

'Fatal Invention'

"Race is an invented political system, not a natural biological division. The Human Genome Project has confirmed that the human species cannot be divided into genetically distinguishable races. Race is a political grouping created to support slavery and colonialism, and its boundary lines have shifted over time and across nations to suit political ends..."

For the last three centuries, science... has been instrumental in justifying the concept of biological races—and this century's genomic science is no different... Despite the scientific and political evidence, some scientists are attempting to modernize the myth that race is a biological category... What's new is that today's racial science claims to divide human beings into natural groups with more accurate precision and without the taint of racism."

—Excerpted from Part I (pgs. 20-27)

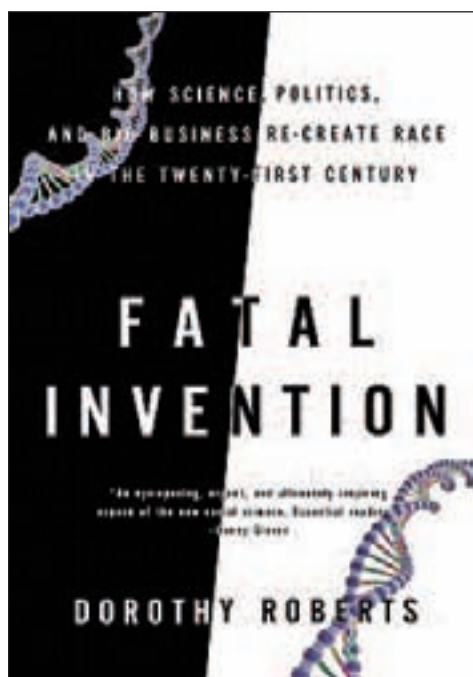
The mapping of the human gene has established, scientifically, that there is only one race, the human race. So, one might naturally expect any arbitrary groupings by experts of individuals along color lines to cease. Think again. Regrettably, this is not the case, according to Professor Dorothy Roberts of Northwestern Law School.

She is the author of *Fatal Invention*, a cautionary examination of the current state of affairs in terms of the intersection of ethnicity and bioethics. In the book, she issues a dire warning that researchers are repackaging outmoded notions of race by hiding behind benign-sounding euphemisms like "geographic ancestry" when they should really be disposing of such baseless categorizations entirely.

For example, you may be familiar with television commercials being run by ancestry-testing companies offering to determine what percent white, black, Asian and Native-American you are based on a DNA sample. However, the perspicacious Professor Roberts warns that these ads erroneously "reinforce the myth that human beings were originally divided into pure races that exist in our genes."

Perhaps more problematic, she suggests, is the way in which the medical community seems to be "searching for genes to explain racial disparities in health care that are actually caused by social inequities." In this regard, Roberts indicates that "In 2005, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the first race-specific drug, a heart failure therapy that was targeted to black patients for marketing reasons."

A seminal appeal for the findings of the Genome Project to be applied not in service of separation and exploitation but to promote the ideals of inclusion and equality among all members of the human



**Fatal Invention:
How Science, Politics and Big Business Re-Crete Race in the 21st Century**

Dorothy Roberts, Esq.

The New Press

Hardcover, \$29.95, 400 pages

ISBN: 978-1-59558-495-3

We honor the many accomplishments of African Americans.



It is our primary goal as a labor union to better the lives of all people working in the building trades through advocacy, civil demonstration, and the long-held belief that workers deserve a "family wage" - fair pay for an honest day's work.

A family wage, and the benefits that go with it, not only strengthens families, but also allows our communities to become stronger, more cohesive, and more responsive to their citizens' needs.

Our family wage agenda reflects our commitment to people working in the building trades, and to workers everywhere. In this small way, we are doing our part to help people achieve the American Dream. This dream that workers can hold dear regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, creed, or religious beliefs.

The Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters

Representing more than 5,000 construction workers in Oregon State.

Do you want to know more about becoming a Union carpenter?



Go to our website at www.nwcarpenters.org

Offices in Portland
1636 East Burnside
Portland, OR 97214
503.261.1862 • 800.974.9052

Headquarters in Kent, WA
25120 Pacific Hwy S, Ste 200
Kent, WA 98032
253.945.8800 • 800.573.8333

NEW SEASONS MARKET

**Shop Local
EAT FRESH!**

EASY & FUN TO SHOP • SENSIBLY PRICED • LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

ARBOR LODGE: N Interstate Ave & Portland Blvd 503.467.4777
CONCORDIA: NE 33rd & Killingsworth 503.288.3838
www.newseasonsmarket.com