



Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America (National Book Award Winner)

By Ibram X. Kendi



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WINNER OF THE 2016 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FOR NONFICTION

A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER IN RACE AND CIVIL RIGHTS

FINALIST FOR THE 2016 NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD FOR NONFICTION

THE MOST AMBITIOUS BOOK OF 2016 —*The Washington Post*

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THE WASHINGTON POST 2016 SUMMER READING LIST

"ENGROSSING AND RELENTLESS" —*The Washington Post*

**"THIS DEFINITIVE HISTORY OF RACIST IDEAS SHOULD BE
REQUIRED READING" —*The Root***

"NOVELISTIC FLAIR" —*The Stranger*

"AMBITIOUS, MAGISTERIAL" —*Starred Kirkus Review*

"MUST FOR SERIOUS READERS" —*Library Journal*

"HEAVILY RESEARCHED YET READABLE" —*Booklist*

**"WORTH THE TIME OF ANYONE WHO WANTS TO UNDERSTAND
RACISM" —*The Seattle Times***

**"EVER-RELEVANT CONTEXT FOR THE WHITE SUPREMACIST
MOMENT" —*The Dallas Morning News***

**"A COMPELLING, THOROUGHLY ENLIGHTENING, UNSETTLING,
AND NECESSARY READ" —*Vox***

"GRACEFUL, ENGAGING PROSE" —*Tampa Bay Times*

Some Americans cling desperately to the myth that we are living in a post-racial society, that the election of the first Black president spelled the doom of racism. In fact, racist thought is alive and well in America--more sophisticated and more insidious than ever. And as award-winning historian Ibram X. Kendi argues in *Stamped from the Beginning*, if we have any hope of grappling with this stark reality, we must first understand how racist ideas were developed, disseminated, and enshrined in American society.

In this deeply researched and fast-moving narrative, Kendi chronicles the entire story of anti-Black racist ideas and their staggering power over the course of American history. *Stamped from the Beginning* uses the life stories of five major American intellectuals to offer a window into the contentious debates between assimilationists and segregationists and between racists and antiracists. From Puritan minister Cotton Mather to Thomas Jefferson, from fiery abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison to brilliant scholar W.E.B. Du Bois to legendary anti-prison activist Angela Davis, Kendi shows how and why some of our leading proslavery and pro-civil rights thinkers have challenged or helped cement racist ideas in America.

Contrary to popular conceptions, racist ideas did not arise from ignorance or hatred. Instead, they were devised and honed by some of the most brilliant minds of each era. These intellectuals used their brilliance to justify and rationalize deeply entrenched discriminatory policies and the nation's racial disparities in everything from wealth to health. And while racist ideas are easily produced and easily consumed, they can also be discredited. In shedding much-needed light on

the murky history of racist ideas, *Stamped from the Beginning* offers us the tools we need to expose them--and in the process, gives us reason to hope.

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Editorial Review

Review

An "engrossing and relentless intellectual history of prejudice in America...The greatest service Kendi [provides] is the ruthless prosecution of American ideas about race for their tensions, contradictions and unintended consequences."

—*The Washington Post*

"Kendi has done something that's damn near impossible: write a book about racism that breaks new ground, while being written in a way that's accessible to the nonacademic. If you've ever been interested in how racist ideas spread throughout the United States, this is the book to read."

—*The Root*

Stamped from the Beginning is "ambitious, well-researched and worth the time of anyone who wants to understand racism."

—*The Seattle Times*

"Kendi admits that he is not writing to change the minds of those who produce and espouse racist ideas. Rather, in his honesty about how deeply he himself had held multiple racist ideas before embarking on the historical odyssey of this book, he gives the reader permission to accompany him on that eye-opening journey...Kendi leaves plenty of room for self-questioning, and for drawing connections between the racist apologetics of the past and those of the present. The process makes for a compelling, thoroughly enlightening, unsettling, and necessary read."

