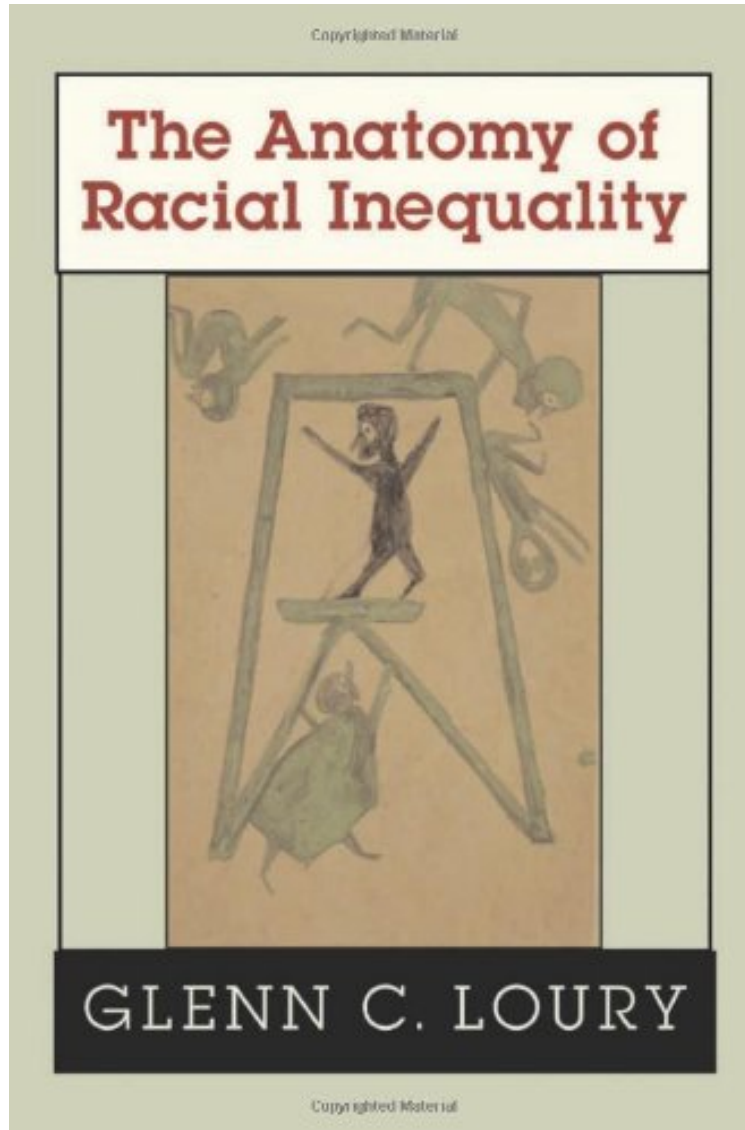


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The Anatomy of Racial Inequality (The W. E. B. Du Bois Lectures)

Glenn C. Loury

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Glenn C. Loury : The Anatomy of Racial Inequality (The W. E. B. Du Bois Lectures) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Anatomy of Racial Inequality (The W. E. B. Du Bois Lectures):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Prerequisite For Competent Race Discussion.By VeritasLogosGlenn Loury has become something like an intellectual hero of mine. I have long wondered if I was the only black centrist-minded person out there who desired to know the truth about racism and the state of blacks in

America, but would not fall for poor argument or a baseless narrative, however popular. In *The Anatomy of Racial Inequality*, I found the analytic reflection I had always dreamt of. Prof. Loury argues elegantly for what he takes to be the central, recalcitrant problem for blacks in society: racial stigma (as opposed to racial discrimination). He makes an insightful and illuminating distinction between discrimination in contract: the formal, codified subjugation of blacks through law and public policy and discrimination in contact: the informal, voluntary choice of those in positions of power and influence to draw away from and disassociate with blacks on the basis of negative stigma, effectively locking them out of the means of prosperity available to whites. It's the latter insidious and permissible (however morally problematic) form of racism that hampers blacks currently, and Loury is not optimistic about its end. He also lays out the ethical argument for affirmative action-style policies (though not necessarily affirmative action proper) that may be race-blind, but not race-indifferent. Loury closes by imploring the reader to reflect upon how we quarantine the problems of those race-marked as black as problems inherent to them from "America", yet widespread problems that affect whites are a matter of national crisis which must be met with compassion. He argues that in a just America we ask the question "What manner of people are WE who accept such degradation in our midst" as opposed to "What manner of people are THEY who languish in that way". Much of the muddled discussion that happens between Americans when conversing about race could be made clear if we all read this book, though I realize its dense prose and analytic rigor may be prohibitive for some. Still, for the serious seeker, it's an indispensable text.

