



Race, Rhetoric, And Identity: The Architecton Of Soul

By Molefi Kete Asante

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In this new collection of insightful essays, the most prolific contemporary African American intellectual and the leader of the Afrocentric school of thought turns his critical attention to the many ways in which modes of communication in American culture have created a dehumanizing African American identity. Asante examines a wide range of cultural phenomena that continue to reflect underlying racial problems, including media distortions, the identity crisis among African Americans, the rhetoric of education, the exploitations of bureaucracies, "the tyranny of reason without passion," African voices expressed through European literary forms, and arguments about justice and reparations.

Asante's approach is based on the Afrocentric idea, which treats African people, either on the continent or in the Diaspora, as primarily subjects of African cultural experiences rather than as marginal people confined to the fringes of European or American culture. The advantage of this fresh perspective is that it not only puts people of African heritage on an equal footing with people from other cultures, but it also allows one to evaluate American and European ideas from an African perspective. This reorientation of the facts opens up new insights and new possibilities for creating a truly egalitarian American society.

Anyone who wants to understand the complex problem of racism in America will welcome Asante's creative, original, and constructive approach.

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Editorial Review

Review

"A passionate call for a return to humanity. Molefi Kete Asante offers a provocative and enlightening analysis of rhetorical construction of race and identity in historical, intellectual, and institutional contexts as well as a solution to heal wounds and repair souls."

—Xing Lu, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Communications, DePaul University

"Molefi Asante's most recent work continues to set the standard for critically discussing how African Americans and the Afrocentric idea have challenged the race concept in America and around the world. This is a highly informative and powerful book which stimulates us to move beyond our rudimentary constructs of race and power."

—Katherine Bankole, Ph.D., Director

West Virginia University Center for Black Culture and Research

Assistant Professor of History, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences

About the Author

Molefi Kete Asante (Philadelphia, PA), the creator of the first doctoral program in African American Studies, is professor of African American Studies at Temple University and the author of more than 50 books, including *Erasing Racism: The Survival of the American Nation* and *Race, Rhetoric, and Identity: The Architecton of Soul*.

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