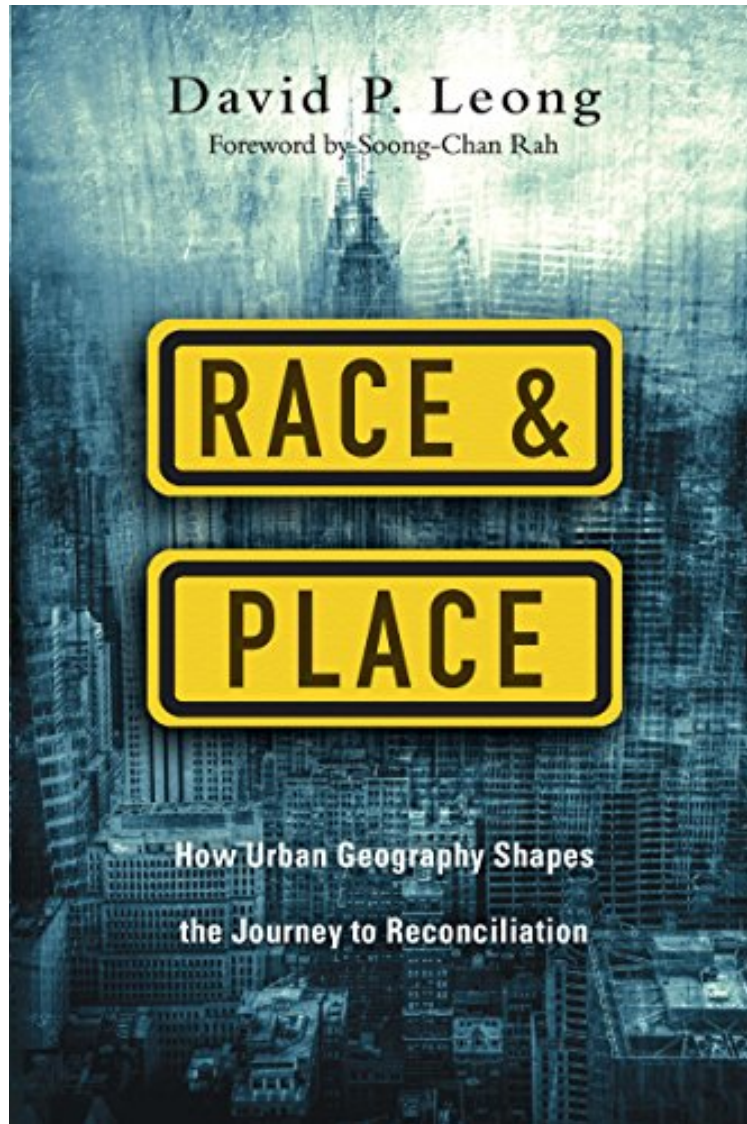


(Mobile ebook) Race and Place: How Urban Geography Shapes the Journey to Reconciliation

Race and Place: How Urban Geography Shapes the Journey to Reconciliation

David P. Leong

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David P. Leong : Race and Place: How Urban Geography Shapes the Journey to Reconciliation before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Race and Place: How Urban Geography Shapes the Journey to Reconciliation:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I recommend this book as a fresh voice into the topic ...By KristaDavid Leong provides clear insight into understanding how the context of neighborhoods and cities connects to

our social fabric and understanding of ourselves. Our neighborhoods will only increase in diversity and its vital that we press into issues of diversity as a church. I recommend this book as a fresh voice into the topic of racially driven issues in the church. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An excellent guide through a complex issue. By Steve Dancause Dr. Leong has taken a complicated issue with so much loaded history and presented both the problem as well as the solution through both theological and sociological lenses. I found *Race and Place* to be passionate without being preachy, academic without being condescending, and hopeful without relying on cliché or overly simplistic solutions. Leong is a thorough yet engaging guide, and I left *Race and Place* with a much better understanding of both the history as well as the complexity of contemporary racial issues. This book is not full of blame or shame, yet neither did it let me off the hook just for having good intentions. After discussing the goodness of the universal human desire to belong to a community of like minded people in one place, he asks "could it also be true that our desire for belonging can be distorted by fear, pride, or self deception? Is it possible that our longing to be safe, known, or comfortable could lead us to places of isolation or even idolatry?" (pg. 35). Leong makes the case that it can and it does. Leong explains the complexities of race issues simply and clearly, using geography, history, and his own personal stories to illustrate his arguments. I left with a much better understanding of the systemic nature of the problem, which no simple solution can adequately address. The call of his book seems to be for Christians like himself (and I) of all races to work against patterns of exclusion, rather than reinforcing them. In as much as Christianity in America often absentmindedly can reinforce them, this book provides an excellent roadmap forward. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Both insightful and challenging. By Nancy Sugikawa In "Race and Place," Dr. Leong invites us to reflect on the places we live—or want to live—and ask ourselves how our geography has shaped our theology and mission as followers of Jesus Christ. He states that too many of us are "functionally segregated by race and class," often relocating as part of our upward mobility. We forget that in our pursuit of more comfortable places, we take our financial and relational resources with us. But what and who do we leave behind? Dr. Leong assures us that we all need "healthy forms of cultural familiarity and shared values that nurture our identity in important ways" but this often leads us to gravitate to places filled predominantly with people just like us—those who think like we think, eat what we eat, vote like we vote and worship who we worship. In contrast, we tend to run away from places of unfamiliarity, discomfort and even hostility. Without being aware of it, the geography of where we do life shapes our "unconscious biases," influencing what we value and how we think about those not like us. If we are to engage our neighborhoods in ways that point to a God who loves, a God of both justice and mercy, Dr. Leong invites us to listen closely to the deep wounds of those who have been "left behind," "left without" or "kept outside" the gates of power and resources. He asks if the church of Jesus Christ will follow patterns of exclusion or disrupt them. Will the church move as it once did from an ethnocentric group called out by God, to become an unexpected, loving community of diverse races, classes, politics and gender? Dr. Leong reminds us that Jesus himself continually moved outside the boundaries of his own social networks, going into places he didn't belong, welcoming outcasts into his inner circle, and eating dinner in the homes of his "enemies." God took people who didn't "belong" and adopted them into the new family he was creating so that everyone could receive the same benefits and blessings of God no matter what their zip code was.

