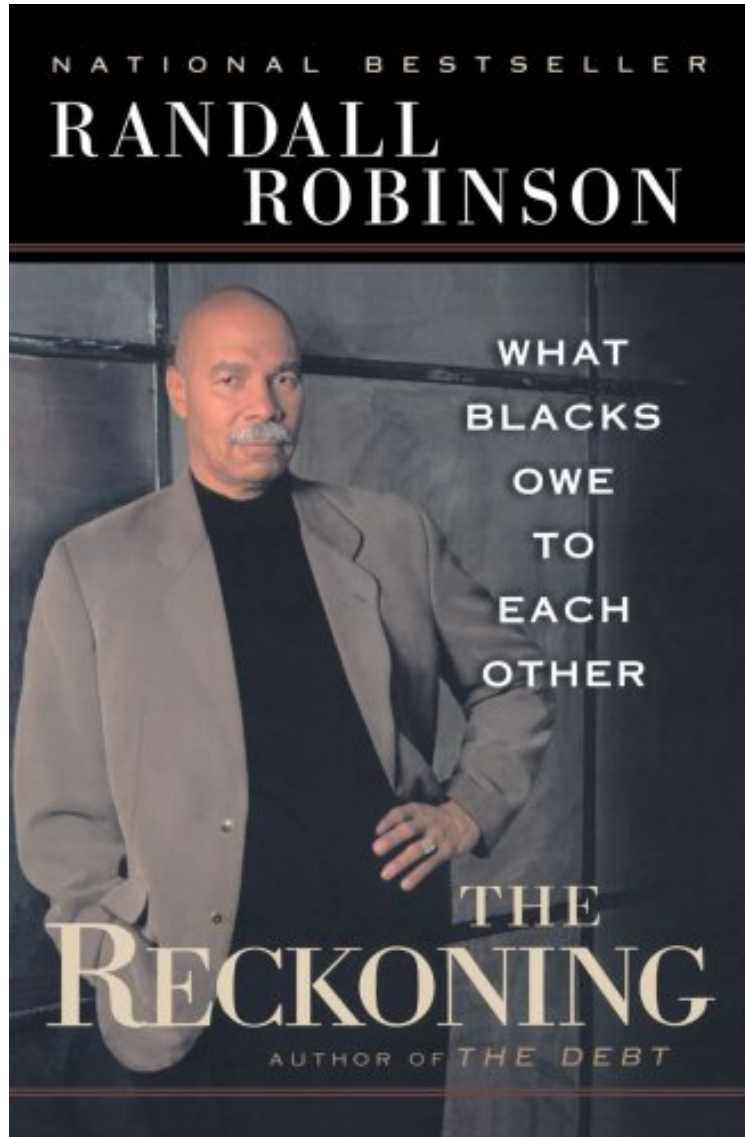


[PDF] The Reckoning: What Blacks Owe to Each Other

The Reckoning: What Blacks Owe to Each Other

Randall Robinson

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Randall Robinson : The Reckoning: What Blacks Owe to Each Other before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Reckoning: What Blacks Owe to Each Other:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. PowerfulBy Linda J. JenkinsThis book contains a straight-forward, honest discussion of the Black experience in America, and reinforces the teaching "I am my brother's keeper". It is a must-read for every American of African descent.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Esther Cumberbatchgreat!!!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Awesome!By Gee MAwesome and I

truly loved this product!!!

In *The Reckoning*, Randall Robinson examines the crime and poverty that grips much of urban America and urges black Americans to speak out and reach back to ensure their social and economic success in this country. With insight, compassion, and unflinching honesty, Robinson explores the twin blights of crime and poverty—the former often a symptom of the latter—and asks questions that are critical to the rebuilding of black communities: How do we create awareness of the heroic efforts already being made and how can we bring our troubled youth to safety? A product of Robinson's work with gang members, ex-convicts, and others who have been scarred by the harshness of life in our inner cities, *The Reckoning* is certain to be as important and controversial as his earlier books.

From Publishers Weekly With the bestselling *The Debt: What America Owes to Blacks*, Robinson, founder of the policy group TransAfrica, became a prominent voice for U.S. slavery reparations. Rather than a follow-up to *The Debt*, this book reads like a similarly impassioned extension of it. Robinson, in his powerful, polemical style, finds that "246 years of slavery and the century of government-embraced racial discrimination" have produced a devastating legacy for young African-Americans: "We are still slaves. The chains are inside us now. They turn our spirits mean, our hearts into metallic chambers.... They render our memories empty, our vision short, our song coarse, our fathers broken, our mothers bereaved." His prime example here is the criminal justice system, and the spine of this rather diffuse book is the story of Pee Wee Kirkland, who became a criminal (and basketball legend) growing up poor in 1950s Harlem, but who ultimately reformed. Along the way, Robinson makes some compelling points: the criminal justice system is disproportionately black and poor, prisons benefit poor white communities and Caucasian white-collar criminals get treated more gently than black convicts from the street. He criticizes fellow blacks for supporting politicians like Bill Clinton who he thinks furthered such injustices. As with the previous book, Robinson is short on practical analyses, but despite being less about what blacks owe each other than about the injustices continually in the offing, this book-length lament may further liberation. (Feb.) Forecast: Though post-9/11 concerns may diminish attention paid to this book, Robinson will be listened to, especially by the core constituency that read *The Debt*. He will soon join a class action suit against the U.S. government for reparations on behalf of the descendants of slaves. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Robinson rounds out work he did in *Defending the Spirit* and *The Debt*, arguing that all blacks must work to assure a better life for the inner-city poor. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Following *The Debt* [BKL Ja 1 15 00], in which Robinson presented the case for reparations to black Americans for slavery, this time he gives readers an introspective look at the obligations financially secure black Americans have to those African Americans who are less fortunate. The book was partly inspired by a chance encounter with Peewee Kirkland, a legendary high-school and playground basketball player, whose street crimes landed him in prison and later led to a career as a social reformer. Kirkland's business acumen was reflected in the financing of six-figure deals by the age of 15, and later involvement in Wall Street scams. Robinson relates the stark contrast between the consequences of Kirkland's misdeeds and those faced by his white counterparts. But Robinson focuses on the lesson of Kirkland's and other lives: that black Americans need to recognize that they themselves must act to stop the downward spiral of African Americans. He advocates that those who are better off financially must reach out with authentic leadership, talent, and money. Vernon Ford Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved