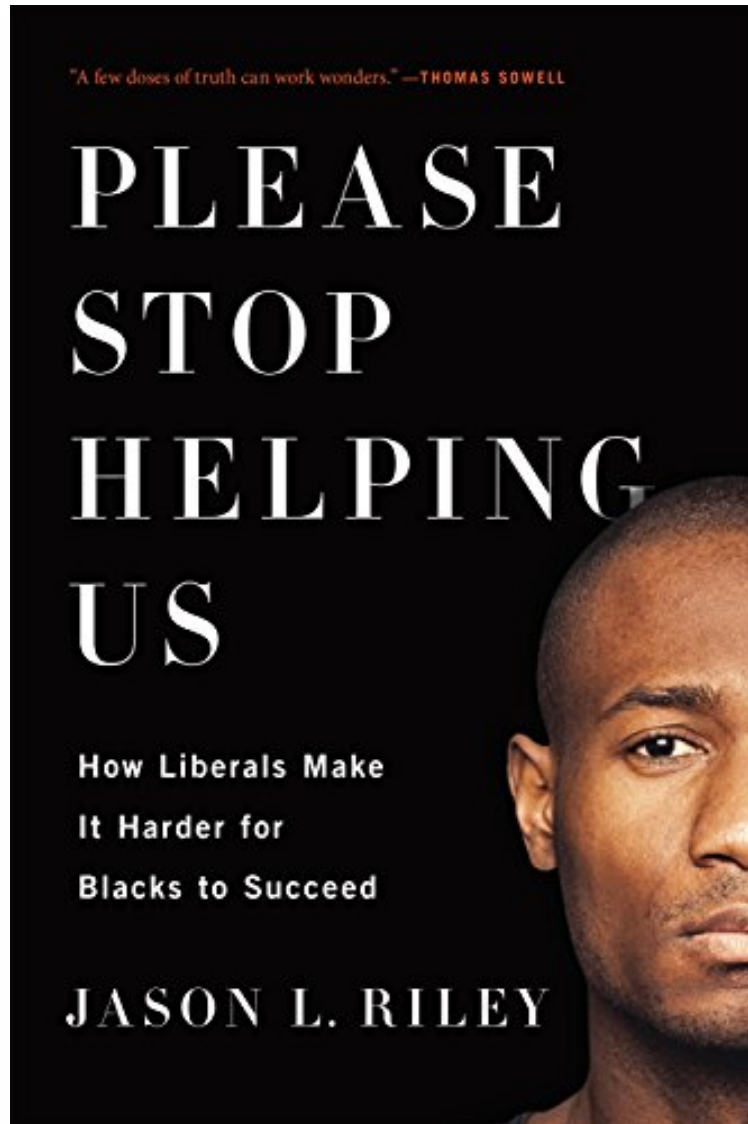


(Mobile pdf) Please Stop Helping Us: How Liberals Make It Harder for Blacks to Succeed

Please Stop Helping Us: How Liberals Make It Harder for Blacks to Succeed

Jason L. Riley

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Jason L. Riley : Please Stop Helping Us: How Liberals Make It Harder for Blacks to Succeed before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Please Stop Helping Us: How Liberals Make It Harder for Blacks to Succeed:

505 of 537 people found the following review helpful. Intellectual Renegade challenges Affirmative Action and more...By AlexCan Affirmative Action and similar programs be hurting those it intends to help? To even raise this question will be puzzling to many of us, but social policies based on emotion and empathy, the ones that "feel" right,

often have the worst unintended consequences. This book examines them all in detail. I would say that Riley's thesis roughly boils down to this: Affirmative Action and other well-intended programs are essentially training wheels for blacks. They may have had their place early on, but continued reliance on them is now more harmful than helpful. He does a thorough job researching relevant data and provides a strong case for this. He reminds me of Dambisa Moyo, Zambian economist, who reveals to clueless Westerners that endless aid was actually hurting Africa by creating a culture of dependence and thwarting initiative and self-reliance. The same is true here in the US. In many large American cities, generations of black households have grown up on welfare, creating a distorted sense of expectations and entitlement. If you, your parents, and your grandparents were all substantially supported by government, why would you believe that anything else is likely, or even possible? If, on the other hand, like so many Asian-American success stories, you believe the only way to make it is study your tail off, and become self-reliant, then so many doors will be open to you in medicine, engineering, business, and more. Riley really has his work cut out for him. There are more unquestioning drones in modern America than the skies of Afghanistan. He will be called all the usual names-- Uncle Tom, Self-hater--used by the Politically Correct to punish those who color outside the lines. But if he can change the minds of just a few, create a few more black superstars like Ben Carson, etc, then it will be all worth it. 303 of 324 people found the following review helpful. Based on the personal experiences of a successful Black man By Kent Price Government "war on poverty" programs of the last 50 years have failed in spite of increasing expenditures. There appear to be limits on what the government can do beyond removing barriers to freedom. The focus on "equality of result" seems to be creating more barriers to progress. The book examines the track record of various laws and programs and their undesirable consequences: * Welfare programs that trap people in poverty. * Affirmative action in higher education that results in fewer black college graduates. * Minimum wage laws that price blacks out of the labor force. * Soft-on-crime laws that make black neighborhoods more dangerous. * Limitations on school choice that trap students in failing schools. The book is well written, with many personal examples from the author's life. It reveals how black culture, more than anything, explains the continuing academic achievement gap between black and white. I highly recommend this book. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. thoughtful analysis By Richard Jette Jr. a book that makes you think. Many examples of the law of unintended consequences. The author has staked out the position that repeated attempts to achieve equality for African-Americans has had the exact opposite effect and the intended beneficiaries are actually worse off. Whether or not you agree with him after reading this, the points he raises must be considered to achieve the desired results.

Why is it that so many efforts by liberals to lift the black underclass not only fail, but often harm the intended beneficiaries? In *Please Stop Helping Us*, Jason L. Riley examines how well-intentioned welfare programs are in fact holding black Americans back. Minimum-wage laws may lift earnings for people who are already employed, but they price a disproportionate number of blacks out of the labor force. Affirmative action in higher education is intended to address past discrimination, but the result is fewer black college graduates than would otherwise exist. And so it goes with everything from soft-on-crime laws, which make black neighborhoods more dangerous, to policies that limit school choice out of a mistaken belief that charter schools and voucher programs harm the traditional public schools that most low-income students attend. In theory these efforts are intended to help the poor; and poor minorities in particular. In practice they become massive barriers to moving forward. *Please Stop Helping Us* lays bare these counterproductive results. People of goodwill want to see more black socioeconomic advancement, but in too many instances the current methods and approaches aren't working. Acknowledging this is an important first step.

About the Author Jason L. Riley is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute and a columnist for the Wall Street Journal. He lives in suburban New York City with his wife and three children.