4 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Deeply Disturbing
By Dr. Steve
The classic collision of teleological (emphasizing the result) and deontological (emphasizing the procedure) philosophy applied to race relations in the United States. More than mere economic consequentialism, or sociological structuralism, Loury rails against racial stigmatism, and posits powerfully in favor of "racial egalitarianism," by use of moral suasion. Any right thinking, moral minded human being will be disturbed by his polemics, and cannot help but be swayed by his appeal. I will, however, leave it to you, the reader, to discover for yourself which side of the philosophical divide, mentioned above, Loury favors. Very highly recommended.

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Thoughtful, persuasive, enjoyable
By Jeremy Michalek
Glen is an accomplished economist, and you can tell in the style of his writing: He is organized and sets up axioms and bullet points to clarify his arguments. I had the opportunity to hear him speak in 2002, and he is quite persuasive. In this book, Loury makes a case against liberal individualism, the popular assumption that liberalized, free market, "race-blind" policies will naturally dissolve unjust inequalities over time. In this discussion, Loury avoids the topic of overt "racial discrimination", which is easier to spot and has more obvious effects, and focuses instead on the strong, persistent, and self-replicating patterns caused by more subtle forces, which he terms "racial stigma". Stigma refers to bodily markings that are automatically cognitively perceived in all social interaction and which have strong social associations that affect perception and behavior of observers. This stigma, and the associations and stereotypes that are cognitively linked with it, acts to rationalize and sustain systematic racial inequality, perpetuating factors that drive formation of stigma. I believe that these arguments appear more compelling if the reader has previous knowledge of theories in cognitive psychology suggesting that mental associational categorization based on observed statistical tendencies applied to readily observable stimuli may form the basis of all thought and learning. Glen's arguments are not airtight, and he relies primarily on philosophical thought experiments for illustration; however, his explorations are useful, and a perspective of racial inequality that did not consider and respond to these perspectives would be naive and incomplete.[...]

Speaking wisely and provocatively about the political economy of race, Glenn Loury has become one of our most prominent black intellectuals--and, because of his challenges to the orthodoxies of both left and right, one of the most controversial. A major statement of a position developed over the past decade, this book both epitomizes and explains Loury's understanding of the depressed conditions of so much of black society today--and the origins, consequences, and implications for the future of these conditions. Using an economist's approach, Loury describes a vicious cycle of tainted social information that has resulted in a self-replicating pattern of racial stereotypes that rationalize and sustain discrimination. His analysis shows how the restrictions placed on black development by stereotypical and stigmatizing racial thinking deny a whole segment of the population the possibility of self-actualization that American society reveres--something that many contend would be undermined by remedies such as affirmative action. On the contrary, this book persuasively argues that the promise of fairness and individual freedom and dignity will remain unfulfilled without some forms of intervention based on race. Brilliant in its account of how racial classifications are created and perpetuated, and how they resonate through the social, psychological, spiritual, and economic life of the nation, this compelling and passionate book gives us a new way of seeing--and, perhaps, seeing beyond--the damning categorization of race in America.

Coolly, clearly, and relentlessly, Glenn Loury traces the devastating effects of racial stigmatization on relations between blacks and whites in America. He uses the analytic tools of economics deftly without for a moment falling into pomp or mystification. No one has better stated the case against presuming that liberal states and free markets will of themselves dissolve unjust inequalities. (Charles Tilly, Professor of Sociology and Political Science, Columbia

University) According to Glenn Loury, the problem of racial inequality should no longer be seen as one of racial discrimination. The fundamental problem is one of racial stigma, which contributes to the second-class citizenship of African-Americans. This fact-filled, impossible-to-pigeonhole, impressively interdisciplinary book should inaugurate a new and better discussion of racial equality in America--and with any luck, new and better policies as well. (Cass Sunstein, Professor of Law, University of Chicago)

