



***Stamped from the Beginning* by Ibram X. Kendi**

Bold Type Books, Hachette Book Group, 2023

ISBN: 9781645030393 (PB)

*Age Range: Adult

BOOK SYNOPSIS

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. He uses the life stories of five major American intellectuals to drive this history: Puritan minister Cotton Mather, Thomas Jefferson, abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, W.E.B. Du Bois, and legendary activist Angela Davis.

As Kendi shows, racist ideas did not arise from ignorance or hatred. They were created to justify and rationalize deeply entrenched racist policies and the nation's racial inequities.

In shedding light on this history, *Stamped from the Beginning* offers us the tools we need to expose racist thinking. In the process, he gives us reason to hope.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ “An accomplished history of racist thought and practice in the United States from the Puritans to the present... 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 Reviews, Starred Review*

"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*

"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*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- National Book Award Winner 2016
- *Chicago Review of Books*, Best Books of 2016

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library@hbgusa.com

- *Financial Times*, Best Books of 2017

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

[Discussion Guide](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

Add responses to challenges whenever possible, including links if available. Relevant information includes official responses from a board of education, library statements of support, or other statements of support from relevant organizations like PEN America or the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund.

AUTHOR STATEMENT (OPTIONAL)

Offer the author an opportunity to provide a statement about the potential impact of banning their book or a link to an existing author statement.

***A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.