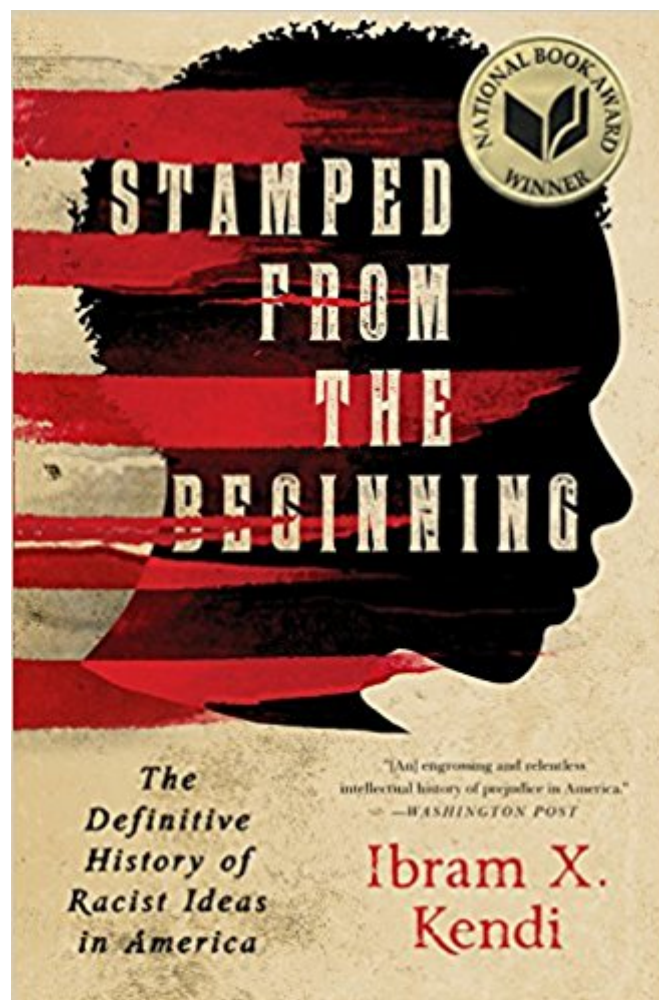


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# Stamped From The Beginning: The Definitive History Of Racist Ideas In America (National Book Award Winner)



## Synopsis

WINNER OF THE 2016 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FOR NONFICTIONA NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER IN RACE AND CIVIL RIGHTSFINALIST FOR THE 2016 NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD FOR NONFICTIONTHE MOST AMBITIOUS BOOK OF 2016 -- The Washington PostA BOSTON GLOBE BEST BOOK OF 2016A WASHINGTON POST NOTABLE BOOK OF 2016A CHICAGO REVIEW OF BOOKS BEST NONFICTION BOOK OF 2016A ROOT BEST BOOK OF 2016A BUZZFEED BEST NONFICTION BOOK OF 2016A BUSTLE BEST BOOK OF 2016NOMINATED FOR 2016 NAACP IMAGE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING LITERARY WORK OF NONFICTIONFINALIST FOR THE 2017 HURSTON/WRIGHT LEGACY AWARD IN NONFICTIONA KIRKUS BEST HISTORY BOOK OF 2016A KIRKUS BEST BOOK OF 2016 TO EXPLAIN CURRENT POLITICSA KIRKUS BEST HEARTRENDING NONFICTION BOOK of 2016AN ENTROPY BEST NONFICTION BOOK OF 2016THE 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 TimesSome 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.

## Customer Reviews

"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, contradiction and unintended consequences." — Washington Post  
"A deep (and often disturbing) chronicling of how anti-black thinking has entrenched itself in the fabric of American society." — The Atlantic

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