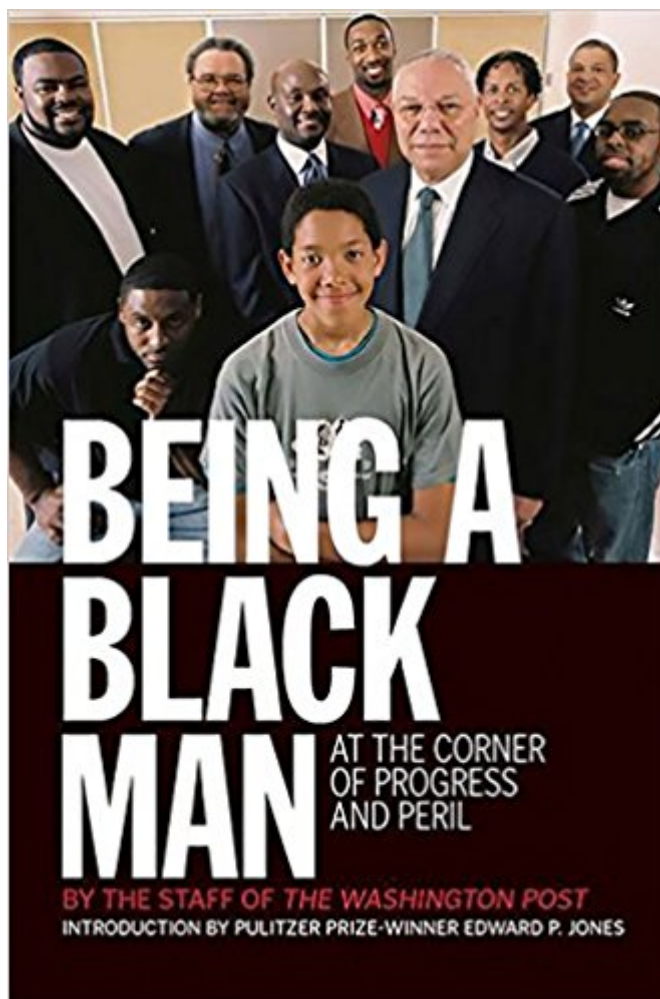


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# Being A Black Man: At The Corner Of Progress And Peril



## Synopsis

Over the last 100 years, perhaps no segment of the American population has been more analyzed than black males. The subject of myriad studies and dozens of government boards and commissions, black men have been variously depicted as the progenitors of pop culture and the menaces of society, their individuality often obscured by the narrow images that linger in the public mind. Ten years after the Million Man March, the largest gathering of black men in the nation's history, *Washington Post* staffers began meeting to discuss what had become of black men in the ensuing decade. How could their progress and failures be measured? Their questions resulted in a *Post* series which generated enormous public interest and inspired a succession of dynamic public meetings. It included the findings of an ambitious nationwide poll and offered an eye-opening window into questions of race and black male identity—questions gaining increasing attention with the emergence of Senator Barack Obama as a serious presidential contender. At the end of the day, the project revealed that black men are deeply divided over how they view each other and their country. Now collected in one volume with several new essays as well as an introduction by Pulitzer Prizewinning novelist Edward P. Jones, these poignant and provocative articles let us see and hear black men like they've never been seen and heard before.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Tackling the thorny subject of America's black men and their place in the national experience with balanced analysis and superb writing, *Washington Post* staff writers don't miss a beat. Pulitzer

Prize-winning writer Edward P. Jones sets the tone with an astute introduction about growing up without a father in D.C. and the emotional complications of lacking mentoring. Excellent journalistic features include Michael A. Fletcher's title piece, *At the Corner of Progress and Peril*, examining the many missed opportunities of these besieged men; Stephen A. Holmes and Richard Morin's insightful exploration of how black men perceive themselves, *A Portrait Shaded with Promise and Doubt*; and Robert E. Pierre's *The Young Apprentice*, which reveals a college-educated couple's preparation of their son to enter the world. Kissah Williams offers a candid meditation on eligible black men in *Singled Out*, while David Finkel writes powerfully on *The Meaning of Work*. Covering sociological, psychological and spiritual topics, the book provides a comprehensive view of the African-American man in contemporary America. (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"With balanced analysis and superb writing, Washington Post staff writers don't miss a beat." -- Publishers Weekly, June 25, 2007

This E-book is very well written and explains what the peril and progress has been, Black-American men have reached a proverbial crossroads, which will we follow, the stereotypical threesome of being a rapper, sports-hero or comedian. Or we can take the hardest path. The path which President Obama has exemplified. One thing is for certain we black folks have to start working together! Polite society has had their "proverbial bell" rung twice with the election and re-election of President Obama. With the regard to wealth creation and preservation, education is key along with early intervention to break the cycle. Most of all we have to start valuing "book-smarts" as much as we value street-smarts. The only way we can get a "piece of the pie" is to start building assets. The book asks "why shouldn't we as Black-Americans' have a say in the managing of the wealth of the nation. Even though we have been systematically disenfranchised, we have the solution. The example of President Obama has provided gives us the way. We have to build organization and invest in apprenticeships and internships with emphasis on professional certifications like Microsoft, Cisco and CompTIA. I recommend this book to any adolescent or young man beginning his career.

Everyone black men and women should read this book. It helps people to see the struggles of these successful black men and they still persevered

Compelling, True, it displays very authentic perspectives from a diverse group of Black American

Men. The people's stories are told in a candid way that you don't usually get from mass media. It's "Real". I cried multiple times reading this book, it's a must read!

I initially saw this book at the library and knew immediately that I wanted it for my own personal library. I have three grandsons who can definitely utilize the information contained in this book. It's a welcome edition for my personal library.

I managed to miss the original series in the Washington Post, so I really appreciated this collection. I suppose one could poke around online to get this content (and more) for free, but I liked the ease and uniformity of reading from this book. I also think there is some new writing in the book (not a part of the original series). There's not much groundbreaking said there, but there are important thoughts/ideas that need to be both repeated and shared- especially with the (young) Black men and boys you may know.

Written by the staff of the Washington Post, this book is a compilation of a series of articles, augmented by some new material, on the issue of being a black man in America. The book offers a contemporary view on the issue and reveals how divided black men actually are on how they view themselves in the context of race. The articles are insightful, candid and highly personal, as they evolved from interviews with many black men from all walks of life and provide a birds-eye view into how black men in America currently define themselves and their lives. I was entranced by their stories. The writing is superlative, and the reader will find the introduction by Pulitzer Prize winning novelist, Edward P. Jones, quite poignant. The book also includes the results of a nationwide poll that empirically confirms what the articles declare anecdotally, that black men in contemporary America are divided on how they view themselves, each other, and their country. Those who are interested in social issues, as well as those simply interested in the human condition, will enjoy this well-written, insightful book.

It's a collection of essays from The Washington Post and should really be called Being a Black Man in Washington D.C. Each essay focuses on one or two different people, and every single one of those people lives in the Washington D.C. metro area. Most of them in one community in Maryland. However, overall, I found this book very, very frustrating to read. The book has a number of interesting articles, including one about a hair dresser who was wrongly arrested and a black republican from the South who is still half-shunned by his home town for his political choice. The

frustrating part was just seeing how much some people still blame on racism, as if everything that goes wrong is because they're black.[Note: the article about the wrongly arrested man was also very angering to read, because of the sheer incompetence and stupidity exhibited by our criminal justice system.]The original post continues, but as it's a lot of ranting, I didn't think it'd be incredibly useful here. For those that are interested, here's the link to the full post [...]

Very interesting. Most of what I read I always knew but was unable to put in words.

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