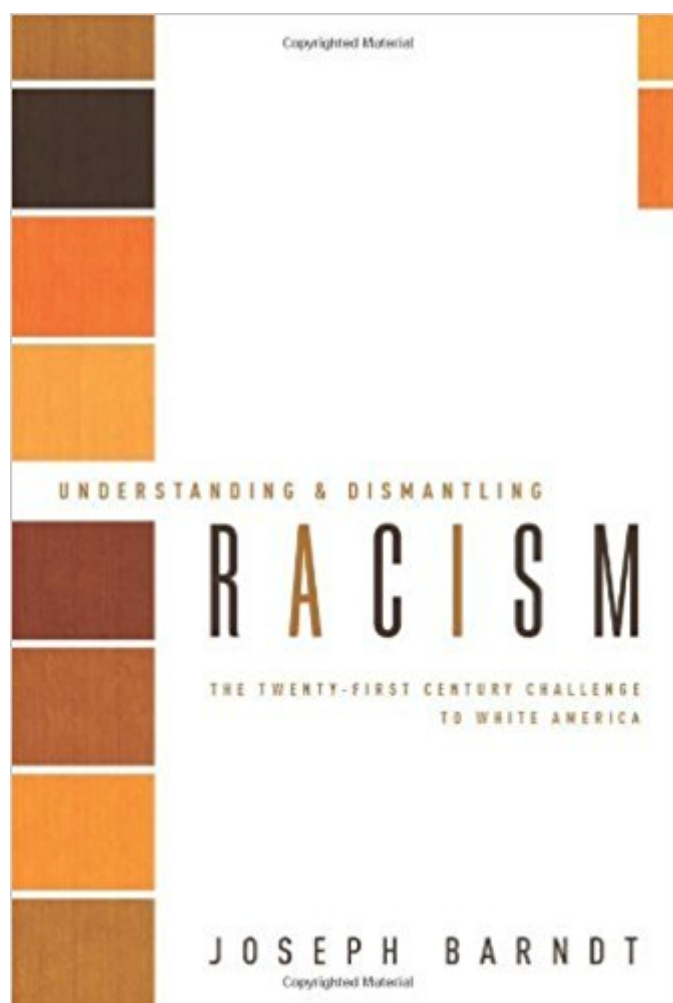


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Understanding And Dismantling Racism: The Twenty-First Century Challenge To White America (Facets)



Synopsis

More than 15 years have passed since Joe Barndt wrote his influential and widely acclaimed *Dismantling Racism* (1991, Augsburg Books). He has now written a replacement volume - powerful, personal, and practical - that reframes the whole issue for the new context of the twenty-first century. With great clarity Barndt traces the history of racism, especially in white America, revealing its various personal, institutional, and cultural forms. Without demonizing anyone or any race, he offers specific, positive ways in which people in all walks, including churches, can work to bring racism to an end. He includes the newest data on continuing conditions of People of Color, including their progress relative to the minimal standards of equality in housing, income and wealth, education, and health. He discusses current dimensions of race as they appear in controversies over 9/11, New Orleans, and undocumented workers. Includes analytical charts, definitions, bibliography, and exercises for readers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Read this book for a class for my post-graduate degree in Community Organizing. It is an excellent

depiction of not only the history of Racism (goes deeper than the slavery period, all the way to the Constitution of our country), but also helps us to recognize that Racism is alive and well in every system in this country, that the original intent (creating a system of sub-categories or labels that grant or get in the way of persons achieving the very basic rights of 'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness', is embedded in every aspect of life in our country. Racism didn't dissolve after the Civil Rights Era, it went into hiding, and went deep down, where it's hard to recognize. Brandt, who is White, makes the point that it is not up to the Persons of Color to do the job of uncovering and dismantling Racism: it must end where it began: with those who are White. He gives practical ways for us to identify and dismantle the structures and systems that Racism has put in place. There is a lot of work to be done!

This is an excellent book to help white people understand racial bias and to look at the U.S. primarily as a country founded by European migrants who brought their "home-grown" perceptions of patriarchy, power and conquering those who stood in their way as this country was formed. Slavery and rebellion were not new concepts to colonial immigrants. Three hundred years later, some whites are understanding this country was formed on the backs of those the immigrants oppressed, and the oppressed are growing to be the U.S. majority. Whites have an obligation to understand that racism is our doing, and our next steps are to ensure that all women and men, despite wealth, power or status, are created equal and deserve equal opportunity.

Very powerful insight and important message for all white readers. Put down any defensiveness and open yourself to the many, many historically connected ways in which white prejudice, power, and privilege keeps us ALL down, regardless of skin color. I will reread the last couple chapters again and again. My only criticism is one of style. The author uses a considerable amount of repetition throughout the book, probably by design, as if to have a constant drumbeat of long ignored notes finally permeate our white consciousness. For those who see themselves as more of an early adopter of the drumbeat, the repetition gets a bit tiring. Despite that small criticism, a strong 5 rating.

Pretty mind-blowing - honest and unsparing and a very helpful read for anyone who is ready and willing to face the truth about how white supremacy structured and continues to dictate race relations in the U.S.

Very well written history of race and racism in the United States. I learned a great deal that was

never addressed in school.

Amazing book... All white people should have to read it

Simple step-by-step reading on awareness of one's biases and pro-racist ideologies that consciously and unconsciously continue promoting racism.

This was a great book. The main downfall was the redundancy. He really does lead the reader into a position of perspective taking and enlightenment. I have begun to look at events differently since reading this book. It is a good graduate level reading provided you can keep in mind the author's inherent bias.

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