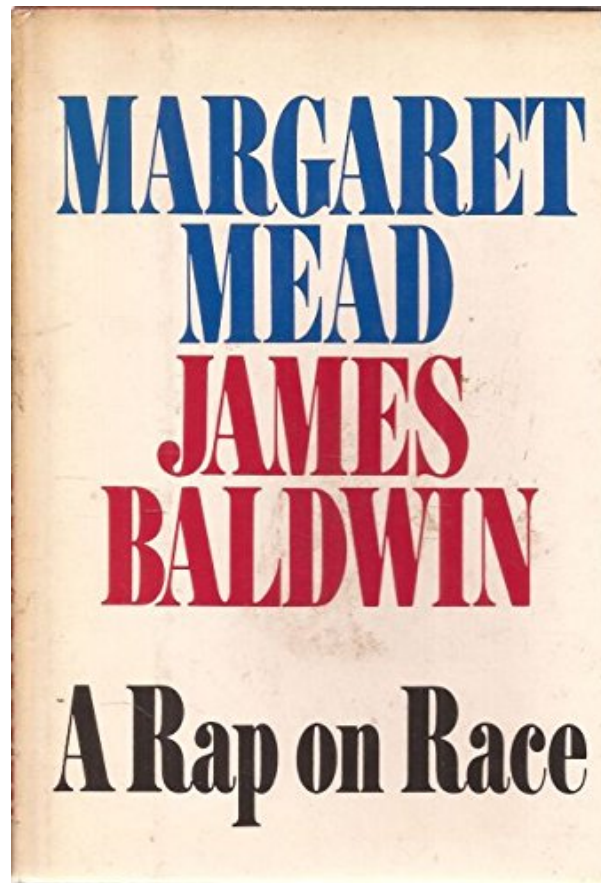
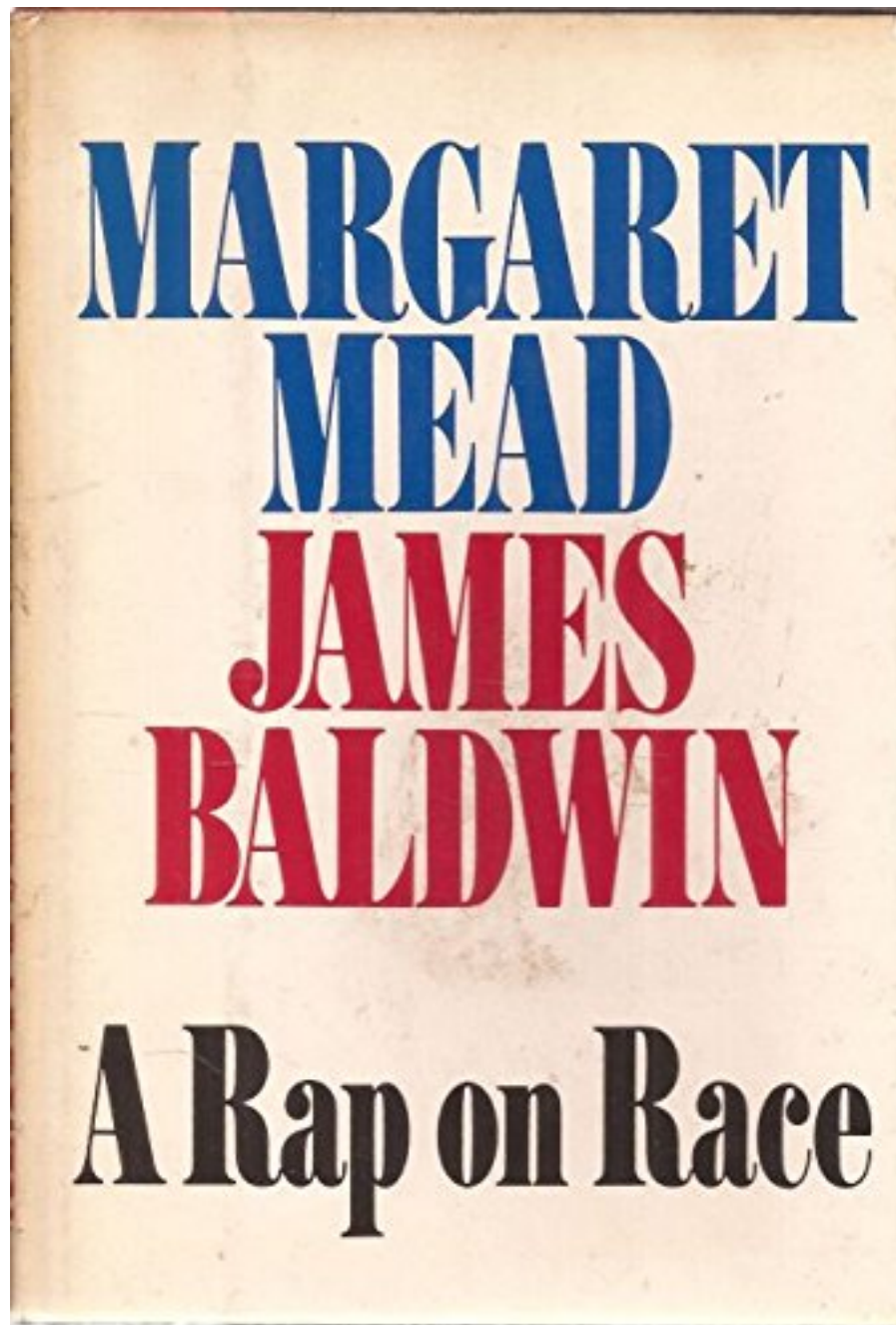


