



Stony the Road Group Discussion Guide

Dive into this month's *Conscious Conversation* with these questions about *Stony the Road*.

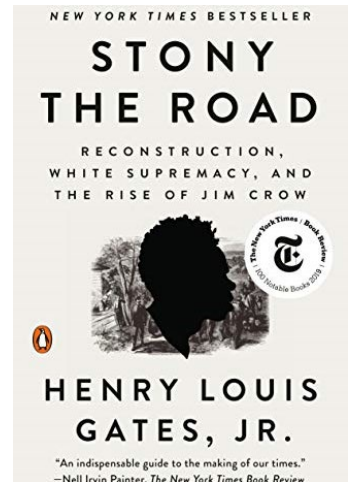
ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The questions and discussion topics that follow are designed to enhance your group's discussion of *Stony the Road*, written by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

ABOUT THIS BOOK

A profound new rendering of the struggle by African-Americans for equality after the Civil War and the violent counter-revolution that resubjugated them, as seen through the prism of the war of images and ideas that have left an enduring racist stain on the American mind.

The abolition of slavery in the aftermath of the Civil War is a familiar story, as is the civil rights revolution that transformed the nation after World War II. But the century in between remains a mystery: if emancipation sparked "a new birth of freedom" in Lincoln's America, why was it necessary to march in Martin Luther King, Jr.'s America? In this book, Henry Louis Gates, Jr. seeks to answer that question in a history that moves from the Reconstruction Era to the "nadir" of the African-American experience under Jim Crow, through to World War I and the Harlem Renaissance.



Through his close reading of the visual culture of this tragic era, Gates reveals the many faces of Jim Crow and how, together, they reinforced a stark color line between white and black Americans. Bringing a lifetime of wisdom to bear as a scholar, filmmaker, and public intellectual, Gates uncovers the roots of structural racism in our own time, while showing how African-Americans after slavery combatted it by articulating a vision of a "New Negro" to force the nation to recognize their humanity and unique contributions to America as it hurtled toward the modern age.

DIGITAL RESOURCES

NPR Fresh Air: Henry Louis Gates Jr. Points To Reconstruction As The Genesis Of White Supremacy (20-minute listen)

Listen to an interview with Henry Louis Gates Jr. as he discusses his book, *Stony the Road*.

<https://www.npr.org/2019/04/03/709094399/henry-louis-gates-jr-points-to-reconstruction-as-the-genesis-of-white-supremacy>

PBS: Reconstruction: America After the Civil War

Explore a timeline of the Reconstruction Era and mini clips from the PBS series *Reconstruction: America After the Civil War*

<https://www.pbs.org/weta/reconstruction/>



Stony the Road Discussion Topics

1. How do modern Civil Rights Movements compare to prior Civil Rights Movements?
2. How much progress has been made in the United States from Reconstruction to now in regards to Civil Rights and race relations?
3. Have you seen different historical narratives used to justify discrimination, exclusion or social divide?
4. Where have we seen progress undone after advancements have been made due to a movement, similar to the rise of Jim Crow?
5. How are stereotypes used to keep you from being fully free? How do we combat the influence of stereotypes?

AFTER YOUR CONVERSATION

We would love to hear about your conversation. If you would like to share any of your discussion notes, comments or photos with Legacy Foundation, please send them to mfishback@legacyfdn.org