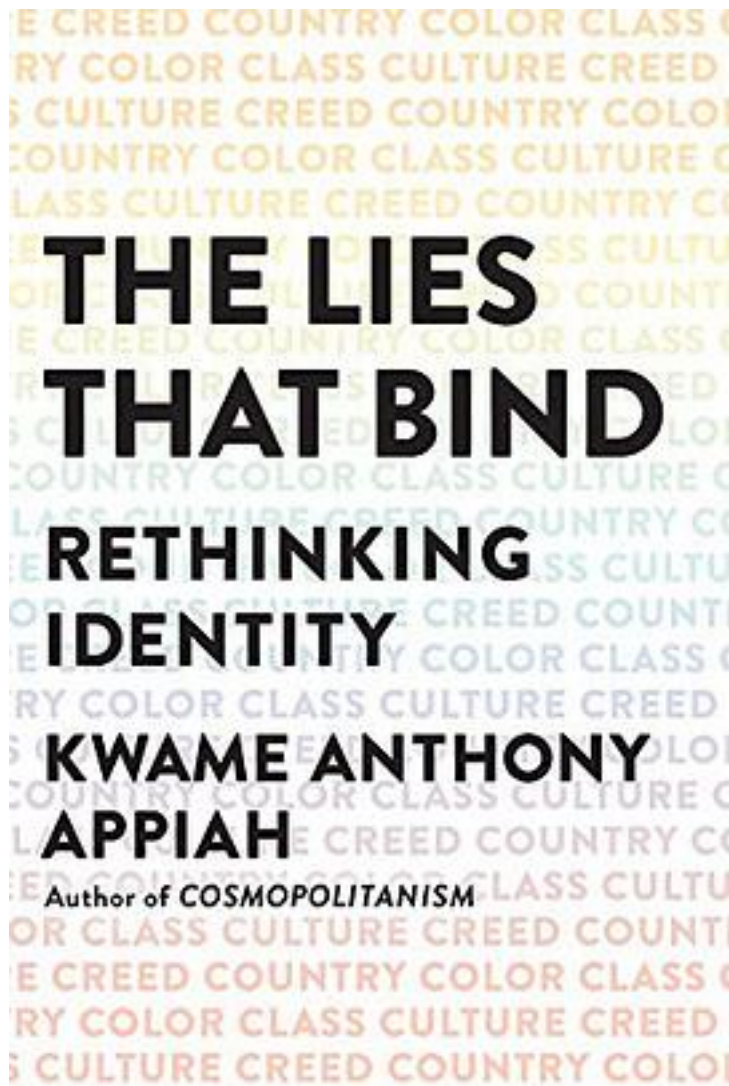


The Lies That Bind



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著者:Kwame Anthony Appiah

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From the best-selling author of *Cosmopolitanism* comes this revealing exploration of how the collective identities that shape our polarized world are riddled with contradiction.

Who do you think you are? That's a question bound up in another: What do you think you are? Gender. Religion. Race. Nationality. Class. Culture. Such affiliations give contours to our sense of self, and shape our polarized world. Yet the collective identities they spawn are riddled with contradictions, and cratered with falsehoods.

Kwame Anthony Appiah's *The Lies That Bind* is an incandescent exploration of the nature and history of the identities that define us. It challenges our assumptions about how identities work. We all know there are conflicts between identities, but Appiah shows how identities are created by conflict. Religion, he demonstrates, gains power because it isn't primarily about belief. Our everyday notions of race are the detritus of discarded nineteenth-century science. Our cherished concept of the sovereign nation—of self-rule—is incoherent and unstable. Class systems can become entrenched by efforts to reform them. Even the very idea of Western culture is a shimmering mirage.

From Anton Wilhelm Amo, the eighteenth-century African child who miraculously became an eminent European philosopher before retiring back to Africa, to Italo Svevo, the literary marvel who changed citizenship without leaving home, to Appiah's own father, Joseph, an anticolonial firebrand who was ready to give his life for a nation that did not yet exist, Appiah interweaves keen-edged argument with vibrant narratives to expose the myths behind our collective identities.

These “mistaken identities,” Appiah explains, can fuel some of our worst atrocities—from chattel slavery to genocide. And yet, he argues that social identities aren't something we can simply do away with. They can usher in moral progress and bring significance to our lives by connecting the small scale of our daily existence with larger movements, causes, and concerns.

Elaborating a bold and clarifying new theory of identity, *The Lies That Bind* is a ringing philosophical statement for the anxious, conflict-ridden twenty-first century. This book will transform the way we think about who—and what—“we” are.

作者介绍:

Kwame Anthony Appiah pens the *Ethicist* column for the *New York Times*, and is the author of the prize-winning *Cosmopolitanism*, among many other works. A professor of philosophy and law at New York University, Appiah lives in New York.

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标签

归属感

友邻

IDENTITY

random

POLITICS

评论

作者结合自己的经历从宗教，国籍，性别，人种，阶级，文化的角度开反驳认同政治中的本质主义（essentialism），转而提倡一种存在主义的观点：我们的认同是在实践中不断生成塑造的；不过他也提到认同也不能随意捏造，最终落到我们都有人类（human）这个共通的identity上。作者的知识很渊博，涉猎广泛，案例充足，使他对于身份复杂性的论证十分生动，但如果说这就是个他对于当前身份政治的反思，那显然不够深刻。总体来说，这本书比较适合作为消遣读物（本来就脱胎于BBC节目稿），也没能如作者所言是体现出进步主义内部的反省。

Historically interesting, 但是argument太模糊了

要开学了

越来越觉得，大多数能够舒服地去谈论cosmopolitanism的人，都是自己本身经历了非常cosmopolitan的成长环境，以及身上有多种identities相交叉而习以为常。当下世界这本身就是很难得很privileged的一件事儿。作者的呼吁很棒，我们都是human，让我们认识到任何一种identity都是构建的、变化的——可对于很多生活经验脱胎于某种identity的人来说，这种理想主义的“human”是不是反而才是一种构建？每想至此，都觉得现实很残酷

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