—*Vox*

"An altogether remarkable thesis on history, but, in ways that are both moving and immediately painful, it also reverberates with the post-election autopsy we're all conducting right now... *Stamped from the Beginning* is a riveting (and often rivetingly written) work, well deserving of the National Book Award."

—*The Stranger*

"To structure his book, which he spent three years writing, Kendi built it around five major American intellectual figures: Puritan leader Cotton Mather, founding father Thomas Jefferson, abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, African-American scholar W.E.B. Du Bois and activist Angela Davis. While showing the reader each of them grappling with questions of race, Kendi places them in the wider context of history with graceful, engaging prose and deeply researched details. *Stamped* is a book that connects everything from Mather's 17th century theological theories about the souls of Africans to Bo Derek's cornrows in the movie *10*, and much more."

—*Tampa Bay Times*

Stamped from the Beginning provides "ever-relevant context for the white supremacist moment."

—*The Dallas Morning News*

"Ibram Kendi is an important new voice in African American intellectual and social history. This book, an intellectual history of racist ideas, promises to break important new ground for scholarly and general audiences interested in the construction of racism in America."

—*Peniel E. Joseph, author of Stokely: A Life and Waiting 'Til the Midnight Hour*

"Both a penetrating treatise and a wonderfully accessible work of intellectual history, *Stamped from the Beginning* reveals the heritage of ideas behind the modern dialectic of race-denial and race-obsession. By historicizing our entrenched logic of racial difference, Kendi shows why "I don't see color" and other professions of post-racialism remain inexorable alibis for white supremacy. *Stamped from the Beginning* has done the cause of anti-racism a great service."

—**Russell Rickford, Associate Professor, Cornell University, and author of *We Are an African People: Independent Education, Black Power, and the Radical Imagination***

"Richly sourced and engaging, Ibram X. Kendi's *Stamped from the Beginning* is a highly accessible yet provocative study that seeks to complicate our understanding of racist ideas and the forces that produce them."

—**Yohuru Williams, Professor of History and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Fairfield University**

"In this tour de force, Kendi explores the history of racist ideas—and their connection with racist practices—across American history. Racism is the enduring scar on the American consciousness. In this ambitious, magisterial book, Kendi reveals just how deep that scar cuts and why it endures, its barely subcutaneous pain still able to flare."

—**Kirkus (starred review)**

"In his ambitious, illuminating, and engaging book, Ibram X. Kendi seamlessly assembles sources from Cotton Mather to Angela Davis; the Great Awakening to Black Lives Matter; the Birth of a Nation to Hip Hop culture, to show how not only race but racist ideas are at the center of American thought."

—**Paula J. Giddings, EA Woodson Professor, Smith College, and author of *Ida: A Sword Among Lions: Ida B. Wells and the Campaign Against Lynching***

"This heavily researched yet easily readable volume explores the roots and the effects of racism in America. The narrative smoothly weaves throughout history, culminating in the declaration that as much as we'd like it to be, America today is nowhere near the "postracial" country that the media declared following the election of Barack Obama in 2008. The hope here is that by studying and remembering the lessons of history, we may be able to move forward to an equitable society."

—**Booklist**

"*Stamped from the Beginning* is a history of how racist ideas are built, and how they are built to last. Understanding this history is essential if we want to have any hope of progress. This book will forever change the way we think about race."

—**Touré, MSNBC contributor and author of *Who's Afraid of Post-Blackness***

"Kendi's provocative egalitarian argument combines prodigious reading and research with keen insights into the manipulative power of racist ideologies that suppress the recognition of diversity. This is a must for serious readers of American history, politics, or social thought."

