

Review: Letter To a Young Conservative By Dinesh D'Souza

Contributed by Deborah Weigel

When I first found this book I was casually browsing the book catalogue of the beloved Golda Meir library. I was somewhat unfamiliar with politics, other than current events, and wanted to explore my own political beliefs. Throughout my life I have had many experiences and grown up with the ideals that clearly placed me as a conservative, but at the time I had not really understood the difference between liberal and conservative.

The main points I understood, but I needed to find something to confirm or disprove my already established mindset. The first book I chose to read was Letters to a Young Conservative by Dinesh D'Souza. This book proved not only to be one of my favorites of all time, but also an informative and easy to read text.

Targeted at college age students, Letters to a Young Conservative proves to be an excellent way to explore modern political conservatism through basic arguments and ideas. While most books in this subject matter tend to be dry and lengthy, this book is quite the opposite. This book is an easy read, under 230 pages, with chapters broken up according to major themes.

Publishers Weekly states "he goes on to explain how conservatism debunks an array of issues, such as affirmative action (it strengthens the "widespread suspicion that [blacks] might be intellectually inferior"), feminism ("the feminist error was to embrace the value of the workplace as greater than the value of the home"), postmodernism ("pompous, verbose, and incoherent") and some lesser known sins such as the "self-esteem hoax" (self-esteem doesn't promote better performance.)"

D'Souza speaks in a conversational tone that makes topics interesting and entertaining to a variety of readers. He breaks through the stereotype that all conservatives are dry and stodgy and in contrast is witty and entertaining.

Through the question and answer format, D'Souza is able to cover a wide range of subjects. This format allows D'Souza to respond to the many people who have attended his lectures and had similar questions.

One thing I love about this book is the fact that he addresses many racial issues that are usually shied away from. As he states in his book, being a minority, it is hard for people to consider him a racist. I believe, D'Souza being a minority, has an opportunity to reach out to people that the Ann Coulters of the world miss.

Although you may not agree with D'Souza's points, you will definitely understand where each one is coming from. This book is a great start for liberals to begin exploring their conservative counterparts, and for conservatives it's an uplifting and educated look at the values they already embrace.

"For all its grand proclamations, today's liberalism seems to be characterized by a pathological hostility to America, to capitalism, and to traditional moral values. In short, liberalism has become the party of anti-Americanism, economic plunder, and immorality."

D'Souza is not some college dropout running his mouth. D'Souza has been called one of the "top young public-policy makers in the country" by Investors Business Daily. D'Souza was the John M Olin Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. I

In 1987-88 he served as senior policy analyst at the Reagan White House. From 1985-1987 he was managing editor of Policy Review. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Dartmouth College in 1983. (dineshdsouza.com) Books written by D'Souza include: What's so Great about America and Illiberal Education, both of which became New York Times Best sellers.

Pick up Letters to a Young Conservative today at your area book store, the Golda Meir Library or Amazon.com. It is a valuable and entertaining read, as well as the perfect stocking stuffer.