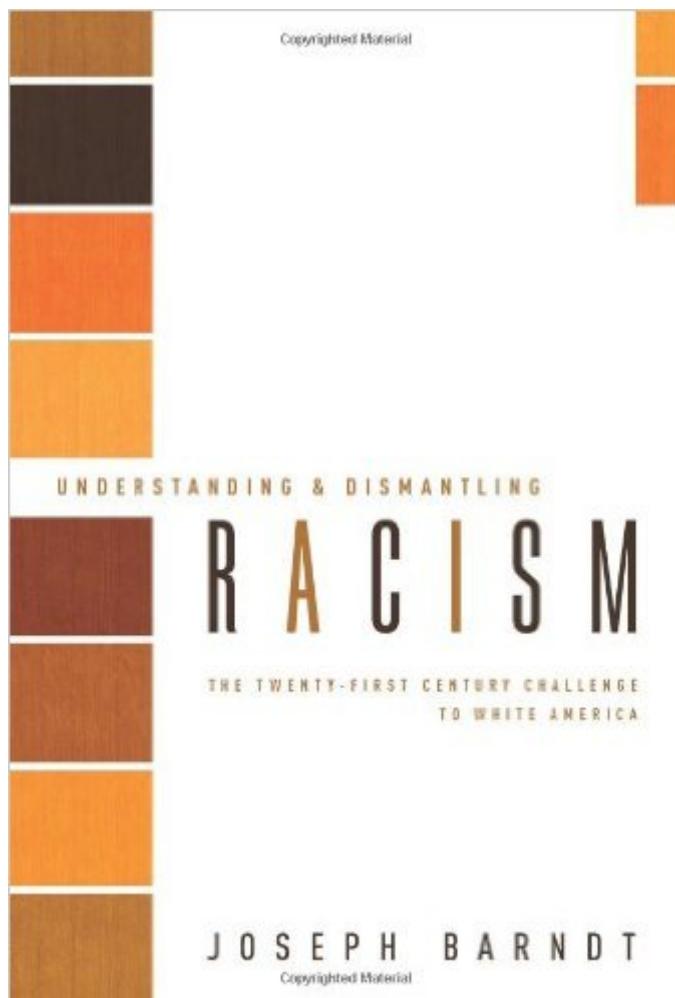


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Understanding And Dismantling Racism: The Twenty-First Century Challenge To White America (Facets)



Synopsis

More than 15 years have passed since Joe Barndt wrote his influential and widely acclaimed *Dismantling Racism* (1991, Augsburg Books). He has now written a replacement volume - powerful, personal, and practical - that reframes the whole issue for the new context of the twenty-first century. With great clarity Barndt traces the history of racism, especially in white America, revealing its various personal, institutional, and cultural forms. Without demonizing anyone or any race, he offers specific, positive ways in which people in all walks, including churches, can work to bring racism to an end. He includes the newest data on continuing conditions of People of Color, including their progress relative to the minimal standards of equality in housing, income and wealth, education, and health. He discusses current dimensions of race as they appear in controversies over 9/11, New Orleans, and undocumented workers. Includes analytical charts, definitions, bibliography, and exercises for readers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Joseph Barndt introduces several metaphors to unpack a major issue for the 21st century. One compelling metaphor is the use of the "Happy Machine and Dross" - dross being the cost of making "happy"- the real life happiness machines are the institutional systems of US society. With this beginning hook Barndt introduces the reader to the subject of the book, racism; and, the unhappy people in the US - people of color. Racism = racism prejudice + the misuse of power by systems and institutions Barndt writes the book for white people; however, he invites people of color to decide whether his understanding of racism corresponds to their experiences and understanding. The

purpose of Understanding and Dismantling Racism, using another strong metaphor, is to expose the velvet glove covering the iron fist. The iron fist is the reality of racism in America, which since the act of measuring began in 1981 reveals that hate crimes and violent forms of racism has not declined. Barndt takes the reader on a review of history exposing the two main forms of this evil, the genocide of indigenous peoples and the enslavement of African peoples. Since the 1960's through the courage of white people and people of color the largess of overt evil has changed, however, this partial success is "disguising the unfinished task of dismantling racism." Barndt's attempts at truth telling are stunning and courageous. He poses the question, "What to do?" At one end of the spectrum are those who advocate more of the same, (e.g., civil rights movement); and, at the other end those who view the continued pursuit of the present path as a stumbling stone, and are seeking new strategies for change.

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