



The House That Race Built: Original Essays by Toni Morrison, Angela Y. Davis, Cornel West, and Others on Black Americans and Politics in America Today

Wahneema Lubiano , Cornel West , Angela Y. Davis

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In these essays, brought together by the scholar Wahneema Lubiano, some of today's most respected intellectuals share their ideas on race, power, gender, and society.

The authors, including Cornel West, Angela Y. Davis, and Toni Morrison, argue that we have reached a crisis of democracy represented by an ominous shift toward a renewed white nationalism in which racism is operating in coded, quasi-respectable new forms.

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Sarah says

Excellent collection of essays about racial justice by a slew of well-known scholars in the field. It was published in 1997 and I'm sad to say that this book hasn't aged one bit. Some of the essays are academic and can be a difficult read if you're not familiar with the field. It's not a book for beginners. But if you're at all concerned about racial justice in the United States, there are some important essays in this book. It covers a wide variety of topics, from colonialism, imperialism, government oppression by republican and democratic policies, police brutality, gender, sexual violence, feminism, economic issues including capitalism and socialism, white supremacy, and inter-community policing of others within the black community. I took my time with this book and suggest you do too. It's much easier to digest if you read one essay at a time, but it's well worth exploring.

Leonardo says

“El nacionalismo negro es significativo por la ubicuidad de su presencia en la vida de los negros Americanos”. En todas estas diversas actividades y campos de vida, el nacionalismo negro invoca precisamente a los circuitos de auto-valorización que constituyen a la comunidad y permite su relativa auto-determinación y auto-constitución. Pese al extenso rango de fenómenos llamados nacionalismo negro, pues, podemos reconocer aún en él las dos funciones progresistas fundamentales del nacionalismo subalterno: la defensa y la unificación de la comunidad. Con la expresión “nacionalismo negro” podemos nombrar cualquier expresión de la separación y poder autónomo del pueblo Afroamericano.

Imperio Pág.85-86

Michelle says

This book opened my eyes.

Avatara Smith carrington says

"These questions, which have engaged so many, have troubled all of my work. How to be both free and situated; how to convert a racist house into a race-specific yet non racist home. How to enunciate race while depriving it of its lethal cling? They are questions of concept, of language, of trajectory, of habitation, of occupation, and, although my engagement with them has been fierce, fitful, and constantly (I think) evolving, they remain in my thoughts as aesthetically and politically unresolved." p.5

This is why I believe that Morrison is a deity. Her ability to transcend language and give literary, mystical

depth to realities that shackle the marginalized while simultaneously demystifying and grounding these things in truth is earth shattering.

I'm here for Morrison but the rest was pretty good too...

Megan says

Morrison's essay, "Home" is critical to anyone who is studying race. Paired with anything, this essay will enlighten and expand one's ideas of "self" and how race defines society.

Derek Fenner says

A great book of essays, with a stunning exegesis on the punishment industry by Angela Davis. The rest of the book confirms colonialism was never a 'hotbed' of activity, but rather, always the 'wetbed' of our nation. And Cornel West closes the book with the fact that, "antiblack racism is integral, not marginal, to the existence and sustenance of American society." More than worth the read. Race matters.
