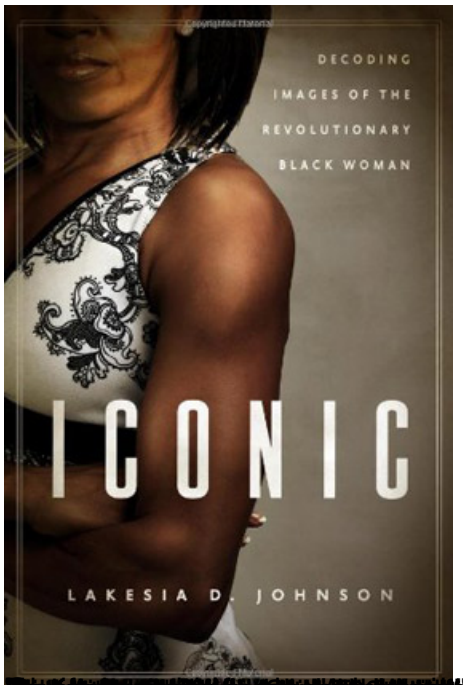
"This book asks what it means to represent black womanhood and explores how these representations are connected to a long history of representational depictions and choices that communicate the role of black women in social movements.

On the one hand, Iconic explores how representations of strong, revolutionary black women within popular culture are used to reinforce dominant, lingering, and mostly negative stereotypes... On the other hand, Iconic traces the numerous ways African-American women activists, actors, writers, and musicians have negotiated, confronted, and resisted stereotypical representations of black womanhood."

-- Excerpted from Chapter 1 (pg. 1)

When Barack Obama first ran for President, a strategy employed by those seeking to torpedo his campaign was to portray his wife, Michelle, as the proverbial "angry black woman." The New Yorker even went so far as to put a drawing of her on the cover of the magazine wearing camouflage fatigues while sporting a huge afro and brandishing a rifle.


DECODING
IMAGES OF THE
REVOLUTIONARY
BLACK WOMAN
ICONIC
LAKESIA D. JOHNSON

[redacted]