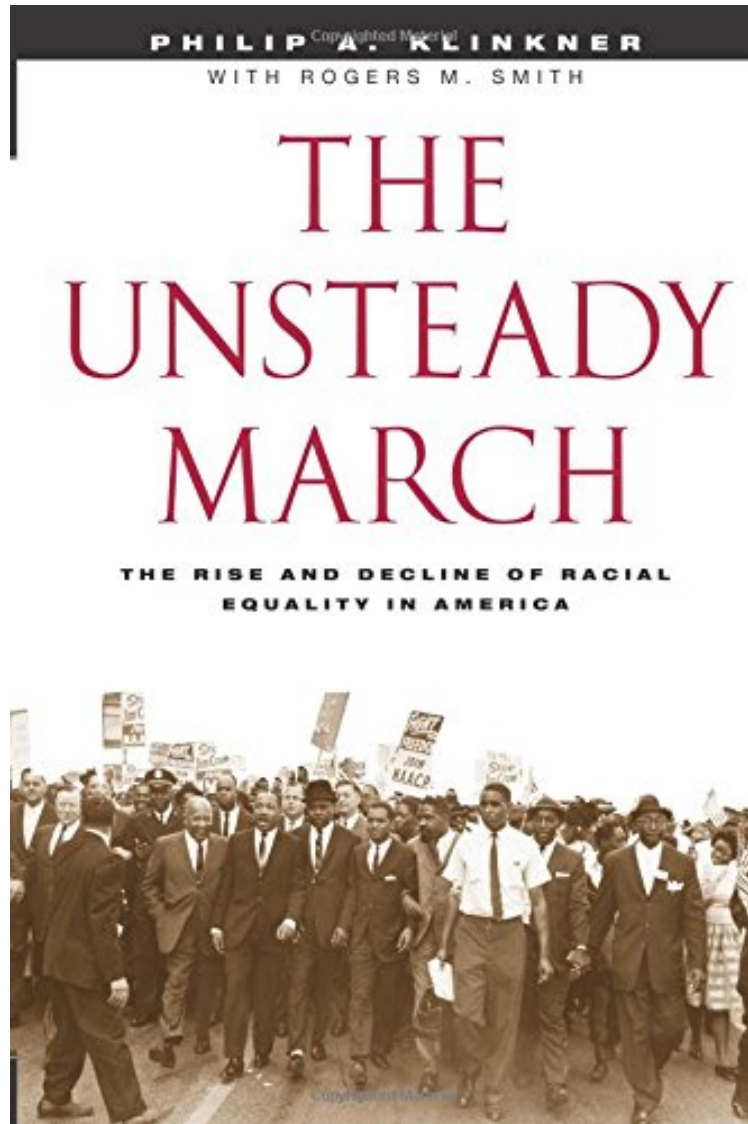


(Free read ebook) The Unsteady March: The Rise and Decline of Racial Equality in America

The Unsteady March: The Rise and Decline of Racial Equality in America

Philip A. Klinkner, Rogers M. Smith

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Philip A. Klinkner, Rogers M. Smith : The Unsteady March: The Rise and Decline of Racial Equality in America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Unsteady March: The Rise and Decline of Racial Equality in America:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Covers the bases as to why racism has its grip on American society (and refuses to let go)...By Rupert BurtonThere is a reason this kind of stuff isn't taught in schools today; there's a

reason Ben Affleck didn't want his family history of slave ownership revealed; there's a reason for folks having to remind you that "Black Lives Matter" and, most of all, there's a reason why some folks will do ANYTHING (including going against their own beneficial interests) to preserve the institution of racism in the United States. After reading this fantastic, amazingly intriguing book, you will understand the concept of racism and how it was (and still is) used to promote and maintain the legacy of so-called "white supremacy" not only in the "stereotypical South", but across the entire country. In my opinion, most people (regardless of color) KNOW that a racial hierarchy exists in this country, particularly among black and white people. Unfortunately, most people seem to take the "that's-just-how-things-are" approach while others are just in a full-blown state of denial when it comes to acknowledging the existence of white privilege. This book is a must read and should be required reading in every American high school. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Lexiethumbs up 30 of 30 people found the following review helpful. Well Written, Concise, Great Breadth And Depth Of Subject By taking a rest I believe a measure of a great Historical work is one that acts as a catalyst for further inquiry. As I read "The Unsteady March" I noted other topical areas discussed which would keep me reading for several months. This is not a dry textbook it is eminently readable. I am not suggesting this is a light read. I am saying the Authors did a remarkable job of conveying History, together with their own thesis, to create a book that should find a wide audience. The book goes well beyond the primary premise that the progression of Civil Rights only occurs when the need for non-white assistance is needed, and for varying period of times thereafter. Examples would include the larger military conflicts this country has experienced. What impressed me was that documentary sources were provided for the positions that the Authors espoused. There are nearly 60 pages of notes, which attest to the meticulous nature of their research. The subject of Race is extremely complex, and unlike other works this book does not offer up stillborn utopian solutions. The reader is given a detailed walk through the history of the issue, often accompanied by riveting quotes from historical figures that will surprise, and often shock. Another feature I found extremely useful were the occasional use of surveys that the Authors used sparingly but very effectively. The book also managed to utilize important statistical information without the obvious distortions that frequently contaminate such figures. In the final section entitled "Shall We Overcome" the book is brought to a well thought out and organized review. This is then combined with an examination of current racial climates and suggestions on what actions may help to improve these continued disparities among the Races. However the suggestions are offered, reasoned, and justified, not pompously hurled down, from an ivory or otherwise constructed tower. This is an extremely accessible book, that will serve as a reference work for me, and as mentioned, a catalyst for further reading. Extremely well done, highly recommended.

