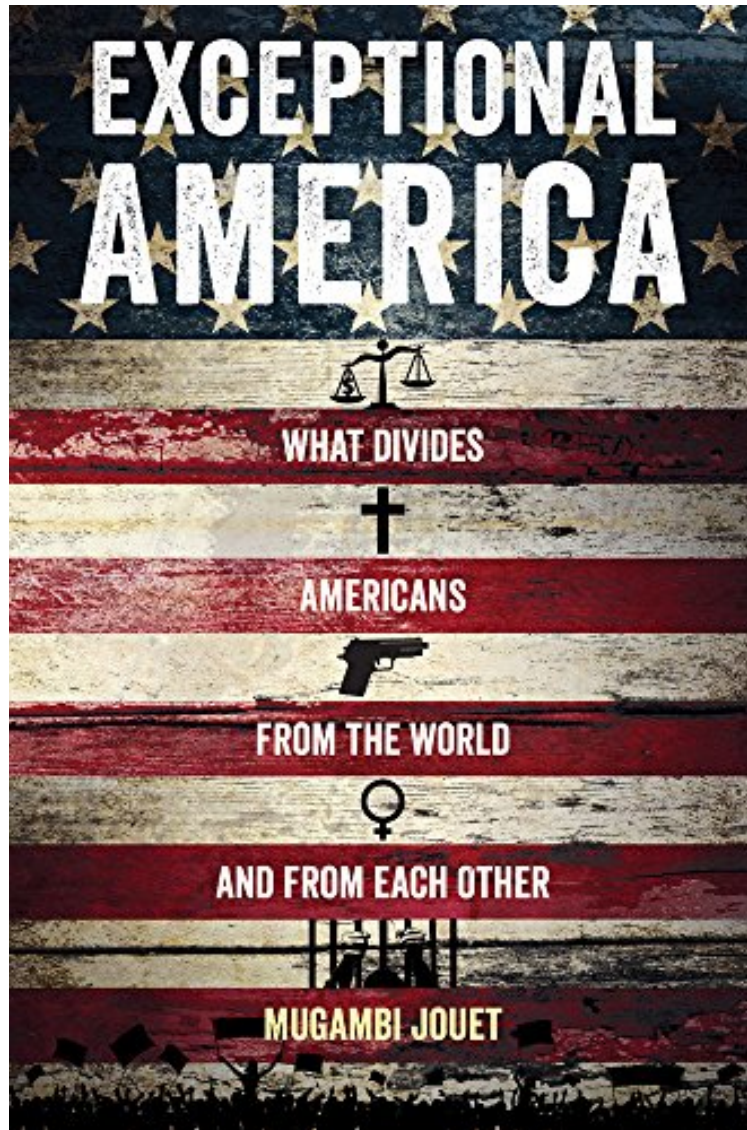


Exceptional America: What Divides Americans from the World and from Each Other

Mugambi Jouet

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#109914 in Books Jouet Mugambi 2017-04-03Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x 1.00 x 6.00l, #File Name: 0520293290376 pagesExceptional America What Divides Americans from the World and from Each Other | File size: 46.Mb

Mugambi Jouet : Exceptional America: What Divides Americans from the World and from Each Other before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Exceptional America: What Divides Americans from the World and from Each Other:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Understanding the decline of AmericaBy JoyceRaised in Paris by a

French mother and Kenyan father, Jouet went to college in America studying history at Rice University, public policy at NYU, and law at Northwestern, and worked as a public defender in Manhattan. He uses the word exceptional as that which is different, unusual and notes that it is the polarization of America that makes it exceptional both within and with the rest of the Western world. Our country is divided over the role of government, access to health care, wealth inequality, financial regulation, climate change, science, sexual propriety, reproductive rights, the literal truth of the Bible, warfare, torture, and human rights. One of the ways we differ from other Western countries is this polarization within our country. Compared to other countries, we are also more insular: we know less about the rest of the world and travel less. We lag behind other industrialized nations in criminal justice, health care, wealth inequality, and human rights. So, even though we have been a global leader in many areas, therefore being great with that meaning of exceptional, our present exceptionalism is likely leading toward decline. Jouet sees four peculiar mindsets in America: profound anti-intellectualism, fervent Christian fundamentalism, a visceral suspicion of government, and racial resentment. His chapters focus on these and other factors which led to Trump's election, including the 2003 invasion of Iraq. In his final chapters, Jouet recalls our recent history and reflects on how America might eventually reclaim credibility as a global leader by (in his words) building on its tremendous strengths, tapping into its enormous potential, and addressing the fundamental problems behind its decline.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Should be Required Reading for All US Citizens
By Dale Petrishe
In today's "uncivil environment" this book should be required reading for all high school students, a course in college and part of military basic training. And elected members of Congress would do well to read it too! We Americans live in such an isolation, as a country, it is truly, enlightening, astounding and at times very uncomfortable to "see" our democracy and how we behave, from someone who was born and raised in another country and culture. Mayhap, instead of screaming uncivilly at one another about rights, we stopped and considered how the rest of the world sees us, and start having civil conversations about the Responsibilities of our democracy.
Do I agree with everything this author has to say - no, but it sure was food for thought.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It is objectively worse than you think it is.
By owen
This is must reading. Like Edward Luce an intelligent outsider, Mugambi Jouet nails the events, policies, and politics that combined to produce the Trump Presidency. We all saw this coming, commentators like Paul Krugman more clearly than others. But, none dared call it treason. The Republicans and the right wing placed class interests above country and destroyed America, Trump is their reward. Fascism is our future.

Why did Donald Trump follow Barack Obama into the White House? Why is America so polarized? And how does American exceptionalism explain these social changes? In this provocative book, Mugambi Jouet describes why Americans are far more divided than other Westerners over basic issues, including wealth inequality, health care, climate change, evolution, gender roles, abortion, gay rights, sex, gun control, mass incarceration, the death penalty, torture, human rights, and war. Raised in Paris by a French mother and Kenyan father, Jouet then lived in the Bible Belt, Manhattan, and beyond. Drawing inspiration from Alexis de Tocqueville, he wields his multicultural sensibility to parse how the intense polarization of U.S. conservatives and liberals has become a key dimension of American exceptionalism, an idea widely misunderstood as American superiority. While exceptionalism once was a source of strength, it may now spell decline, as unique features of U.S. history, politics, law, culture, religion, and race relations foster grave conflicts. They also shed light on the intriguing ideological evolution of American conservatism, which long predated Trumpism. Anti-intellectualism, conspiracy-mongering, a visceral suspicion of government, and Christian fundamentalism are far more common in America than the rest of the Western world. Europe, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Exceptional America dissects the American soul, in all of its peculiar, clashing, and striking manifestations.

"Thought-provoking. . . . Jouet was raised in Paris by a French mother and a Kenyan father, and he tackles his subject with a multicultural point of view, considering anti-intellectualism, fundamentalism, sex and gender roles and the politics of mass incarceration. The book takes the reader right up to the present; Jouet finished writing it just after the 2016 presidential election."