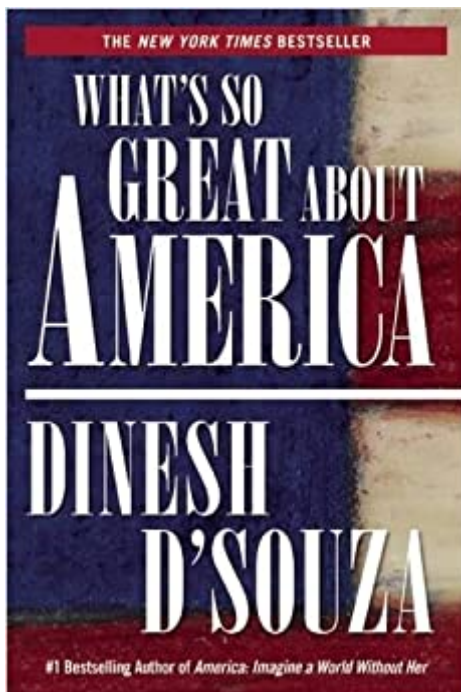


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What's So Great About America



Synopsis

With *What's So Great About America*, Dinesh D'Souza is not asking a question, but making a statement. The former White House policy analyst and bestselling author argues that in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, American ideals and patriotism should not be things we shy away from. Instead he offers the grounds for a solid, well-considered pride in the Western pillars of "science, democracy and capitalism," while deconstructing arguments from both the political Left and political Right. As an "outsider" from India who has had amazing success in the United States, D'Souza defends not an idealized America, but America as it really is, and measures America not against an utopian ideal, but against the rest of the world in a provocative, challenging, and personal book.

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Customer Reviews

Look again at the title of this book: it's not a question, but a statement. "America is the greatest, freest, and most decent society in existence," writes Dinesh D'Souza. "American life as it is lived today [is] the best life that our world has to offer." There are those who hate it, or at least essential elements of it, from radical Islamists to the likes of Patrick Buchanan (on the right) and Jesse Jackson (on the left). But they are wrong to hate it, and D'Souza grapples with all of them in this engaging and compelling volume. D'Souza is the author of provocative books such as *Illiberal Education* and *The End of Racism*, plus the appreciative *Ronald Reagan*. This may be his most personal book, with parts written in the first person as the India-born D'Souza describes his

encounter with the United States, first as an immigrant and now as a citizen. Foreign authors such as Alexis de Tocqueville and Gunnar Myrdal have offered some of the most penetrating assessments of America, and D'Souza clearly shares in this noble tradition. "I am constantly surprised by how much I hear racism talked about and how little I actually see it," he writes. What's So Great About America is also vintage D'Souza, full of feisty arguments and sharp humor. He is perhaps better at explaining why America's critics are wrong than explaining why America's celebrants are right, but he's very good at both. Written in the months following the September 11 terrorist strikes, this book should find a large and receptive audience. --John Miller --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

It's easy to see the appeal of D'Souza's patriotic cheerleading. A former domestic policy analyst under Reagan, he sees the world in black and white: on one side, America "the best life our world has to offer" on the other, "the enemy, which conducts its operations in the name of Islam." To his credit, D'Souza (Illiberal Education, etc.) lays out his case well, although little here is new: America, he says, is a land of opportunity and freedom (D'Souza himself immigrated to the U.S. from India), and those who oppose American policy are simply jealous. But he doesn't stop with exhortations to fellow citizens about why the war against terrorism is righteous. D'Souza, a leading conservative thinker, revels in thumbing his nose at his ideological opponents: one of his chapters is provocatively named "Two Cheers for Colonialism." In this chapter, D'Souza trumpets the science, democracy and capitalism that he believes have led the West to global supremacy. Along the way, he spares no chance to bash those who he thinks have "denigrated" America and trivialized its freedom: multiculturalists, feminists, hippies and vegetarians. For the most part, D'Souza steers clear of criticizing his fellow conservatives, and when he does, as when he lectures them about the need to combine morality with freedom, he lacks specifics. In the end, reading D'Souza's book is similar to spending an hour listening to Rush Limbaugh on the radio his fellow travelers will love it; readers on the left will love to hate it. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Great book. Must read. No one is perfect and since countries or governments are products of men then obviously no country or government is perfect. So we have all made mistakes and so has every country on earth since the beginning of time. But this book puts in perspective the bad, but more importantly, the good that the USA has done and shows why we are an exceptional nation and deserving of patriotism and pride. Well done and great and important read for all Americans and

those striving to be Americans.

After reading *Letters to a Young Conservative*, this book has many of the same themes. However, reading these same themes does not tire the reader as it is important to understand the principles of freedom and justice and why they make America great. Does America have its problems? Yes, but that would miss the point. Every country has its problems, but America has transformed the face of this world with a form of government that balances freedom with an individual's quest for virtue.

Very good book. I would recommend for anyone interested in our country.

As an immigrant myself, I can see the reason why the author stress the reason why people want to come to America. I as an adult, choose to come to America and become an American citizen. It is a conscious choice, for all the flaws of the system, and the ugliness of bigotry, America is still an attractive country to be a part of. As a woman, I will not have as many opportunities as I have in America anywhere else in the world, especially someone that is not as well educated as I should have been. I loathe the people who put down America because of the flaws, but never give credits for the advance and opportunities she offered. I personally think, most people who had never suffered from the oppression of other countries should not have the right to champion these oppressive countries. This is the typical mentality of the privileged few. Until you are oppressed by the country of your choice, you are not entitled to defend the country of your choice.

Great book written by an immigrant who really appreciates what America has done for him. He looks at the history of how America became the country it has been in the past. He gives a clarion call on what needs to be done to keep America great.

Wow! I just finished this great book that describes, in the most comprehensive and illuminating way, how the Islamists view Americans and why the terrorists hate us. The author, Dinesh D'Souza came to America from India as a student in the late 1970's. As an immigrant himself, D'Souza reveals how immigrants see American society both the good and the bad. He examines the alleged sins of America and gives a perspective that is seldom heard but deserves our attention. He gives Americans a new understanding and appreciation of our heritage and our history. D'Souza shares with the reader important advice that we Americans must follow if we are to defeat the radical Islamists. The divisiveness that is driving our politics, the idea of multiculturalism being fostered on

our high school and college students, and American's ignorance of the true nature of virtue, all combine to threaten our resolve to defeat radical Islam. We are called to wake up to what it is we are fighting for and to take seriously the threat facing America and all freedom loving societies everywhere. I wholeheartedly recommend this book.

Refreshing! Wonderful to see America's greatness through the eyes of an immigrant. Americans of today are like a bunch of spoiled rich kids disrespecting their parents, and this book is a stranger reminding them of how lucky they are.

Love Dinesh D' Souza's work. He writes with such knowledge and passion. I love his thinking. I wish native born citizens would be as passionate about our country as he is. Thank you Dinesh.

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