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Discourse On Colonialism



Synopsis

"Césaire's essay stands as an important document in the development of third world consciousness--a process in which [he] played a prominent role." --Library Journal This classic work, first published in France in 1955, profoundly influenced the generation of scholars and activists at the forefront of liberation struggles in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Nearly twenty years later, when published for the first time in English, *Discourse on Colonialism* inspired a new generation engaged in the Civil Rights, Black Power, and anti-war movements and has sold more than 75,000 copies to date. Aimé Césaire eloquently describes the brutal impact of capitalism and colonialism on both the colonizer and colonized, exposing the contradictions and hypocrisy implicit in western notions of "progress" and "civilization" upon encountering the "savage," "uncultured," or "primitive." Here, Césaire reaffirms African values, identity, and culture, and their relevance, reminding us that "the relationship between consciousness and reality are extremely complex. . . . It is equally necessary to decolonize our minds, our inner life, at the same time that we decolonize society." An interview with Césaire by the poet René Depestre is also included.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

CA(c)saire's essay stands as an important document in the development of third world consciousness--a process in which [he] played a prominent role. - "Library Journal"

Text: English, French (translation) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this

title.

Having read this for a class, I found this to be a thought provoking text on colonialism as seen from the colonized. A scathing rebuke of the practice, in my opinion, and perfect to read when studying the decolonization period.

Fanon's book informs, educate, through frank discussion. "Amazingly" we see some of his concepts and ideologies playing out in society!

What a refreshing re-reading of a book that receded into the background of my first look, many years ago, into the forces of colonial power in the African diaspora. The prose seems to me now more powerfully poetic than I remembered and dangerously insightful of the cultural conditions internal to the making of Europe's colonial rise and demise. A must read for anyone interested in postcolonial discourse and discourses of power.

Although I hoped to get a broader perspective on the subject of colonialism, I was somewhat disappointed in the narrow perspective that I was offered by Césaire. His outlook was as described, a discourse, but from a very personal point of view. The author is first and foremost a poet and his writing reflects that in his approach to the topic. I was hoping for a more detailed historical and/or sociological evaluation of colonialism. Instead, Césaire offered this reader a more personal insight into his own interesting cultural and ethnological understanding of the subject, an evaluation that I appreciated and understood, but which did not further much my insights into the dynamics of colonialism and its underpinnings.

Learn the truth about colonialism. Great read for any scholar. I highly recommend this book.

Great read. Very accurate history review on topic.

Very pithy and full of insight. It takes time and effort to make the most of this book but it is well worth it. The colonizers and their progeny as well as the colonized and their offspring who wish to better understand the world of 2014 would all love this book.

Discourse on Colonialism is a great addition to any post-colonial reading list that wants to take

social action seriously. May not be that relevant for literary criticism folks but it is a very good read. And it is as inflammatory as you would think, but if you are reading Fanon you are getting only a snippet of the conversation.

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