In these lectures, the distinguished economist Glenn Loury has reoriented the public discussion on black-white inequality. He has drawn on economic and sociological analyses to emphasize the historical roots essential to understanding the social stigma which underlies the more overt forms of discrimination and inhibits the development of black capabilities. His analysis implies a critique of liberal individually-based political philosophy, while at the same time recognizing its virtues. (Kenneth J. Arrow, Professor Emeritus of Economics, Stanford University)

This is social criticism at its best. Glenn Loury provides an original and highly persuasive account of how the American racial hierarchy is sustained and reproduced over time. And he then demands that we begin the deep structural reforms that will be necessary to stop its continued reproduction. (Michael Walzer, Professor of Social Science, Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton)

This strikingly original book will likely emerge as one of the most important analyses in recent times of America's unyielding problem of "race". In four tight, intensely argued chapters, Loury compellingly elucidates the often tragic "rationality" of discriminatory behavior that results, less from raw racist antipathy than from the logic of self-confirming stereotypes, as well as the role of social stigma, collective dishonor and exclusion, in explaining persisting racial inequalities. In a clear, crisp style, he dissects the simplicities of conservative cultural determinism, the moral and logical limitations of "color-blind" liberal individualism, and the intellectual complacency of the conventional left who would explain all with the dated cry of attitudinal racism. Loury demonstrates once again how the best insights of economics can be integrated with those of sociology and policy studies to untangle the tortuous "cycles of cumulative causation" beneath the nation's most vexing social problem. Powerfully argued, relentlessly honest, and morally engaged, it lifts and transforms the discourse on "race" and racial justice to an entirely new level and may just be the breakthrough text we have long been waiting for. (Orlando Patterson)

This is a brilliant book. With an original conceptual framework, Glenn Loury breaks new ground in the study of racial inequality in the United States. His insightful analysis of why "racial stigma" is a more important concept than "racial discrimination" in explaining African American disadvantages and in determining the kinds of reforms needed to address them is bound to generate an important debate among scholars in the field. (William Julius Wilson)

A fresh, challenging analysis of the racial inequality endured by African-Americans. Loury first presented these arguments as the W. E. B. DuBois Lectures at Harvard in April 2000. One of his principal observations is that those who consider racial issues should replace the concept of racial discrimination with that of "racial stigma." People are stigmatized, he says, when they are viewed by others not as individuals but as members of a race. He believes that American blacks have patently suffered the most from stigmatization and identifies slavery as the chief cause... There's no question that this is a significant, even crucial text gravid with vital ideas. (Kirkus s 2001-11-01)

In this highly persuasive analysis of race stigma in U.S. society, Loury... argues that it is not simply racial discrimination (which is "about how people are treated") that keeps African-Americans from achieving their goals, but rather the more complex reality of "racial stigma"--"which is about who, at the deepest cognitive level, they are understood to be"... [Loury] grapples eloquently and vigorously with such concrete examples as affirmative action, arguments about racial IQ differences and racial profiling... Loury's arguments are provocative and productive. (Publishers Weekly 2001-11-12)

In [The Anatomy of Racial Inequality] Loury makes a striking departure from the self-help themes of his earlier work, defending affirmative action and denouncing "colorblindness" as a euphemism for indifference to the fate of black Americans. [The book] offers a bracing philosophical defense of his new views. Returning to an argument he first presented in his dissertation, Loury argues that blacks are no longer held back by "discrimination in contract"--discrimination in the job market--but rather by "discrimination in contact," informal and entirely legal patterns of socializing and networking that tend to exclude blacks and thereby perpetuate racial inequality. At the root of this unofficial discrimination, he says is "stigma," a subtle yet pervasive form of antiblack bias. (Adam Shatz New York Times Magazine 2002-01-20)

In this fascinating and original book, Loury is both a renowned economist and the director of the Institute on Race and Social Division at Boston University. In this fascinating and original book, he combines those two qualifications to examine why, a century and a half after the abolition of slavery and 50 years past the beginning of the U.S. civil rights movement, there are still such inequalities between whites and African Americans. The result is a thoughtful, interdisciplinary book that argues that it isn't racial discrimination but racial stigma ("which is about who, at the deepest level, they are understood to be") that sustains the inequality. (Globe and Mail 2002-02-16)

