As hip hop slowly settles into middle age, the pitched battles of its younger years have frozen in a stalemate. Critics of hip hop repeat the same attacks they leveled at NWA, decrying violence, misogyny, and homophobia in hip hop lyrics, and in the most extreme cases branding its creators as Typhoid Marys for a particularly virulent social pathology. Defenders respond with rebuttals codified in the early 1990s, lauding the aesthetic value and social relevance of their favorite corners of the hip-hop world, eliding any problems inherent in the rest, and questioning the true motives of hip hop’s critics. As Tricia Rose tells it, these arguments have remained essentially static, even as hip hop experienced two remarkable—though opposing—developments.
"The Hip Hop Wars is a conversation changing book. It gives music fans, political progressives, parents, pop culture aficionados and scholars what we need to put a stop to stupid arguments-and address what really matters when we talk about hip hop."—Lisa Duggan, author of Twilight of Equality. Rose reaches into the heart of the new technologies and music markets that now shape and affect this music, as well as the gaping mouth of the corporate Goliath poised to gobble up this once-expressive art form like the Cookie Monster. The Hip Hop Wars brought to the forefront where it all went wrong, and how we can take it back again. True hip hop is not gentrified or yuppified; it isn't Barbie-doll packaged and ready for shipping, complete with a thong and gold teeth. The controversy surrounding hip-hop is worth attending to and examining with a critical eye because, as scholar and cultural critic Tricia Rose argues, hip-hop has become a primary means by which we talk about race in the United States. In The Hip-Hop Wars, Rose explores the most crucial issues underlying the polarized claims on each side of the debate: Does hip-hop cause violence, or merely reflect a violent ghetto culture? Is hip-hop sexist, or are its detractors simply anti-sex? Does the portrayal of black culture in hip-hop undermine black advancement? A potent exploration of a divisive an Rose, Tricia. Hip-Hop Wars : What We Talk about When We Talk about Hip-Hop - and Why It Matters. New York, NY, USA: Basic Civitas, 2008. ProQuest ebrary. Web. 21 February 2015. You've reached the end of your free preview. Want to read all 20 pages? TERM Spring '17. PROFESSOR LuHill. TAGS ProQuest ebrary, Basic Civitas, Hip-Hop Wars. Share this link with a friend: Copied!