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status; 3.3 Language Change in Enclave Communities; 3.4 Sociolinguistic Principles in the Configuration of Isolated Dialects; 4 The Social History of Mainland Hyde County; 4.1 Chesapeake Bay Origins; 4.2 The Settlement of Hyde County 4.3 Hyde County from the Revolutionary War to the Civil War 4.4 Reconstruction to the Great Depression; 4.5 Hyde County since 1940; 4.6 Sociohistorical Effects on Language; 5 Morphosyntactic Alignment in Hyde County English; 5.1 Issues in Attribution; 5.2 Past Tense be Regularization; 5.2.1 The historical development of leveling to weren 't; 5.2.2 Was/weren 't leveling in Hyde County; 5.3 Copula/Auxiliary Is and Are Absence; 5.3.1 The historical development of copula absence; 5.3.2 Copula absence in Hyde County; 5.4 Third Person -s Marking 5.4.1 The historical development of verbal -s marking 5.4.2 Verbal -s marking in Hyde County; 5.5. Conclusion; 6 Vocalic Alignment in Hyde County English; 6.1 An Overview of Hyde County Vowels; 6.2 The Historical Background of Hyde County Vowels; 6.3 Quantitative Analysis of Hyde County Vowels; 6.4 Conclusions; 7 Consonantal Alignment in Hyde County English; 7.1 Earlier Hyde County Consonants; 7.2 The Case of Consonant Cluster Reduction; 7.2.1 The patterning of cluster reduction; 7.2.2 Explaining consonant cluster reduction patterns in Hyde County; 7.3 The Case of Postvocalic r Vocalization 7.3.1 The patterning of postvocalic r -lessness 7.3.2 Post-/d/r vocalization; 7.4 Conclusion; 8 Intonational Alignment in Hyde County English; 8.1 African American and European American Intonation; 8.2 Analytical Methods; 8.3 Results and Implications; 8.4 Conclusions; 9 The Individual and Group in Earlier African American English; 9.1 The Individual and Group in Variation Studies; 9.2 The Sample of Elderly African American Speakers; 9.3 Some Diagnostic Variables; 9.3.1 Rhoticity; 9.3.2 Syllable-coda consonant cluster reduction; 9.3.3 The vowel system; 9.3.4 Verbal -s concord 9.3.5 Copula absence

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### Sommario/riassunto

This book focuses on one of the most persistent and controversial questions in modern sociolinguistics: the past and present development of African American Vernacular English (AAVE).

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