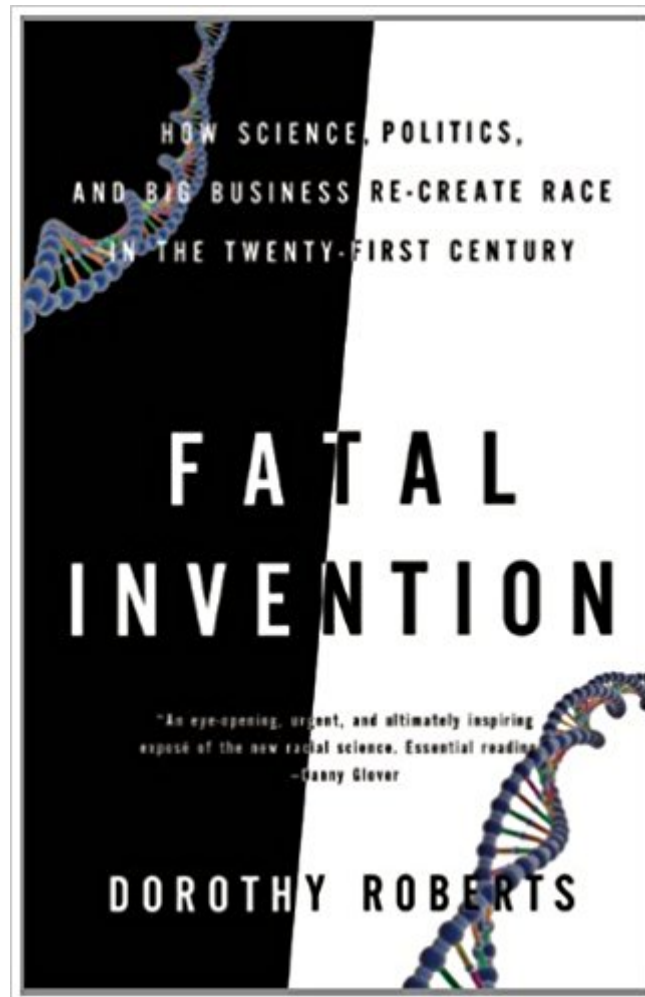


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# Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, And Big Business Re-create Race In The Twenty-first Century



## Synopsis

This groundbreaking book by the acclaimed Dorothy Roberts examines how the myth of biological concept of race "revived by purportedly cutting-edge science, race-specific drugs, genetic testing, and DNA databases" continues to undermine a just society and promote inequality in a supposedly "post-racial" era. Named one of the ten best black nonfiction books 2011 by AFRO.com, Fatal Invention offers a timely and "provocative analysis" (Nature) of race, science, and politics by one of the nation's leading legal scholars and social critics.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (24 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This is one of the few books that I can honestly say, "The author really changed my thinking." I rarely give books 5 stars, but Fatal Invention deserves it. (I was going to say best book of the year, but realized it was published in 2011.) Not only is it well-reasoned and passionate, it is about a subject that desperately needs to be talked about honestly. Roberts challenges a lot of conventional wisdom in Fatal Invention. The entire book is well worth reading; but two discussions particularly intrigued me. One is the current marketing of drugs toward specific races. A fascinating chapter on the drug BiDil illustrates Robert's point. With no scientific basis, drug companies declared BiDil a drug that would help blacks more than other racial groups, even getting the NAACP to go along with this dubious assertion. The other huge issue she discusses is the abuse of DNA evidence by law enforcement. Many people think DNA is a smoking gun in law enforcement, with almost no chance of error. Roberts strongly argues that isn't the case at all. Human error or even deliberate fraud--Roberts mentions that the Houston police department was suspended from using it for a

while-- can cause DNA evidence to lead to a wrongful conviction. Fatal Invention is one of the most important books published in the last few years.

Partly the raves convinced me to read this. I was already on the bandwagon on the "There are no human races and it's destructive to keep talking like there were" thing. This book tied it up with a bow on it. Once you read it, you'll have your opinion set in stone. In my reading experience it was like Gould's Mismeasurement of Man and the New Jim Crow. And I doubt if you'll ever be at loss for an argument when the subject comes up. Fundamentally, it asks "if there ARE no human races, then what good service does the concept serve?". This book makes the answer incredibly clear: NONE! I'd suggest it even if you're already a believer.

Ok, so I had to read this book for class, it was so informative. Anyone who is aware of the fact that racism exists should read this. At times this book will make your blood boil. At times this book will be a double dosage of sleeping pills. Either way it is an amazing book and will tell you just what race is, as well as what race is not! Great book!

This text is so important for everyone. An unpretentious and accessible inlet to critical readings of scientific discourse and a wonderfully composed history of racial science. Very well-evidenced arguments and incredibly compelling overall. Essential reading especially for all science instructors and scientists. Every high school and college student should read this book. Very readable and approachable for the complex and subversive content. Bravo.

Roberts, a professor of law and sociology, has written an exceedingly well-informed and wise book about race in the post-genome era. She tackles subjects from medical stereotyping and pharmacogenomics to the misguided appeal of ancestry testing. Roberts is equally aware of the immense power of race as a social phenomenon and its worthlessness as biology. Should be read by everyone, but especially by health care professionals and pre-professional students.

A refreshing sounded argument for neoracism of our society. She walks you through a short history of race and slavery and paints the future of our society based on current mainstream ideology of biological "race". She anticipates all of readers' questions. You will see things differently after this book. No matter who you are and what you believe, you will benefit from reading this book.

Dorothy Roberts's new book, *Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-Created Race in the 21st Century* is a must read for all human beings desiring to witness the beginning of the end of racism.

So far, it's really interesting. However, the print is really small. I have some vision issues so reading it is a bit of a struggle. As for the contents of the book itself, I'll say more when I've read more.

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