—**Library Journal**

"*Stamped from the Beginning* delivers a timely and bold corrective to the history of racist and anti-racist ideas that explodes our understanding of the root of anti-black violence as we know it today. Kendi's deft analysis of key thinkers from Cotton Mather to Angela Davis illustrates how racial thought, specifically debates about racial difference, take shape across space and time and influence racial policies and the persistence of racial discrimination. This book is a must read for those interested in working to unearth the foundational ideas and practices that hinder true racial progress."

—*Keisha-Khan Y. Perry, Associate Professor, Brown University, and author of Black Women against the Land Grab: The Fight for Racial Justice in Brazil*

"Kendi upends many commonly held beliefs about how racism works, exploring the ideas and thinkers behind our most intractable social and cultural problem."

—*The Boston Globe*

"A deep (and often disturbing) chronicling of how anti-black thinking has entrenched itself in the fabric of American society."

—*The Atlantic*

"A staggering intellectual history of racism in America that is both rigorous and ...readable."

—*New Republic*

"An intricate look at the history of race in the U.S., arguing that many well-meaning American progressives inadvertently operate on belief systems tinged with a racist heritage."

—*Time*

"Self-proclaimed as a definitive history of racist ideas in the US, this exhaustive, encyclopedic opus lives up to that claim. Kendi's mighty tome is breathtaking in its scope.... Both worthwhile and extraordinary.... Essential."

—*Choice*

"Racial tensions have seemingly increased over the past year, making Kendi's Stamped from the Beginning essential reading. The book points to the roots of the problem, offering lessons on digging them up."

—*Bustle*

"By showing how deeply entrenched racist ideas have been — and still are — in America, and thus exposing clearly and discrediting these ideas, Kendi has created not only a great work of scholarship but a much-needed tool."

—*Buzzfeed*

"I honestly wish every American would read this book, especially people who haven't been exposed to the history of blatant, transparent racism in our public policy."

—*Chicago Review of Books*

"A work as prodigious as the subtitle implies.... Had Kendi only provided history, Stamped from the Beginning would be a meaningful contribution to the literature, but it is so much more. It a call for all Americans to look inward."

—*Albany Times Union*

Given our political moment and the work we need to do as individuals and as a country, this book should be on every young leader's bookshelf. It's not pretty, but the truth often isn't."

—*Forbes*

About the Author

Ibram X. Kendi is a *New York Times* best-selling author and an award-winning Africana studies historian at the University of Florida. A frequent public speaker, Kendi specializes in the history of racism and antiracism. He has published two books on these topics, fourteen journal articles and book chapters, as well

as numerous op-eds in periodicals like *Black Perspectives*, *Salon*, *The New York Times*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *New York Daily News*, *The Huffington Post*, and *The Root*. Kendi has received research fellowships, grants, and visiting appointments from a variety of universities, foundations, professional associations, and libraries, including the American Historical Association, Library of Congress, National Academy of Education, Spencer Foundation, Lyndon B. Johnson Library & Museum, Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, Brown University, Princeton University, Duke University, University of Chicago, and UCLA. Before entering academia, he trained and worked as a journalist. Kendi lives in Gainesville, Florida.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Bethany Christiansen:

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What do you concerning book? It is not important along? Or just adding material if you want something to explain what you problem? How about your free time? Or are you busy man? If you don't have spare time to accomplish others business, it is gives you the sense of being bored faster. And you have free time? What did you do? Every person has many questions above. The doctor has to answer that question simply because just their can do that. It said that about book. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is right. Because start from on kindergarten until university need this kind of *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America (National Book Award Winner)* to read.

Alice Myers:

Hey guys, do you desires to finds a new book you just read? May be the book with the headline *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America (National Book Award Winner)* suitable to you? The particular book was written by famous writer in this era. The particular book untitled *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America (National Book Award Winner)* is the main one of several books that will everyone read now. This kind of book was inspired many people in the world. When you read this book you will enter the new shape that you ever know just before. The author explained their plan in the simple way, consequently all of people can easily to know the core of this guide. This book will give you a wide range of information about this world now. So you can see the represented of the world with this book.

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