Like a Toto in Oz, Jim Sleeper has made his mark lifting the curtain on liberal racism's inconsistencies and hypocrisies. Sleeper's discerning eye details a host of political absurdities, and his lucid prose is a pleasure to read.--**Salim Muwakkil "Newsday "**

In this short, highly accessible, and often insightful book, Sleeper scores several strong points . . . the liberal left has always been compelled to use race instead of class to bring about social change and has become trapped in this strategy by a combination of genuine puritanical moralism about racism and sheer political opportunism.--**Gerald Early, Washington University in St. Louis, editor of Miles Davis and American Culture "Chicago Tribune "**
A tough-minded, provocative indictment of the failure of liberalism in the post-Civil Rights era. . . . A much needed corrective to race-based thinking that has proven unproductive.--**David Nicholson, Black Studies and Literature Editor of *Amazon***

Jim Sleeper has written an important book that deserves to be read and carefully considered, especially if Americans are going to engage fruitfully in that 'national conversation' about race that President Bill Clinton has promised. Sleeper's essays on black identity and what he contends is our lost civic culture are particularly strong, especially the chapter focusing on Harvard Law Prof. Randall Kennedy and Boston University economist Glen Loury, two of the most thoughtful and intriguing black intellectuals in the nation today.--**Don Wycliff "Commonweal Magazine "**

A lot of us would agree with Sleeper that if you scratch through the surface of skin color, you will find a good deal of common morality--mostly based on the primacy of individual character and integrity.--**William Raspberry "The Washington Post "**

Jim Sleeper's provocative confrontation with liberal ideology is no defense of the conservative approach to race. Rather he challenges liberals, who once fought to help America rise above color, to get back to their abandoned program of a transracial civic faith. Read Liberal Racism and then, if you dare, take a long look in the mirror.--**C. Eric Lincoln, Duke University, author of The Black Muslim in America and The Black Church in the African-American Experience**"African-American," "black American": Where in these politically correct phrases is the me that is just a man, the morally responsible individual whose aspirations and experiences can neither be summed up nor explained by the neat categories of race?... "Liberal Racism" is the latest in a genre of books challenging the conventional liberal wisdom on race. Previously, similar arguments have been made by Shelby Steele's "The Content of Our Character," (HarperCollins, 192 pages, $12) Stanley Crouch's "The All-American Skin Game, or, The Decoy of Race" (Pantheon, 195 pages., $24) and Ellis Cose's "Color-Blind: Seeing Beyond Race in a Race-Obsessed World" (HarperCollins, But while those works all are by black writers identified to a greater or lesser extent with conservative ideas, Sleeper is a white liberal who has no qualms about saying the conservative record on race is abysmal. It is precisely because conservatives' attitude toward race has been indefensible, he charges, that liberals' own failures are all the more damaging and fateful. –**Glenn McNatt, Baltimore Sun**

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Sleeper elaborates a compelling alternative to current liberal thinking, one that combines stalwart integrationist principles with a deep concern about the wretched conditions of millions of black Americans.--**Sean Wilentz "Slate "**
Sleeper doesn't sneer; he argues skillfully and persuasively. And he takes pains to make Liberal Racism a critique of the left, not an endorsement of the right. . . . If he is particularly disappointed in liberals, Sleeper tells us, it is only because he expects more of them in the first place.--**Eric Liu "The Washington Post "**
If race is a concept with dubious biological and philosophical foundations, why continue to validate it? Why not argue, as Sleeper has done, for a more nuanced accommodation and celebration of ethnic differences and abandon the theoretical construct race and its destructive corollary, racism?--**Mary Lefkowitz "The New York Times "**
Sleeper will be called a whiner, a bellyacher, even a racist. Of course, of course. But he is a liberal whose knee does not jerk. He has been examining liberals' rejection of a common American civic culture for several years, but nothing he has written is as candid as what he gives us here. . . . These are words liberals need to hear. They need to hear them because they are true.--**Michael Skube "The Atlanta Journal-Constitution** "

To truly inspire a new dialogue on race, President Clinton will need to push further. Jim Sleeper frames the challenge well: 'Our best leaders are those who show their neighbors, every day, how to leave subgroup loyalties behind at the doors of classrooms, jury rooms, hiring halls. . .' That's far better advice than anything Clinton's advisory panel has offered so far.--**Ronald Brownstein "Los Angeles Times "**
Jim Sleeper courageously writes abut what can only be whispered in the Academy and in the bowels of bureaucracy: an identity politics that refuses to identify itself.--**John Patrick Diggins**Like other writers, Jim Sleeper emphasizes the importance of overcoming a fragmenting culture, but he has a keener sense of the role of market capitalism, as well as liberal ideology. His Liberal Racism is the most intellectually sophisticated of these critiques, the most resistant to ideological formula. It is also the only one that treats race relations as more than a crisis in black and white.--**Jackson Lears "Los Angeles Times "**To read this frequently brilliant book is to realize just how far we have gone toward exalting race and racial differences as the dominant realities of our civic life. Sleeper's strict and sweeping definition of liberal racism catches many of us--Democrats and Republicans alike--in its net.--**Chris Tucker "The Dallas Morning News "*****Jim Sleeper****is a writer on urban politics and civic culture, and has been a politcal columnist for The New York Daily News. His commentary has appeared in Harper's, The New Republic, The New Yorker, The Washington Monthly, The Nation, The Weekly Standard, The New Leader, and others.*

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