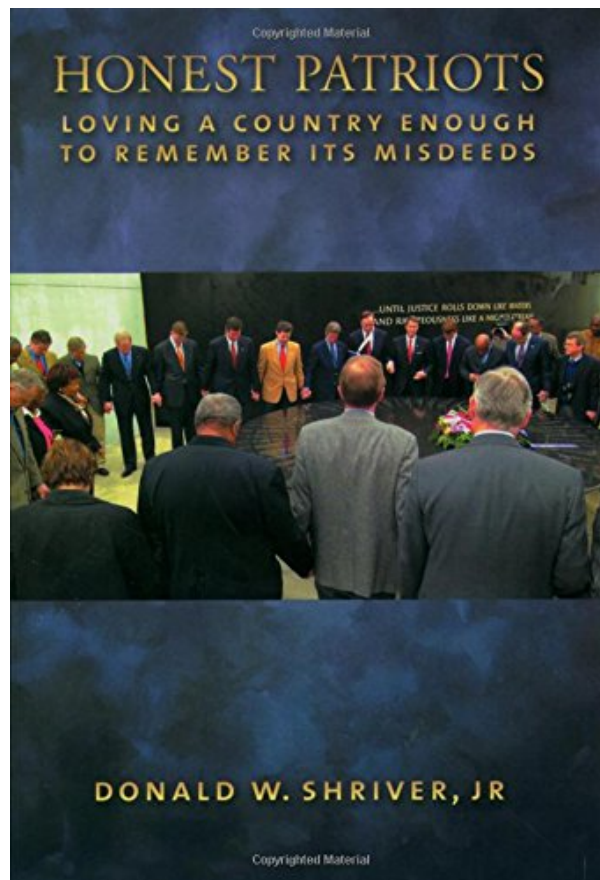
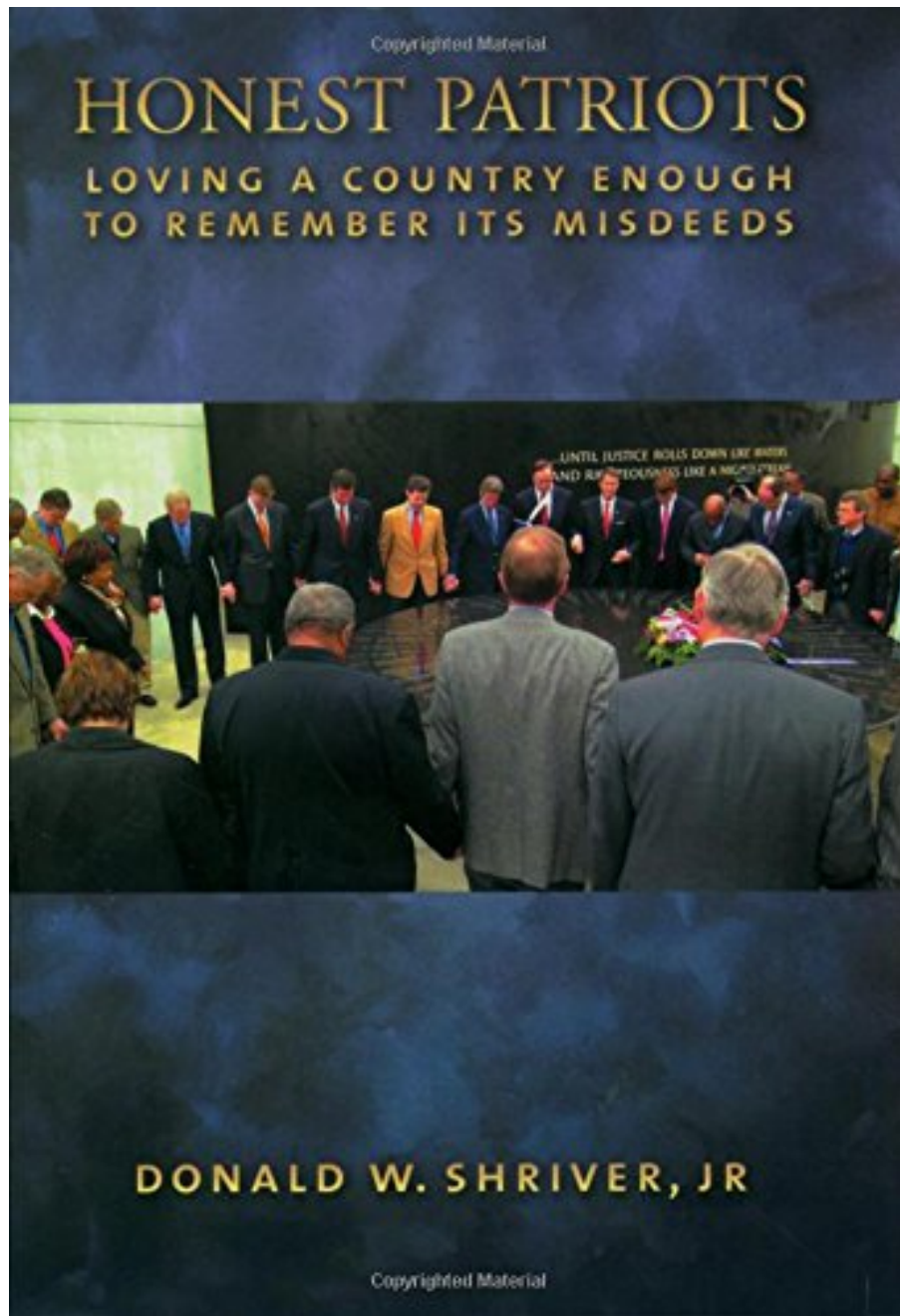