Winner of the Horace Mann Bond Award of the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research at Harvard University. American life is filled with talk of progress and equality, especially when the issue is that of race. But has the history of race in America really been the continuous march toward equality we'd like to imagine it has? This sweeping history of race in America argues quite the opposite: that progress toward equality has been sporadic, isolated, and surrounded by long periods of stagnation and retrenchment.

.com This examination of the era after the civil rights movement can best be described by the old saying "one step forward, two steps back." Klinkner and Smith attack the widely held view that greater racial equality in the United States is preordained by the characteristics and principles of the founding fathers or the tides of history. The authors look at the circumstances that fostered black civil rights, including wars and political instability; when those factors are reduced, they argue, antiblack backlash sets in, from the Reconstruction era up to post-Reagan Republicanism. The Unsteady March is an alarmist book, but not without hope. The authors offer solutions that include increased commitment to enforcing civil rights legislation, economic parity, and reform of the criminal justice system--as well as bringing back the draft and introducing a universal national service program. --Eugene Holley Jr. From Library Journal Political scientists Klinkner (Hamilton Coll.) and Smith (Yale) argue that American racial progress has occurred only in ten- to 15-year bursts and then only in three specific sets of circumstances: when war required black bodies, when fighting an enemy required egalitarian rhetoric, or when domestic political protest pressured for reforms. Progress, they note, has always been followed by years of stagnation and decline, as the white elite reconsolidates its (entrenched) power, blocking reform and embracing inequalities. In other words, whether we shall overcome depends on the national will to realize classic American ideals. The authors' rigorous, exhortatory exposition promises to unsettle some readers, but, in the end, it stands with important works such as Jennifer L. Hochschild's Facing Up to the American Dream: Race, Class, and the Soul of the Nation (Princeton Univ., 1995). It calls on Americans to confront the persistent black-white divide and the disparity between democratic promise and practice. Recommended for the U.S. politics, history, or race relations sections of public and academic collections. A Thomas J. Davis, Arizona State Univ., Tempe Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus s Both experts in government and history, Klinkner (Hamilton Coll.; The Losing Parties, not reviewed) and Smith (Yale; Civic Ideals, not reviewed) mean to "sound an alarm" about the still poor state of race relations in the US. To do so, they enter into a long tale of American history, none of its contents new, but all marshaled for the authors' special purpose. That purpose is to

demonstrate that racial progress has occurred only with the simultaneous existence of three conditions: 1) a war necessitating the mobilization of African-Americans; 2) a war requiring Americans to justify their involvement in democratic, egalitarian, and inclusive terms; and 3) the existence of protest movements pushing the government to institute reforms in keeping with those ideals. The authors do not adequately consider the possibility that most all-out American wars were as much result, not cause, of democratic, egalitarian, and inclusive ideologies, as well as of their day's versions of "protest movements." And what of religion? They also admit that they cannot demonstrate that racial progress might have come about without wars. Ironically, their very approach could contribute to the current fatalism about progress in racial matters that they decry. After all, if we need wars of total mobilization to give us racial progress (and the authors don't advocate war), then perhaps we must simply wait for one to break out. Sensing their logical predicament, they remark that progress can occur without war. But for that to happen, "Americans can and should commit themselves anew to overcoming our deepest and most enduring national division." To be sure. But historical argument isn't necessary to make that point, especially if, as the authors admit, they've arrived at their arguments "inductively," because, while awaiting deductive research not yet undertaken, they believe it urgent to get their message out. But then their answers can't be taken as history, only as hopealbeit hope in which most people share. A heartfelt plea for further progress, which raises as many questions as it answers. -- Copyright 1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.