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# Race, Religion, and the Continuing American Dilemma

*C. Eric Lincoln*

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#10344768 in Books Hill and Wang 1986-02-01Original language:English 8.24 x .86 x 5.52l, #File Name: 0809001632304 pages | File size: 58.Mb

**C. Eric Lincoln : Race, Religion, and the Continuing American Dilemma** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Race, Religion, and the Continuing American Dilemma:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The American Dilemma - TodayBy K SteverI would like to think that if Lincoln wrote this book in today's society he would be much more pleased and provide words of hope and satisfaction. However, that is not the case. I enjoyed "Dilemma" because it provided a look into what America can do to fix its wrongs. But America still keeps messing things up. So if anything, I would like to see Lincoln come out with an updated version and have it include anger, frustration, and disappointment and maybe even a different message for a solution.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy revhjreceived as promised6 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A Look at American MoralityBy Cheryl A. Zaleski"Responsibility without power is slavery. Power without responsibility is tyranny".Nestled within the opening pages of C.Eric Lincoln's book, the above quote let's you know you should strap yourself in for a soul-searching ride. Lincoln covers a lot of ground in this book - he looks at the structure of power in America from the 1600's to the present, the formation of the Black church as a cultural necessity, which was formed by borrowing the only religion offered (though incompletely and bastardized as it was) to Blackamericans (as he refers to them), and how Christianity has become more concerned with preserving Western culture than promoting values of the faith. He also puts forth an admirable argument for preserving affirmative action, and how the struggles of Blackamericans are different from any other minority or ethnic group, and should be treated as such.Nevertheless,the reason for four stars and not five is that Lincoln seems to say the Black Christian church can't be held responsible for doing anything more in the struggle to change the present imbalance in

America - that they are already morally superior to any other religious offering out there. Guess it's just my problem with Christianity in general...

A classic work on religion and the racial problems of modern America - now brought up to date. Since the early days of the Republic, Americans' exuberant, unchastened idealism, their commitment to the notion of a perfect society in the New World, has clashed with the reality of ugly American society, and religious groups have all too often accommodated themselves to these injustices. In *Race, Religion, and the Continuing American Dilemma*, C. Eric Lincoln reevaluates what Gunnar Myrdal called "the American dilemma" and studies particularly the influence of the black church. This revised edition takes into account the weakening of welfare and affirmative action, and argues that the black church must serve today as a vital moral authority to lead us in to the twenty-first century..

.com Noted Duke religion professor C. Eric Lincoln examines the contradictions between the American religious ideals of love and brotherhood and the betrayal of those ideals by the white citizens who preach them the most, as well as the practical applications of those beliefs by the black church. "In the larger sense," he writes, "this is a book about America, a self-perceived 'nation under God....' In a more intimate sense, it is a perplexing American phenomenon: the strange rapprochement between church and society, which continues to embarrass the faith, vitiate the society, and saddle both with a burdensome dilemma that seems to persist despite the fervor of our religion." Picking up where Gunnar Myrdal's classic *An American Dilemma* left off, Lincoln describes the liberation theology of African American Christianity--from the motherland to the Americas--and the history of its adherents' struggle for social democracy and justice; he also notes the help offered by equally progressive white congregations. He painfully recounts the late-20th-century assaults on black churches and the problem of police brutality, which he names "the Fuhrmanization of justice" after LAPD detective (and O.J. Simpson trial celebrity) Mark Fuhrman. Drawing from biblical heroes, Lincoln ultimately prophesizes that "racial reconciliation will require the sacrificial spirit of Abraham, the tenacity of Moses, the wisdom of Solomon, and the unshakable faith that being American is worth what it takes to save America from itself." --Eugene Holley Jr. Well researched and provocative. *The Sun* (Baltimore) Even those of us who fancy we know something of the history of race relations in America have much to learn from Eric Lincoln . . . *Race, Religion, and the Continuing American Dilemma* is not only informative; it is a powerful antidote to the complacency arising from the significant progress of the last 30 years . . . It's easy to forget, or not to notice, how the nation's unfinished work looks from the black perspective. Lincoln, in offering that perspective, is a passionate, colorful, contentious writer . . . [who] achieves a considerable power and eloquence. *The Washington Post* About the Author Eric Lincoln, William Rand Kenan, Jr., Professor of Religion and Culture Emeritus at Duke University, has written many books, including *The Black Muslims in America* and *The Negro Pilgrimage in America*. He lives in Durham, North Carolina.