Intellectually rigorous and deeply thoughtful... The Anatomy of Racial Inequality as much as anything, might be considered Loury's declaration of independence, his fully articulated position as a neoliberal... Loury's book deals with racial stigma quite directly, but in its political and philosophical aspects as a cause of black disadvantage... The Anatomy of Racial Inequality is an incisive, erudite book by a major thinker. (Gerald Early New York Times Book 2002-03-03)

[Glenn Loury] explores and explains the continuing struggle to achieve racial parity and social progress. His examination of racial stereotypes are particularly arresting, especially when one considers how many blacks--much to their detriment--not only accept negative images of themselves but

seem to be living out and rationalizing them as well...Mr. Loury is a balanced interpreter of American society, so he predictably criticizes both liberals and conservatives for their "simplistic" approaches to resolving racial misunderstandings that all too often contribute to the creation of unnecessary conflicts between the races...[This book is] thought-provoking and insightful and the author's musings on a variety of sensitive subjects certainly merits our attention. (Edward C. Smith Washington Times 2002-02-24)In *The Anatomy of Racial Inequality*, Loury assails "race-blindedness" as often (if inadvertently) indifferent to the cause of racial justice. In his view, the degradation of slavery in America translated into an enduring "stigma" that has marginalized the majority of Blacks and negatively affects their life chances. Evidence of this phenomena is to be seen in the vast numbers of African Americans languishing in the nation's prisons...Loury has written a concise and, at times, provocative analysis of the American racial conundrum--one in which he exercises that most central of intellectual virtues: the capacity to change one's mind. (William Jelani Cobb *The Crisis* 2002-04-01)Books that make readers truly uncomfortable, that hold up a mirror to our hearts and minds and reflect something horrible and true, are rare. *The Anatomy of Racial Inequality* by Glenn C. Loury is such a work. A provocative dissection of contemporary white/black relations, it belies the notion that mainstream Americans no longer harbor ugly racial beliefs...His book is a wake-up call for everyone who frames the modern history of race as a happy tale of progress. (J. Peder Zane *Raleigh News and Observer* 2002-02-17)Glenn Loury's new book, *The Anatomy of Racial Inequality*, paints in chilling detail the distance between Martin Luther King's dream and the reality of present-day America...In page after page of statistics gathered over a period of decades, Loury reveals the true nature of subjugation by race in the United States...[A] scrupulous account. (Anthony Walton *Harper's* 2002-08-01)*The Anatomy of Racial Inequality* by Glenn C. Loury is a theoretical treatise that attempts to reconfigure and refocus the conceptual perspective from which social scientists construct frameworks for studying and explaining African-American social and economic disadvantageHe presents a compelling look at issues of racial inequality, which ostensibly deals with economic issues by drawing upon other social science fields such as sociology and social psychology. His approach is well conceived and "novel" in that it makes use of the insights of these other fields by applying them to broader aspects of the American social matrix than is traditionally allowed in analyzing economic inequality. He succeeds primarily because he does not restrict his analysis of economic inequality to those constricts and variables that can only be explained by quantitative analysis of economic data, phenomena, and trends[W]hat is new in Loury's treatise is his contention that their racial stigma should clearly displace racial discrimination as the key conceptual approach to studying and understanding racial inequality[*The Anatomy of Racial Inequality*] provide[s] important contributions to our understanding of the challenges that continue to confront African-Americans socially, educationally, and economicallyLoury's work provides ample theoretical fodder and a sound rationale for empirically testing and assessing the structural aspects of these same constructs. (Larry L. Rowley *Educational Researcher* 2004-05-01)Coolly, clearly, and relentlessly, Glenn Loury traces the devastating effects of racial stigmatization on relations between blacks and whites in America. He uses the analytic tools of economics deftly without for a moment falling into pomp or mystification. No one has better stated the case against presuming that liberal states and free markets will of themselves dissolve unjust inequalities. (Charles Tilly, Professor of Sociology and Political Science, Columbia University)About the AuthorGlenn C. Loury is Merton P. Stoltz Professor of the Social Sciences in the Department of Economics at Brown University. A distinguished economic theorist, Loury's many scholarly articles include contributions to the fields of welfare economics, game theory, industrial organization, natural resource economics, and the economics of income distribution. He is also a prominent social critic and public intellectual.