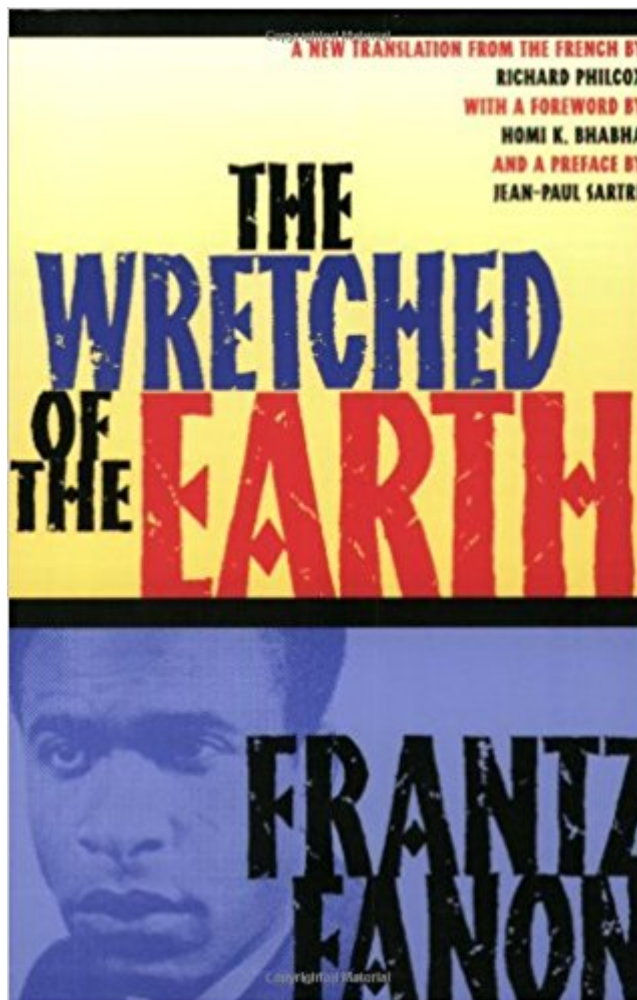


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The Wretched Of The Earth



Synopsis

A distinguished psychiatrist from Martinique who took part in the Algerian Nationalist Movement, Frantz Fanon was one of the most important theorists of revolutionary struggle, colonialism, and racial difference in history. Fanon's masterwork is a classic alongside Edward Said's *Orientalism* or *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, and it is now available in a new translation that updates its language for a new generation of readers. *The Wretched of the Earth* is a brilliant analysis of the psychology of the colonized and their path to liberation. Bearing singular insight into the rage and frustration of colonized peoples, and the role of violence in effecting historical change, the book incisively attacks the twin perils of postindependence colonial politics: the disenfranchisement of the masses by the elites on the one hand, and intertribal and interfaith animosities on the other. Fanon's analysis, a veritable handbook of social reorganization for leaders of emerging nations, has been reflected all too clearly in the corruption and violence that has plagued present-day Africa. *The Wretched of the Earth* has had a major impact on civil rights, anticolonialism, and black consciousness movements around the world, and this bold new translation by Richard Philcox reaffirms it as a landmark.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Frantz Fanon (1925-61) was a Martinique-born black psychiatrist and anticolonialist intellectual; *The Wretched of the Earth* is considered by many to be one of the canonical books on the worldwide black liberation struggles of the 1960s. Within a Marxist framework, using a cutting and nonsentimental writing style, Fanon draws upon his horrific experiences working in Algeria during its

war of independence against France. He addresses the role of violence in decolonization and the challenges of political organization and the class collisions and questions of cultural hegemony in the creation and maintenance of a new country's national consciousness. As Fanon eloquently writes, "[T]he unpreparedness of the educated classes, the lack of practical links between them and the mass of the people, their laziness, and, let it be said, their cowardice at the decisive moment of the struggle will give rise to tragic mishaps." Although socialism has seemingly collapsed in the years since Fanon's work was first published, there is much in his look into the political, racial, and social psyche of the ever-emerging Third World that still rings true at the cusp of a new century.

--Eugene Holley, Jr.

• The writing of Malcolm X or Eldridge Cleaver or Amiri Baraka or the Black Panther leaders reveals how profoundly they have been moved by the thoughts of Frantz Fanon. • The Boston Globe • Have the courage to read this book. • Jean-Paul Sartre • This century's most compelling theorist of racism and colonialism. • Angela Davis • The value of *The Wretched of the Earth* [lies] in its relation to direct experience, in the perspective of the Algerian revolution. . . . Fanon forces his readers to see the Algerian revolution; and by analogy other contemporary revolutions; from the viewpoint of the rebels. • Conor Cruise O'Brien, *Nation* • *The Wretched of the Earth* is an explosion. • Emile Capouya, *Saturday Review* • This is not so much a book as a rock thrown through the window of the West. It is the Communist Manifesto or the *Mein Kampf* of the anticolonial revolution, and as such it is highly important for any Western reader who wants to understand the emotional force behind that revolution. • Time

Excellent translation. Still relevant but for different reasons than Fanon intended.

Fanon describes the character of (European) colonialists, the colonised Africans (the "masses" - rural and urban, the elites, the nationalists, the tribalists) wonderfully. The book is wonderfully written - Fanon must have been a good writer. Fanon is a psychiatrist, and worked in Algeria as psychiatrist, but he many have travelled other African countries too. His book shows his deep knowledge of both African and European sociology, psychology and politics. The book is still relevant; his analysis as to what will happen after the liberation of African countries is amazingly valid. He is in a way one of the most important African (though he is born in Latin America) sociologist and political scientist. Fanon's book starts on "violence", he doesn't shy away from

prescribing violence in the struggle for liberation. Some find Fanon advocating violence, but that is not the case. He puts in perspective the violence perpetrated by colonists against the resulting reaction that culminates in the violence of the colonised. His clear analysis demystifies the violence that still grips Africa. Unfortunately Fanon seems to put all European in Africa as colonists. Many cases from South Africa show that that should not be the case. But his views may be due to the brutal repression he has to witness and experience in Algeria by the French government and French citizens there.

An excellent contemporary work that critiques globalization and the lasting effects of colonialism.

Good book. Frantz Fanon--although in the decolonization era--perfectly highlighted the importance and complications of Africans. This not only applies to the "before era" but to this one as well.

Frantz Fanon was an unparalleled political critic. *The Wretched of the Earth* is essential even today to understand how our world works and how the west attempts to dominated the darker peoples of the Earth and our best ways to combat it.

My introduction to Frantz Fanon as a young man in my middle teens.

Wonderful read. Great points on the colonial experience from the perspective of the colonized, and also how to possibly decolonize our government and society.

Fanon among all freedom fighters I know of provided an anthropology of racism--religious resisters like Bonhoeffer had of course their own--but Fanon--even if his anthropology proves wrong--only history can say did a remarkable thing--he explained oppression in terms of the human person not just economics (which certainly is a reasonable thing to do) but he went firther--this is a very great book--i would take out sartre's preface--he was a coward possibly worse i am trying to work that up

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