



Unjust: Social Justice and the Unmaking of America

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There are just two problems with “social justice”: it’s not social and it’s not just. Rather, it is a toxic ideology that encourages division, anger, and vengeance. In this penetrating work, *Commentary* editor and MSNBC contributor Noah Rothman uncovers the real motives behind the social justice movement and explains why, despite its occasionally ludicrous public face, it is a threat to be taken seriously.

American political parties were once defined by their ideals. That idealism, however, is now imperiled by an obsession with the demographic categories of race, sex, ethnicity, and sexual orientation, which supposedly constitute a person’s “identity.” As interest groups defined by identity alone command the comprehensive allegiance of their members, ordinary politics gives way to “Identitarian” warfare, each group looking for payback and convinced that if it is to rise, another group must fall.

In a society governed by “social justice,” the most coveted status is victimhood, which people will go to absurd lengths to attain. But the real victims in such a regime are blind justice—the standard of impartiality that we once took for granted—and free speech. These hallmarks of American liberty, already gravely compromised in universities, corporations, and the media, are under attack in our legal and political systems.

Unjust: Social Justice and the Unmaking of America Details

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From Reader Review Unjust: Social Justice and the Unmaking of America for online ebook

Marissa Forbes says

Post- graduate content. Be warned.

Joanna Larson says

Thoughtful, and reflective. The book was a bit wordy and disjointed at times, but well worth the read. I've met so many people within the last few years who feel 'expelled' from the left because their political correctness, or lack thereof, egalitarian views, or willingness to be boxed in by identity politics has become an affront to social justice crusaders. This book is a welcome critique of the failures of identity politics, and offers a few thoughts on how to move beyond it. I've read most of the works mentioned or quoted in the book, and found that helpful to try and hold the various perspectives in the same space. This was Noah Rothman's first book, and I look forward to his next.

Robert says

Noah Rothman's "Unjust" is a detailed examination of the Identitarian ideology pervasive among the fringes of both the left and right.

Modern social justice movements and Identitarianism leads its followers to dismiss the ideals of the American founding, compete for victimhood status, challenge democratic norms, and eventually rationalize political violence. It's a dangerous ideology that exists in both the hard left and alt-right.

Far from being an esoteric read on these subjects, Rothman provides historical accounts of how this ideology has manipulated communities and caused national tragedies.

The most appealing part of this book is that it is written for an audience politically opposed to the author's conservative point of view. Unlike many right-wing screeds written to troll leftists, Rothman's book is inherently an exercise in bridge building. Only by upholding our shared ideals enshrined in the Constitution and Declaration of Independence can our nation come together and root out this insidious ideology.

Mike says

This is an accessible, well-written synthesis of the criticisms of current ideas in "social justice." It's not the most in-depth or academically rigorous work on the subject, but it's smart enough to be worthwhile, and is probably the best read out there for people who want to understand the case against "social justice," whether they're inclined to agree or disagree with it.

Letitia Todd Kim says

Although I agree with Rothman's thesis that the modern social justice movement does more harm than good, I found this book unsatisfying. It is too shallow. Rothman attempts to cover far too many (often disparate) incidents and topics, with the result that none of them receives sufficient analysis.

Melissa says

This book is a must-read for all Americans, as far as I'm concerned. Classic/moderate liberals who have become disillusioned by a Democratic Party that is beholden to social justice warriors and identitarian politics will finally have an answer. This is an affirmation for what I have been feeling since the 2016 election wrapped up and I was motivated to become an independent voter. As if Noah Rothman had planned it, along came Jussie Smollet to execute a fake hate crime at the same time this book was published, providing a perfect real-life example of just what is wrong with the modern liberal movement. Bravo, Noah. I will suggest this book to everyone I know.

Burt Schoeppe says

A somewhat uneven book. The general subject matter is interesting. There are some real high points.

Definitely a little thin at times. Many of the subjects could have been explored in more depth. On a few occasions the connection between chapters is tenuous.

Cate B says

A review by someone that actually read the book

First and foremost, if you're on the fringe left or right, you will not like this book. If you're somewhere in the middle of the political spectrum (like me), however, this might be a good choice. One thing to keep in mind is that, at least on Goodreads and Amazon, a lot of people that haven't read this book are giving this book one-star star reviews, so the rating average is skewed more negatively than the book deserves.

This book condemns identitarianism and racial reductionism on both the left and the right. It details the philosophical developments of these movements, the violent turn of the adherents, and gives recommendations on how to limit their influence. The last part is definitely what made this book worthwhile in my opinion - too often political books expound on what's wrong with the world without hinting at a solution. The other part of this book that stood out to me was the authors level-headed critique of Trump and the alt-right. I think he was actually able to express his critique of the right more concisely than his critique of the left.

Even though I liked parts of the book, it didn't seem entirely cohesive, especially in the first few chapters. The book definitely improved towards the end though. Overall, due to the suggestions at the end and the

most level-headed critique of the alt-right that I've ever read, I liked this book.

Robin Case says

An analysis of the Social Justice movement in the USA. Mostly a rehash. About 5% new material and analysis, 95% OK but not new. Fine for beginners.

Matt Letten says

What an eye opening insight into the current state of affairs regarding social justice warriors and political correctness in America.

This book is a must read and I believe it has the chance to spark a desperately needed more open conversation about this shit.

Paula says

Author and other guests on *Morning Joe* set forth interesting for and against ideas proposed in his book so I wanted to read it.

I did not find the book well written or argued which was disappointing. Though author purports to call out social justice proponents on both ends of political spectrum, he blatantly makes his case more often on activists from the left end of the spectrum. He also amplifies the worst extremes of both groups (concentrating on left) instead of really arguing policies. He places the extremes on left fully within the Democratic party, but extremes on the right are stated as not being as all conservative/Republican. As far as redistribution, every government redistributes--it the choice of how redistribution and distribution that sets parties and groups apart.

I expected better from a person whose boss is editor of *Commentary* John Podhoretz.

Rothman says he gives prescriptions for correcting the problems he sees, but I did not hear them. This is a very shallow dive. A generalized screed. A hodgepodge

Also making up the word *identitarianism* made for a hokey beginning.

Some observations that rang true were the whiny, victim nature of many in today's world of Twitter and other social media; of taking offense and trying to limit free speech; of fact-free assessments and arguments.
