



Review

Reviewed Work(s): Race Questions and Other American Problems by Josiah Royce

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keen criticisms of American institutions and habits of thought. Most interesting and suggestive is the analysis of the psychological conditions of social progress. As is to be expected the emphasis is laid rather on the radical than on the conservative tendencies in thought. The wholesome faith in democracy that runs through the work is a refreshing contrast to much current writing. At every turn the book shows the influence of Trade, but it is far from being a mere rehash of his ideas.

It taxes the reader's patience to ask him to wade through nine pages of quotations in an eighteen page chapter, or eight and a half quoted pages out of thirteen, as in a second chapter picked at random. Most of Professor Ross' quotations are from sources readily accessible, and we cannot help thinking that his book would have gained rather than lost by being limited to a third of its present compass, and thus presenting a terse discussion of its author's ideas couched in his own vigorous English, instead of being, as at present, a series of apparently more or less disjointed propositions, strung together with running commentary, and interlarded with endless quotations. But the fault of presentation will not blind the thoughtful reader to the real interest and value of the work, which is full of thought-provoking ideas. It ought to have a wide general circulation, and it will also prove useful in college classes.

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Royce, Josiah. *Race Questions and other American Problems.* Pp. 287. Price, \$1.25. New York: Macmillan Company, 1908.

The five chapters of this book are really a compilation of some public addresses of the author and are therefore somewhat popular in their form of presentation. The discussion of the race question is not only frank and unprejudiced, but sets forth plainly the present limitations of our racial psychology and the consequent folly of the frequent snap-shot conclusions concerning this question drawn by inferior and dogmatic writers. The relative inferiority of certain races has not been measured and is an unknown quantity; consequently our judgments must not be too hasty. In Jamaica the race problem has been largely solved by means of administration.

The second address urges the value and importance of "provincialism," the term being used in a broad sense, including the tendency of a unified locality to possess its own customs and ideals and to cherish its traditions and aspirations; the term also includes the aggregate of these customs and ideals. The author shows what evils may thus be corrected and in what way good will be conserved and generalized. In his discussion of the "Limitations of the Thoughtful Public" the nature of American idealism is analyzed. This is followed by constructive criticism aiming to make our idealism more intelligent and effective.

The chapter dealing with the relations of climate to civilization graphically relates the psychological effects of the physical aspects of nature as illustrated in the mental attitude of the Californian. The last lecture which

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traces the relations between physical training, and the problems of moral education contains a lucid statement of the author's philosophy of loyalty and its necessary implications. The principles "be loyal" and "be loyal to loyalty" are regarded as fundamental to the rational solution of moral problems. The lectures although differing widely from each other in subject matter are to be regarded largely as special applications of the philosophy of the author.

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