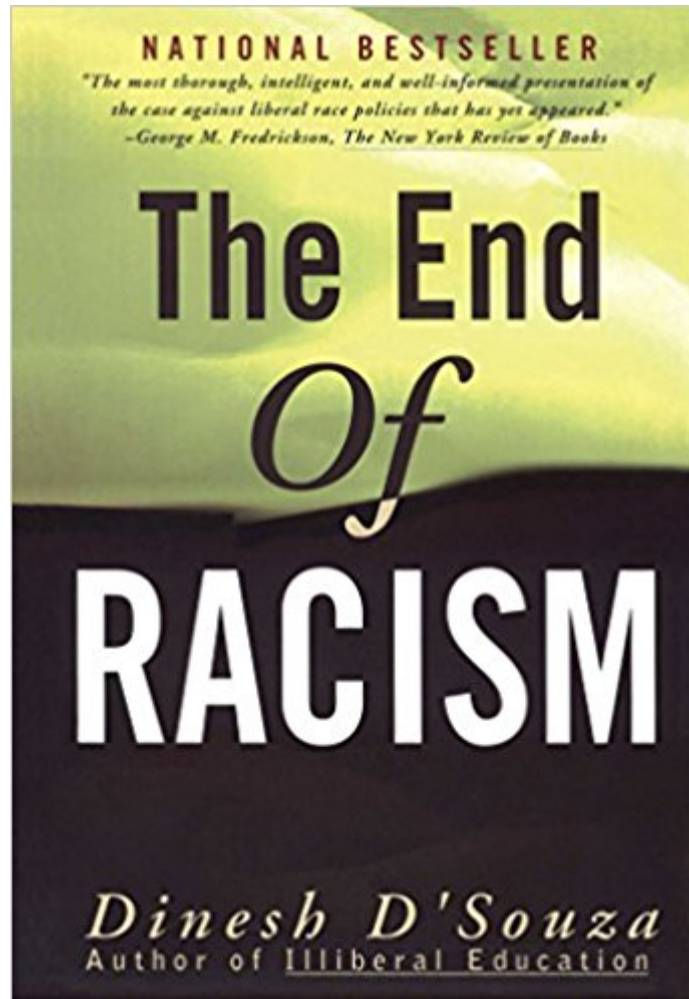


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The End Of Racism: Principles For A Multiracial Society



Synopsis

The author of the best-selling *Illiberal Education* offers a controversial challenge to the ubiquitous crusade against racism, arguing that race should not serve as the basis for public policy making. Reprint. 40,000 first printing.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Even if you don't agree with his views, the author certainly provokes thought and debate. For that reason, I think any teacher who wishes to get his or her class talking (in an advanced high school social studies class or in college) should require this book. I should start off by saying I am generally for affirmative action, including race-based affirmative action. (read "The Shape of the River" if you want another book that is pro-AA and with which I agree wholeheartedly.) HOWEVER the point of THIS book is thought provoking and as follows: People who criticize this book have thus far ignored the main point of it, I believe: that unequal outcomes do NOT equal racism. As a half Latin, half African-American myself, I can tell you with certainty that African-Americans and Latinos do not, in general spend as much time studying as do Christian whites, who in turn do not study as much as Jews or Asian-Americans. Is it surprising then that there are less Black doctors or engineering students, or that American-born Latinos do not score as well on the SAT as Chinese-born immigrant students? The answer for too long has been not to "level the playing field", but to put weights on the feet of the better athletes. Sure, some are born with advantages, but does hobbling all who perform above average to bring up those who didn't practice make it a fair game? And the overwhelming

majority of very poor Blacks and Latinos never benefit from affirmative action; only people like myself born of the middle class. Look at UC admissions since they stopped using race as a factor: Black and Latin enrollment are way down at UC Berkeley and UCLA, but down only slightly system-wide.

"Not since Gunnar Myrdal's 'An American Dilemma'" has any book looked so searchingly at the nature of race in America. This was a statement by Thomas Sowell regarding his review of *The End of Racism*. Regardless if you agreed or disagreed with D'Souza's conclusions, you can't objectively deny Sowell's assessment. Unfortunately, those who find his logic and conclusions unpalatable have systematically reverted to misrepresenting his arguments rather than facing them squarely. I guess it is easier to knock down imaginary arguments rather than real ones. Some common misrepresentations include:

1. D'Souza questions whether slavery, Jim Crow, discrimination etc bear "any" responsibility for the state of Black America. Reality: D'Souza is very clear in saying that these factors are the VERY REASON that blacks are in their state today. These influences, according to D'Souza, gave blacks a unique experience in America through which a culture of resistance was eventually fostered. It is this vestigial cultural orientation, D'Souza argues, which today most impedes black progress in a society that is quite different from the 19th and early 20th century.
2. D'Souza doesn't care about white racism, he only wants to abolish white guilt. Reality: D'Souza ultimately concludes that while racism is a problem, it is a minor problem. Shocking as this is to many, it is no less true. Civil rights activists committed to struggles of yesteryear have every incentive to beat the drum of "white racism" past the point of diminishing returns - particularly when they are dependent on such activities in order to maintain notoriety and to continue living such plush lifestyles.

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