HONEST PATRIOTS: LOVING A COUNTRY ENOUGH TO REMEMBER ITS MISDEEDS BY DONALD W. SHRIVER



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Honest Patriots: Loving A Country Enough To Remember Its Misdeeds By Donald W. Shriver. In undertaking this life, many individuals consistently aim to do and also obtain the very best. New knowledge, encounter, driving lesson, and every little thing that can improve the life will be done. However, several individuals in some cases really feel puzzled to obtain those points. Really feeling the minimal of encounter and also sources to be much better is one of the does not have to own. However, there is a really simple thing that could be done. This is exactly what your teacher always manoeuvres you to do this. Yeah, reading is the answer. Reading a publication as this Honest Patriots: Loving A Country Enough To Remember Its Misdeeds By Donald W. Shriver and also various other recommendations could improve your life top quality. Exactly how can it be?

Review

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"As long as there are such sensitive and profoundly truthful commentators as Donald Shriver around speaking to American power, there is always hope." --Restorative Justice

"A passionate but gentle teaching on personal, political, educational, and religious repentance. Written in the first person by a man who has confronted those questions many times in his life as a civil rights worker, teacher, minister, and president--now emeritus--of Union Thological Seminary in New York." --Christian Century

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In *Honest Patriots*, renowned public theologian and ethicist Donald W. Shriver, Jr. argues that we must acknowledge and repent of the morally negative events in our nation's past. The failure to do so skews the relations of many Americans to one another, breeds ongoing hostility, and damages the health of our society. Yet our civic identity today largely rests on denials, forgetfulness, and inattention to the memories of neighbors whose ancestors suffered great injustices at the hands of some dominant majority. Shriver contends that repentance for these injustices must find a place in our political culture. Such repentance must be carefully and deliberately cultivated through the accurate teaching of history, by means of public symbols that embody both positive and negative memory, and through public leadership to this end. Religious people and religious organizations have an important role to play in this process. Historically, the Christian tradition has concentrated on the personal dimensions of forgiveness and repentance to the near-total neglect of their collective aspects. Recently, however, the idea of collective moral responsibility has gained new and public visibility. Official apologies for past collective injustice have multiplied, along with calls for reparations. Shriver looks in detail at the examples of Germany and South Africa, and their pioneering efforts to foster and express collective repentance. He then turns to the historic wrongs perpetrated against African Americans and Native Americans and to recent efforts by American citizens and governmental bodies to seek public justice by remembering public injustice. The call for collective repentance presents many challenges: What can it mean to morally master a past whose victims are dead and whose sufferings cannot be alleviated? What are the measures that lend substance to language and action expressing repentance? What symbolic and tangible acts produce credible turns away from past wrongs? What are the dynamics—psychological, social, and political—whereby we can safely consign an evil to the past? How can public life witness to corporate crimes of the past in such a way that descendants of victims can be confident that they will never be repeated? In his provocative answers to these questions Shriver creates a compelling new vision of the collective repentance and apology that must precede real progress in relations between the races in this country.

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Shriver, *Honest Patriots*

By John G. Gibbs

Shriver, distinguished Professor Emeritus of Applied Christianity at Union Theological Seminary in NYC, has in 3 countries (Germany, South Africa, and the USA) pursued this question: How may any society recall its past errors in such a way as both to resolve "never again" to those errors and to construct a more positive future?

Avoding moralism, he has provided a very practical guide to how societies can change, and indeed in specific cases have changed, for their better common good. He takes us to those historical locations (museums, unearthed sites of crimes committed, monuments), textbooks used in schools, and anniversary observances where memory of past misdeeds has been put at the service of constructing more humane and hopeful societies. The evidence is abundantly at hand that "honest patriotism" is achievable, has been accomplished in specific instances, and needs to be performed in our American society at the beginning of the third millenium C.E.

I do not know of a more "relevant" book for energizing honest patriotism as counterthrust to the seachange of American society in recent years, a change after 9/11 that has taken us into "pre-emptive" war, uses of illegal torture, the Patriot Act, and the extensive unraveling of our social safety nets.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Provocative ideas for the flag-wavers

By Chester Burger

It is absorbing to read this gripping account of what patriotism really means. This book isn't for the flag-wavers. Its fundamental point is that when a nation, a people, honestly face their past history and recognize shortcomings, cruelties and even misdeeds, only then can they accept moral responsibilities and move ahead in an honorable direction. Closing our eyes to the past must lead to continuing inequity and wrongdoing.

When we recognize national misdeeds of past years, we rightly absolve ourselves of personal responsibility. But our national responsibility remains. We owe a national apology to those we have hurt. And Dr. Shriver quietly and thoroughly persuasively argues that a nation is better off morally, ethically and pragmatically when we apologize.

South Africa is an example. Germany is a remarkable example. Dr. Shriver discusses America's treatment of those we now call "Native Americans" from a fresh and penetrating viewpoint.

One can't read "*Honest Patriots*" without admiring Dr. Shriver's profound love of his country and his ability to open our eyes to the realities of our almost-forgotten past.

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Read This

By Gerald L. Harper

America needs to hear this message.

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