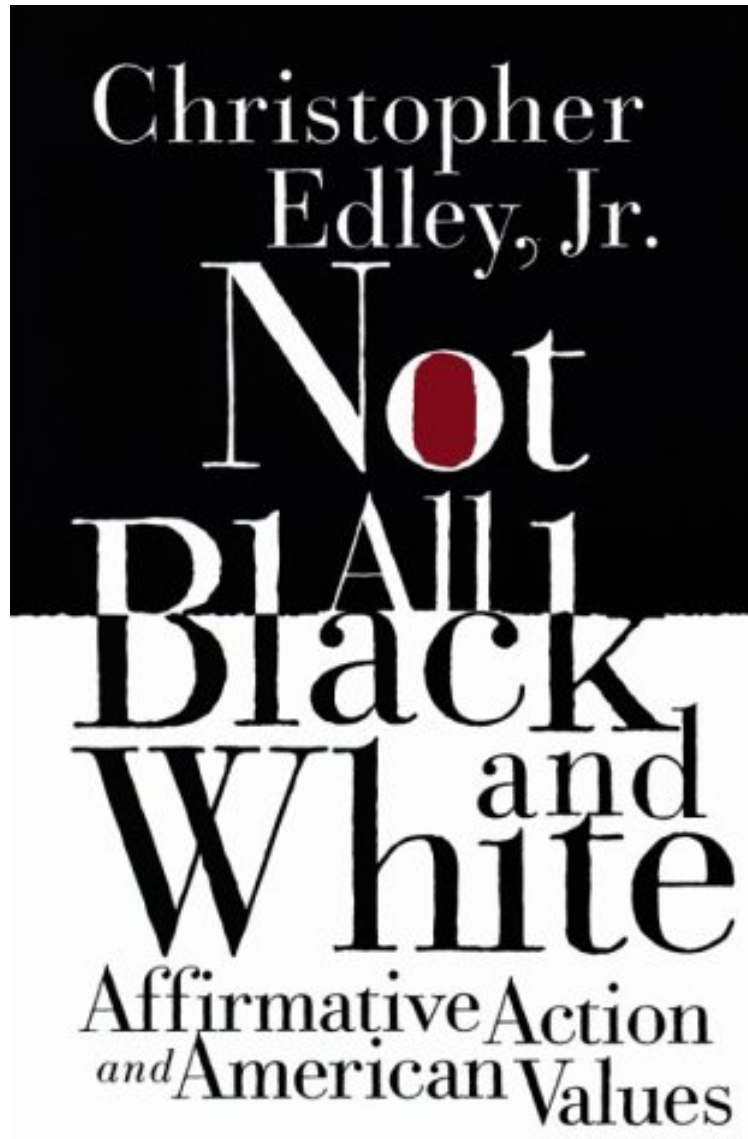


Not All Black and White: Affirmative Action, Race, and American Values

Christopher Edley Jr.

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Christopher Edley Jr. : Not All Black and White: Affirmative Action, Race, and American Values before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Not All Black and White: Affirmative Action, Race, and American Values:

7 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Whether or not you agree, this is a powerful argument. By Walter Mason This is by far the most in depth and comprehensive argument for Affirmative Action. Edley manages to write about this worn-thin issue with a new and interesting angle. Factually compelling as well. This is a must read for anybody at all interested in the controversies of race-politics.

Rejecting simplistic left-right arguments, Christopher Edley, Jr., offers a cogent and persuasive analysis of one of the most contended issues in politics today. He makes the powerful argument that affirmative-action laws are essential to social justice in this country, though they have flaws and drawbacks (for both of which he suggests precise and sensible remedies). He shows us what is at stake in the positions our elected officials take and in the arguments we make about fairness, justice, and progress.

From Publishers Weekly Harvard law professor Edley served as point man for President Clinton's affirmative action review and helped shape the "mend it, don't end it" policy the president proclaimed. His thorough, useful book shows an academic's sense of nuance and complexity. Edley acknowledges that affirmative action has risks and costs, but believes that the societal benefits justify them. While some posit that affirmative action merely remedies discrimination, Edley asserts that it also promotes "inclusion"—a term he prefers to the loaded word diversity. He warns cogently that class-based affirmative action will not close our racial gaps, though his defense of affirmative action for Hispanics and Asians could be better buttressed. Edley is most useful when he lays out distinctions, such as in suggesting that the more affirmative action relates to opportunity—as in education—the more acceptable it may be. Ultimately, the author is pragmatic: some forms of affirmative action may create white male victims (he uses the term "bystanders"), but such programs, he believes, should be minimized in favor of broader, more politically acceptable ones. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal All sides of affirmative action from the man who shaped Clinton's policy. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. Sheds useful light on the intricate legal, moral, and policy questions presented by affirmative action. [Edley] argues persuasively that affirmative action has not yet outlasted its usefulness. James O. Freedman