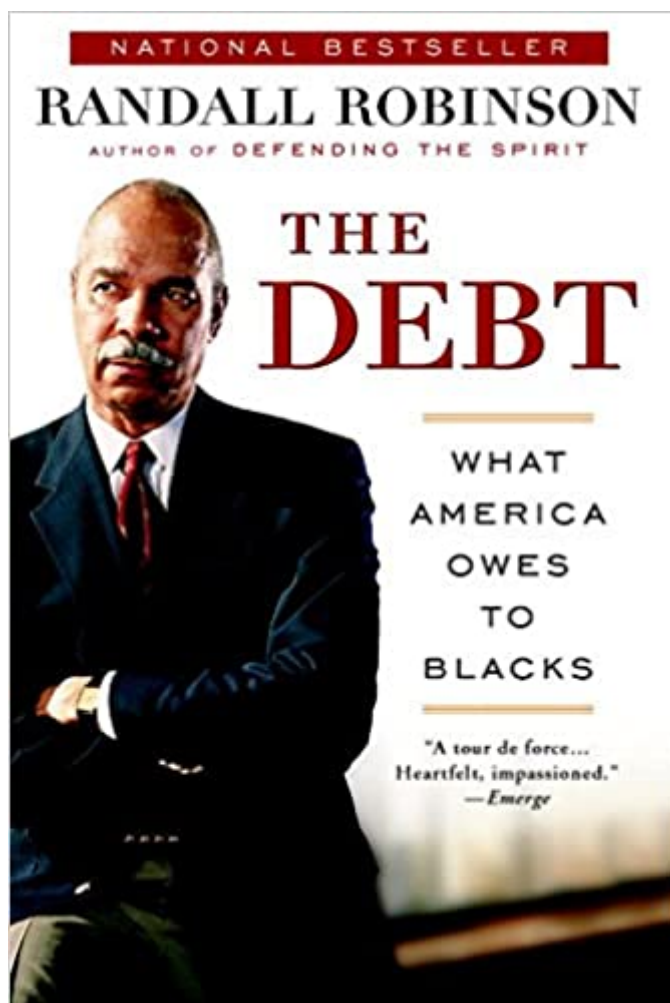


The book was found

The Debt: What America Owes To Blacks



Synopsis

The national bestseller by the author of *Defending the Spirit*. In this powerful and controversial book, distinguished African-American political leader and thinker Randall Robinson argues for the restoration of the rich history that slavery and segregation severed. Drawing from research and personal experience, he shows that only by reclaiming their lost past and proud heritage can blacks lay the foundation for their future. And white Americans can make reparations for slavery and the century of racial discrimination that followed with monetary restitution, educational programs, and the kinds of equal opportunities that will ensure the social and economic success of all its citizens. In a book that is both an unflinching indictment of past wrongs and an impassioned call to our nation to educate all Americans about the history of Africa and its people, Robinson makes a persuasive case for the debt white America owes blacks, and the debt blacks owe themselves.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Randall Robinson, the founder and president of TransAfrica (a lobbying organization dedicated to influencing U.S. policy toward Africa and the Caribbean), recounted his heroic struggle to fight and overcome racism in the magnificent *Defending the Spirit*. In his triumphant follow-up, *The Debt*, he goes further than any previous black public figure in calling for reparations to African-Americans for the present-day racism that stems from 246 years of slavery. Citing compensation that Jews and Japanese Americans have received, he writes, "No race, ethnic or religious group has suffered as much over so long a span as blacks have and do still, at the hands of those who benefited ... from slavery and the century of legalized American racial hostility that followed it." In making his case,

Robinson utilizes facts and figures that highlight the disparity between African-Americans and whites. While fully recognizing the monumental odds of this movement's success, Robinson feels that the push for reparations will also greatly benefit African-Americans in nonmaterial ways: "Even the making of a well-reasoned case for restitution will do wonders for the spirit of African-Americans," he argues. "It will cause them to at long last understand the genesis of their history--before, during, and after slavery--into one story of themselves." --Eugene Holley Jr. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

As founder and president of TransAfrica, an organization aimed at influencing U.S. policies toward Africa and the Caribbean, Robinson can be said to have contributed to the antiapartheid movement and the restoration of democracy in Haiti. Having vividly outlined the pervasiveness of American racism in his previous work, *Defending the Spirit*, he now summons America to acknowledge what he casts as its financial obligation to blacks for centuries of slavery and continued subjugation. Substantiating his analysis of America's ignorance of African history and the agenda of the Clinton administration with personal stories that illustrate the impact of de facto discrimination, he reveals slavery's legacy not only in our social and political lives, but also in the American psyche. In Robinson's view, the incessant deification of the founding fathers (many of whom owned slaves) and the denial of the benefits gained from centuries of slave labor are, in effect, an attempt to pretend "that America's racial holocaust never occurred." Juxtaposing domestic racism with the sufferings of people abroad, he contends that America's dubious foreign policy initiatives in Cuba and throughout the black world should be mitigated through debt relief. Methodically tackling one issue at a time, Robinson suggests the creation of a trust to assist in the educational and economic empowerment of African-Americans. Whether readers agree or disagree with his views, Robinson has made a definitive step in presenting these controversial and still unresolved issues. Book club rights sold to Doubleday/Black Expressions; author tour. (Jan.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The Debt is an outstanding and profound book. Randall Robinson is an exceptional writer who brings scholarship and poetic prose together in a brilliant analysis of racism in the United States. His analysis is spot-on and totally convincing. And his arguments for reparations are irrefutable! What ghastly revelations Mr. Robinson reveals to the reader of this magnificent book. Highly recommended reading, especially for white people, of which I am one. This is not only a great book about racism - I would consider it one of the great books of contemporary American Literature. I look

forward to reading Mr. Robinson's other books and learning more about the Trans-Africa organization.

Take the time to read this book, especially if you are a liberal. Helps look at the conservative side of the argument from a thoughtful logical view point and many valid points made. Not everything is black and white, there is much grey.

This book is a few years old now and it's still timely. Prof. Robinson is a rare voice in the Civil Rights symposium in that he is at once objectively erudite and relatable because of his transparency. This book has definitely aided my thinking on the subject of comparative human rights.

An excellent book that should be required reading for every American college history student. It tells the history of the African American experience focusing on the narrative perspective of African Americans. It starts with African History before slavery, a subject that has been well documented but seldom read or seriously studied by European Americans. It makes a clear and inarguable argument for some form of reparations for the state sanctioned public and private wealth stolen from African Americans.

Randall Robinson speaks truth, understanding and paths to solutions of the problems long ignored. Great book. I enjoyed it very much.

This book is an eye-opener to the debt we owe Africa, the travesty of US slavery (the worst of any ever known), its terrible legacy, and the need to re-write world history. On the other hand, I found the author's stance to be somewhat off-putting as the book was full of his own accomplishments and at least one personal story about a young girl, a friend of his daughter's, who was denied the chance to continue her private school education. The story itself was sad, but Robinson prefaced it by saying that the girl and her mother had to catch a bus home from her third grade graduation while the other parents, (presumably Robinson included) drove away in their expensive cars. I found myself wondering why Robinson didn't offer them a ride...perhaps it would have destroyed the drama of the story, but I found myself wondering about the compassion of the man.

In his boldly honest, yet intellectual style, Mr. Robinson meticulously makes his case for reparations to Black America. Another scholarly, yet readable discussion of a topic of critical import.

My favorite book ever.

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