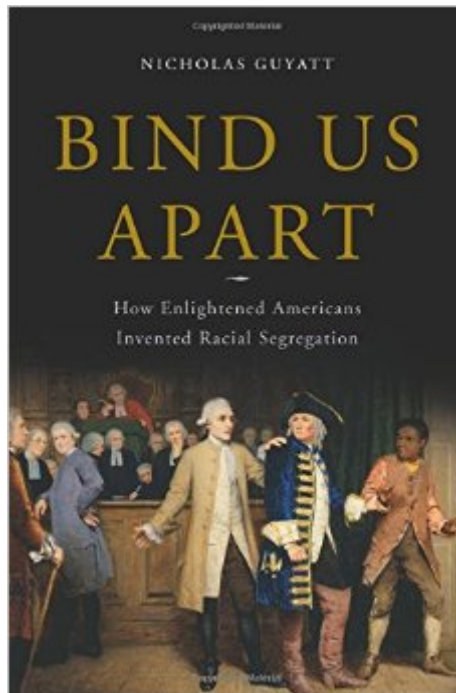


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# Bind Us Apart: How Enlightened Americans Invented Racial Segregation



## Synopsis

Why did the Founding Fathers fail to include blacks and Indians in their cherished proposition that "all men are created equal"? The usual answer is racism, but the reality is more complex and unsettling. In *Bind Us Apart*, historian Nicholas Guyatt argues that, from the Revolution through the Civil War, most white liberals believed in the unity of all human beings. But their philosophy faltered when it came to the practical work of forging a color-blind society. Unable to convince others—and themselves—that racial mixing was viable, white reformers began instead to claim that people of color could only thrive in separate republics: in Native states in the American West or in the West African colony of Liberia. Herein lie the origins of "separate but equal." Decades before Reconstruction, America's liberal elite was unable to imagine how people of color could become citizens of the United States. Throughout the nineteenth century, Native Americans were pushed farther and farther westward, while four million slaves freed after the Civil War found themselves among a white population that had spent decades imagining that they would live somewhere else. Essential reading for anyone disturbed by America's ongoing failure to achieve true racial integration, *Bind Us Apart* shows conclusively that "separate but equal" represented far more than a southern backlash against emancipation; it was a founding principle of our nation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It should not come as a surprise that discrimination, segregation and racism would follow slavery in

the treatment of blacks or that Native Americans would continue to be treated unjustly after being slaughtered and removed from their lands. This excellent book presents the history of America's development of racial segregation and shows how inevitable it was and why solutions to all of the related problems have been so difficult. It is a great book by a talented writer. I picked it up off the new book section in the public library and it is worthy of inclusion in any U.S. history course or library. Guyatt has written a number of books on a variety of subjects. I plan to look at them. Good books and other information on race here: [mwir-race.blogspot.com](http://mwir-race.blogspot.com)/Midwest Independent Review

It is a thick book and am reading it slowly. It explains in a way I can understand some of the reason for racial tension and white privilege thinking pervades our country and many of the countries of the world. The founding fathers had to convince themselves of their superiority in thinking process, in decision making, in physicality, in their way of life, in order to justify their way of life destroying cultures and families of those who helped them to adjust to and live in the "New World" then pay them back by stealing land, lying, proclaiming equality for all in theory and rationing it only to a select few who met unspoken criteria, mostly it being perceived racial as well as sexually based. It also explains in a way I understand the reason the standard for success changes when someone who does not "look" like "them" achieves that "standard."

Guyatt brilliantly traces the surface evolution of racism as our cultural and political ancestors struggled to integrate their belief in human equality with their emotional inability to accept equality with Africans and Indigenous Americans. His scholarship is impressive. The reader is left with a hunger for going deeper to touch the social psychological dynamics that erupted on to this surface history.

This book will never be taught in our schools,, if it were we have a better understand why the racial discrimination is alive and well than maybe we take greater steps to heal as a nation!

Great book, excellent condition. The price was good bur shipping was a little expensive but it arrived before expected

This is a very important book. Guyatt explains how the development of the U.S. was based on racial separation, counter to the perceived myth of its belief in true equality.

Very good!

Outstanding in every way. Everyone should read this book.

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