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JAMES BALDWIN**



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From the Publisher

In 1970 James Baldwin and Margaret Mead met for an extraordinary seven-and-a-half-hour discussion about race and society. Mead brought her knowledge of racism as practiced in remote societies around the world. Baldwin brought his personal experience with the legacy of black American history. They talked with candor, passion, rage, and brilliance, and their discussion became this unique volume. Here is Baldwin's creativity and fire. Here is Mead's scholarship and reason. And here, for all to see, are their prejudices, their pain, and finally, their shared desire to find the thread that binds us all.

"This book. . .traces a curve beginning in formal statements, moving through wary affection and intellectual intimacy, ending with a raw confrontation."--Newsweek.

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A RAP ON RACE BY MARGARET MEAD, JAMES BALDWIN PDF

In 1970, America's most celebrated Black author and the world's most acclaimed anthropologist met for a seven-and-a-half hour conversation about race and society. The transcript of their discussion is a revealing and unique book filled with candor, passion, rage, and brilliance. "Blunt, peppery, and spontaneous. . . ."--The Atlantic.

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8 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

SOMEWHAT "DATED," BUT STILL AN INTERESTING DIALOGUE

By Steven H Propp

Margaret Mead (1901-1978) was an American cultural anthropologist (e.g., *Coming of Age in Samoa*; a *Psychological Study of Primitive Youth for Western Civilisation*; *Includes free bonus books.*, *Sex and Temperament: In Three Primitive Societies*, *Male and Female*), and James Arthur Baldwin (1924-1987) was an American novelist (e.g., *Go Tell It on the Mountain*), writer, playwright, poet, essayist (e.g., *James Baldwin : Collected Essays : Notes of a Native Son / Nobody Knows My Name / The Fire Next Time / No Name in the Street / The Devil Finds Work / Other Essays* (Library of America)) and civil rights activist.

This book is a transcript of 7-1/2 hours of discussion between these two figures over two days in August 1970. Here are some quotations from the book:

JB: "I no longer care, to tell you the truth, whether white people can hear me or not. It doesn't make any difference at all. If they can hear me, so much the better; if they can't, so much the worse. For them." (Pg. 22)

JB: "I was raised in the church and I left it when I was seventeen and never joined anything else again, not even a riding academy. Nothing. But I never understood white Christians. I still don't." (Pg. 94)

JB: "You know my fury about people is based precisely on the fact that I consider them to be responsible, moral creatures who so often do not act that way." (Pg. 153)

MM: "I will NOT accept any guilt for what anybody else did. I WILL accept guilt for what I did myself." (Pg. 185)

JB: "I am against the State of Israel because I think a great injustice has been done to the Arabs. There is no defense for their situation. I was there." (Pg. 213)

MM: "Everybody's suffering is mine but not everybody's murdering, and that is a very different point. I would accept everybody's sufferings. I do not distinguish for one moment whether my child is in danger or a child in Central Asia." (Pg. 227)

JB: "I am not at home here and never will be. That means that I will never, never, never, as long as I live, be at home anywhere in the world." (Pg. 240)

JB: "I don't really like my life, you know. I don't really want another drink. I've seen enough of the world's cities to make me vomit forever. But I've got something to do." (Pg. 254)

6 of 12 people found the following review helpful.

conversation on race

By Haseeb

In August 1970 Margaret Mead (anthropologist) and James Baldwin (writer) sat down and had a long and serious discussion about race. This book is a transcript of that conversation. In the beginning of the book it's seemed as if both were agreeing just for the sake of not wanting to hurt the other's feelings. Margaret in particular seemed to sound like a black person in that she was so quick to agree with James on the fact that blacks really have it hard in this country and it represents a serious barrier. I figured that after the first few pages that the conversation would be very boring. About half way into the book however, the pace of the conversation changed and got more interesting as they started touching on sexual issues. Toward the end, the conversation began to get quite heated. James became very adamant and Margaret began to interrupt him and assumed what he's was going to say before he said it. The conversation doesn't get heated until the subject of Jews is brought up. After finishing the book, I can't say that I've added too much of anything to my knowledge other than the indigenous people of New Guinea speak over 200 different dialects.

I think the conversation lacked depth and has dated quite a bit. It would have been nice if they would have been able to expound more on the issues of religion and sexual selection but either one or both of them lacked knowledge in these areas or they simply shied away from talking about them. I also wish they would have talked about lynching to obtain some insight into the white southern mindset. James did talk about how he experienced a different mindset from white southerners as opposed to northerners, but he only scratched the surface of the subject. Black radicalism was also given scant attention.

I wouldn't recommend this book strongly, but it is a nice book to read just for the sake of seeing how little things have changed since the sixties and seventies.

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

Great!

By A Customer

I have always loved the way Mr. Baldwin expresses himself; in a calm yet intense manner. I think that this transcript captures that. He has so many great thought-provoking statements. (I will not quote one for I feel I will not do it justice. Nor could I capture his depth).

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