Geography matters. We long for diverse, thriving neighborhoods and churches, yet racial injustices persist. Why? Because geographic structures and systems create barriers to reconciliation and prevent the flourishing of our communities. *Race and Place* reveals the profound ways in which these geographic forces and structures sustain the divisions among us. Urban missiologist David Leong, who resides in one of the most diverse neighborhoods in the country, unpacks the systemic challenges that are rarely addressed in the conversation about racial justice. The evening news may deliver story after story that causes us to despair. But Leong envisions a future of belonging and hope in our streets, towns, cities, and churches. A discussion about race needs to go hand in hand with a discussion about place. This book is a welcome addition to a conversation that needs to include both.

"Although race has been a focus of public conversation in the U.S., not many people are talking about the way geography has fueled the racial divide and continues to fragment us. David Leong introduces us to the tangled history of race and geography with a keenly theological mind that imagines reconciliation for God's people." (Relevant, Jan-Feb 2017) "Leong's *Race and Place* is a one of the most graceful and optimistic takes on race in the United States in recent memory." (Baptist Standard, November 2, 2016) "Race and Place offers the needed work of cultural and social exegesis and also offers the potential positive power of the Christian imagination. Allow David Leong—a scholar, a pastor, an urbanite, a deeply spiritual and thoughtful follower of Jesus—to guide you through this important theological journey." (Soong-Chan Rah, from the foreword) "Leong brings the overdue conversation of race to the forefront and begs of us to engage, act, and get involved—something much more than what many Christians have been doing for quite some time: nothing. Leong has created a text that is accessible yet offers rigor in the fields of race, religion, and mission. It is time for Christians to take up the mantle of racial awareness and justice." (Daniel White Hodge, director of the Center For Youth Ministry Studies, North Park University, author of *Hip Hop's Hostile Gospel*) "Place matters.

Race and Place adds to our understanding about race by showing us that this dialog does not happen in a vacuum but in geographic places and spaces. Jesus came to break down the dividing walls between us. It is in specific locations we work out what it means to walk through those dividing walls." (Jude Tiersma Watson, associate professor of urban mission, Fuller Seminary)"Race is neither a white/black issue nor is it merely one of political correctness. Rather, it's about ghettos, ethnic enclaves, suburbia, and gentrification. David Leong helps us see how racialized our cities have been historically and how we continue to suffer under these decisions from decades ago. But Race and Place also provides us with concrete steps to live out the good news of justice and shalom in our neighborhoods and communities. There is plenty here for theorists to mull over and much for activists to work for as well." (Amos Yong, professor of theology and mission, Fuller Theological Seminary)"Joining God's dream for our neighborhoods compels us to answer the clarion call of racial justice and reconciliation. But for way too long, conversations about race haven't included place, and vice versa. With the insight of a scholar and wisdom that only comes from putting ideas into practice, Dr. Leong offers an invitation to the belonging, solidarity, and hope we so desperately need today. If you believe we need each other, you need this book. If you don't believe we need each other, you need this book. I'm so grateful for this timely contribution." (Tim Soerens, cofounding director, The Parish Collective, coauthor of The New Parish)

About the Author David P. Leong (PhD, Fuller Theological Seminary) is associate professor of missiology at Seattle Pacific University and Seminary, where he also serves as the director of the Global and Urban Ministry minor. He previously served in churches in urban Seattle through ministries focused on community groups and neighborhood involvement. As a scholar and practitioner, Leong examines the theological meaning of the city in an increasingly globalized and urbanized world. At the intersection of intercultural and missiological discourse, he sees the city as a rich context for theological reflection about topics ranging from hip hop and the built environment to multiculturalism and missional ecclesiology. He is the author of Street Signs: Toward a Missional Theology of Urban Cultural Engagement, and he lives in Seattle's Rainier Valley with his wife and two sons.

Soong-Chan Rah (DMin, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary) is Milton B. Engebretson Associate Professor of Church Growth and Evangelism at North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois. He is the author of The Next Evangelicalism: Freeing the Church from Western Cultural Captivity and Many Colors: Cultural Intelligence for a Changing Church, as well as coauthor of Forgive Us: Confessions of a Compromised Faith and contributing author for Growing Healthy Asian American Churches. In addition to serving as founding senior pastor of the multiethnic, urban ministry-focused Cambridge Community Fellowship Church (CCFC), Rah has been a part of four different church-planting efforts and served with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship in Boston. He has been an active member of the Boston TenPoint Coalition (an urban ministry working with at-risk youth) and is a founding member of the Boston Fellowship of Asian-American Ministers. He serves on the boards of World Vision, Sojourners, the Christian Community Development Association (CCDA) and the Catalyst Leadership Center. An experienced crosscultural preacher and conference speaker, Rah has addressed thousands around the country at gathering like the 2003 Urbana Student Missions Conference, 2006 Congress on Urban Ministry, 2007 Urban Youth Workers Institute Conference, 2008 CCDA National Conference, 2010 Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (GCTS) National Preaching Conference and the 2011 Disciples of Christ General Assembly. He and his wife Sue have two children and live in Chicago.