account."
—Christopher Waldrep, author of Jury Discrimination: The Supreme Court, Public Opinion, and a Grassroots Fight for Racial Equality in Mississippi

„Manfred Berg’s Popular Justice is a landmark contribution to the literature on American violence. This deeply researched, cogently argued book is the first modern single volume scholarly study of the practice of lynching in American history. Encompassing within its analysis all key dimensions of the historical development of mob violence in the United States, Popular Justice will be of great aid to all interested in the history of American lynching."
—Michael J. Pfeifer, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, The City University of New York