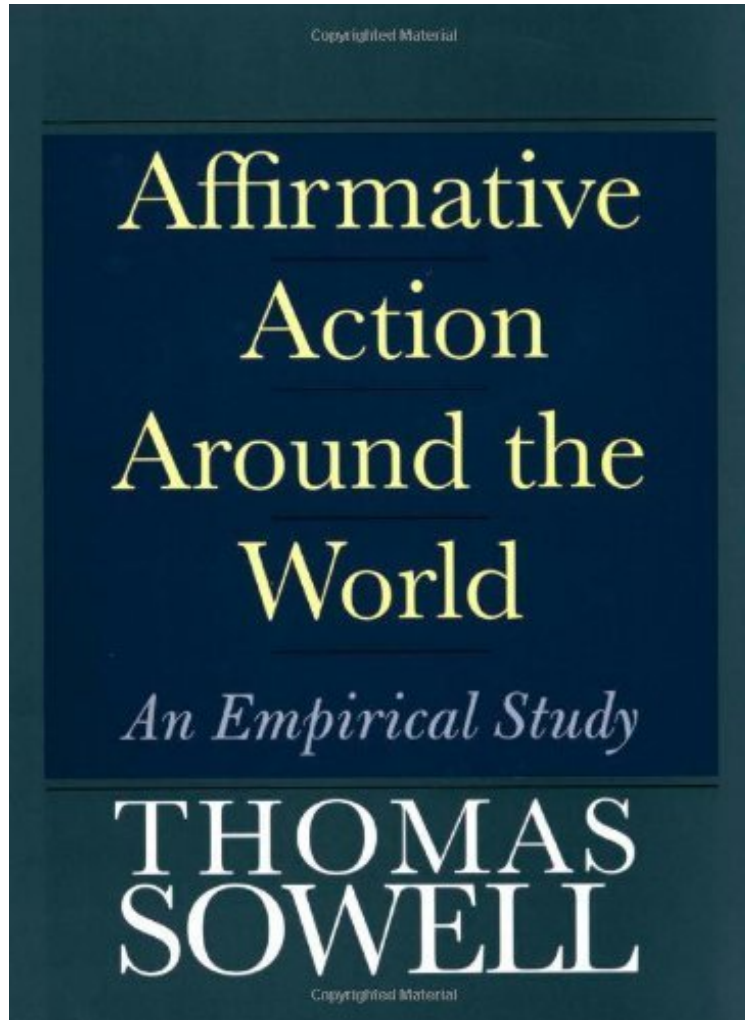


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Affirmative Action Around the World: An Empirical Study

Thomas Sowell

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Thomas Sowell : Affirmative Action Around the World: An Empirical Study before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Affirmative Action Around the World: An Empirical Study:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy DavidGreat book. Must read!15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Just What I Needed To ReadBy BamaPrincess80Thomas Sowell was someone I had only heard of and after reading this book, I will buy more of his material. For years I have felt that Affirmative Action actually downplayed the achievement of blacks in America instead of lifting the community up and I am a black woman. I knew the title of this book meant that he would have studied other cultures but I hadn't imagined the bad blood such programs brewed in other countries over the same issue that I feel is ruining race relations here.I want to share a quick story related to this book. In 2004 while on cruise (I was active duty in the Navy at the time), our ship arrived in Port Kelang, Malaysia, not too far from the capital of Kuala Lumpur. A bus took us sailors into the city and

cabs were lined up calling for Americans to get into their taxi's despite a group of Al-Quada sympathizers threatening to attack Americans (that problem was taken care of). Me and few friends hop into the cab and the guy seemed so nice but suddenly he went into a racist rant about Chinese people. He also hinted that some cabs refused service to the Chinese. I was shocked. If people of Chinese heritage were born in Malaysia, was it lawful for this man or any other ethnic Malay to refuse service? After reading Thomas Sowell's book, I realize that affirmative action in that country may have played a part in it. I don't want this for our country. While there are people who may feel that affirmative action was founded to address wrongs, it only uplifts one race over the other. We can do better than this. And let's be frank, no matter how many opportunities you give people, some people, regardless of race are their own worst enemy. Rising from poverty to become something better takes a tenacity and discipline and I should know. I grew up a poor black girl and the eldest of three in the state of Alabama. I now have a bachelor of arts in history that I received from the University of Washington and will start graduate school in the next few months. But my upbringing and the negative things that I have seen brought me to the conclusion that Mr. Sowell is right. Affirmative Action programs do not address past wrongs. The programs brings more headaches and animosity and should just go away. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Powerful, Honest, and Thorough Study on Affirmative Action Around the World By MasterKefka This is basically the culmination of a 30 year long study of Dr. Sowell's that covers affirmative action not only in the US, but also in various countries around the world, particularly India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and Nigeria. He analyzes very thoroughly the trends that occur with affirmative action, and backs up everything with hard data and a multitude of references. As with everything Dr. Sowell writes it is logically organized, well-thought-out, and very thorough. In short, he pulls affirmative action out of a world of claims and politics and places it into the realm of hard data, where it is scrutinized and compared so that the real world effects can be seen both in general and in specific circumstances. As most works on this topic tend to be quite incomplete, narrow, and/or misleading, this honest and detailed examination is beyond excellent and should be read by anyone studying the topic or by anyone with an interest in general. I highly recommend it.

This book moves the discussion of affirmative action beyond the United States to other countries that have had similar policies, often for a longer time than Americans have. It also moves the discussion beyond the theories, principles, and laws that have been so often debated to the actual empirical consequences of affirmative action in the United States and in India, Nigeria, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and other countries. Both common patterns and national differences are examined. Much of what emerges from a factual examination of these policies flatly contradicts much of what was expected and much of what has been claimed.

From Booklist Preferring members of specified groups in higher education, employment, receipt of government services, getting business contracts, and so on is a worldwide phenomenon whose effects are demonstrable. Black economist Sowell focuses on affirmative action in India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, and the U.S. In those nations, preferences for minorities metamorphosed into preferences for majorities (e.g., women, when made affirmative-action candidates in the U.S., tipped the numbers of the preferred to more than half the populace), intergroup friction increased (Sri Lanka, once a model of ethnic cooperation, descended into civil war, as did Nigeria), "brain drain" occurred (in Malaysia, preferences for less-educated Malays led to massive Chinese emigration and the ouster of Chinese-dominated Singapore from the Malay federation), and/or something else bad happened. Most damning is that in all five countries, the upper crust of preferred groups reaped the lion's share of benefits. Affirmative action is never rejected, however, because it is evaluated "in terms of its rationales and goals rather than its actual consequences." Invaluable argumentation, more accessible than usual for Sowell. Ray Olson Copyright copy; American Library Association. All rights reserved. A delight: terse, well-argued, and utterly convincing. — Economist