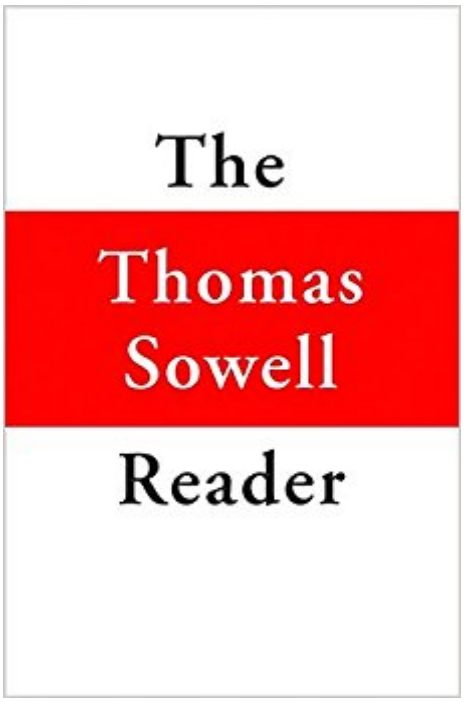
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The Thomas Sowell Reader



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Synopsis

These selections from the many writings of Thomas Sowell over a period of a half century cover social, economic, cultural, legal, educational, and political issues. The sources range from Dr. Sowell's letters, books, newspaper columns, and articles in both scholarly journals and popular magazines. The topics range from late-talking children to Ã¢â ¬Å“tax cuts for the rich,Ã¢â ¬Â• baseball, race, war, the role of judges, medical care, and the rhetoric of politicians. These topics are dealt with by sometimes drawing on history, sometimes drawing on economics, and sometimes drawing on a sense of humor.

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Customer Reviews

''Engaging and accessible . . . Sowell's careful explicating of and grappling with issues allow his thoughts to be clearly exhibited, understood, and welcomed. Even leftist thinkers will appreciate Sowell's personal charm and intellectual rigor.'' --Publishers Weekly ''A solid, representative collection by a writer and thinker whom one either agrees with or not--and there's not much middle ground on which to stand.'' --Kirkus Reviews --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

A one-volume introduction to over three decades of the wide-ranging writings of one of AmericaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s most respected and cited authors.Ã Â The Thomas Sowell Reader includes essays on:Social IssuesEconomicsPolitical IssuesLegal IssuesRace and EthnicityEducational IssuesBiographical SketchesRandom ThoughtsÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“My hope is that this large selection of

my writings will reduce the likelihood that readers will misunderstand what I have said on many controversial issues over the years.Ã Â Whether the reader will agree with all my conclusions is another question entirely.Ã Â But disagreements can be productive, while misunderstandings seldom are.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Thomas SowellÃ Â Ã Â Thomas Sowell has taught economics at Cornell, UCLA, Amherst, and other academic institutions, and his Basic Economics has been translated into six languages. He is currently a scholar in residence at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University. He has published in both academic journals and such popular media as the Wall Street Journal, Forbes, Investors Business Daily, and Fortune, and he writes a syndicated column that appears in newspapers across the country.

This is a collection of short articles that Dr. Sowell wrote, I believe for publication in various news media. The essays are well worth reading and cover a myriad of important issues including race, social and political issues, and ethics. I doubt, though, that anyone under age 50 or so will be able to identify with some of the ideas, given the current thorough indoctrination of the young against conservative ideas (which, curiously, is viewed as teaching "tolerance").

Thomas Sowell has put together some of his greatest thoughts in this book. There are hundreds of short passages in this book about social, racial, and historical issues that plaque our country today. Every "Black Lives Matters" participant should read this Black Man’s work. He fills his pages with intelligence...and a slight touch of humor. And it is written with simple words!

I was surprised at the end of this weighty tome to find that I agree with most of what he said. Why? As an independent I tend to be a centrist in political matters and his reputation had been presented to me as a pretty hard core conservative which usually brings to mind a level of shrillness and inaccuracy that leaves me pretty cold. I tend toward being a liberal in social matters and a conservative in the fiscal arena so I was surprised that many of the social topics he discusses can be handled in a positive fashion while disclosing the inherent weaknesses in many favored liberal approaches. I think the reason I responded positively to his arguments is that they do not include the evangelical, "this is right because I say so" which is common in many tracts on the same

subject. He appears a person one could work with, his prescriptions feature sound logic and verifiable proof. The book is well written and informative and I am glad I took the time to read it.

This is Thomas Sowell's latest collection of his articles and short essays on a wide range of issues: social, economics, politics, legal, educational, biographical, and always great: random thoughts. If you are a Thomas Sowell fan, this book won't disappoint. If you haven't read Mr. Sowell before, then this is the book to start with. All of the essays are short and to the point. Easy to read in short clips or at length. Well worth the addition to one's library. I also downloaded the book to my Android via Kindle so it can be read whenever I need to wait or pass time.

Thomas Sowell accumulated a lifetime's worth of writings and compiled them in the Thomas Sowell Reader. For Thomas Sowell fans, this is a treasure trove of brilliant essays on all imaginable topics. He challenges enormous volumes of dogma coming from the intelligencia (a term of scorn used by Sowell repeatedly). This intelligence is always looking to improve somebody's life for them. It is clear that Sowell dismisses the end result of their efforts as disastrous and questions their motives as well. He methodically tears apart the idea of employing the machinery of government (statutes, schools, social programs) to fix people's lives. Those willing to entertain his ideas with an open mind will be challenged, provoked, impressed. Some will find his ideas so apocryphal as to be intolerable. His views are black and white (pun intended). I cannot endorse everything he says--he sees no gray even where it may exist. Nonetheless, I am left in awe by his clarity of thought. I would love to chat with him.

The biggest and most sobering theme is that many noble intents have inadvertent consequences... sometimes directly undermining the original intent. Mr. Sowell writes in simple understandable terms that build upon each other like bricks forming compelling arguments. If more voters read Mr. Sowell's works we would demand more than nice sounding platitudes from our elected representatives... we would judge them by their results, not just their flowery promises. No matter what side of the political spectrum you reside in, testing policies against their consequences is a skill we all need to develop. we need to be more critical of ourselves, as we look in the mirror, if we want to build a truly just society.

The Sowell Reader is a compendium of a lifetime of writing about social, economic, political, legal, racial and educational topics. The selections clearly reveal Sowell's analytical skills and his

preference for plain and straightforward talk.Those familiar with Sowell's work will likely find several favorite articles from the past (mine include Scientists Need Not Apply, Affirmative Action Around the World, and Life is Culturally Biased). I was delighted to find a number of selections not seen previously. In Patterns of Failure, for instance, Sowell identifies four stages associated with well-intentioned social programs--such as plans to vanquish poverty, reduce teenage pregnancy or fix the criminal justice system--that end up making matters much worse.The Thomas Sowell Reader does what it set out to do: It summarizes the work of an important social critic. I believe this selection of articles, and Sowell's work generally, will remain relevant to anyone "trying to understand the social problems that abound in any society."

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