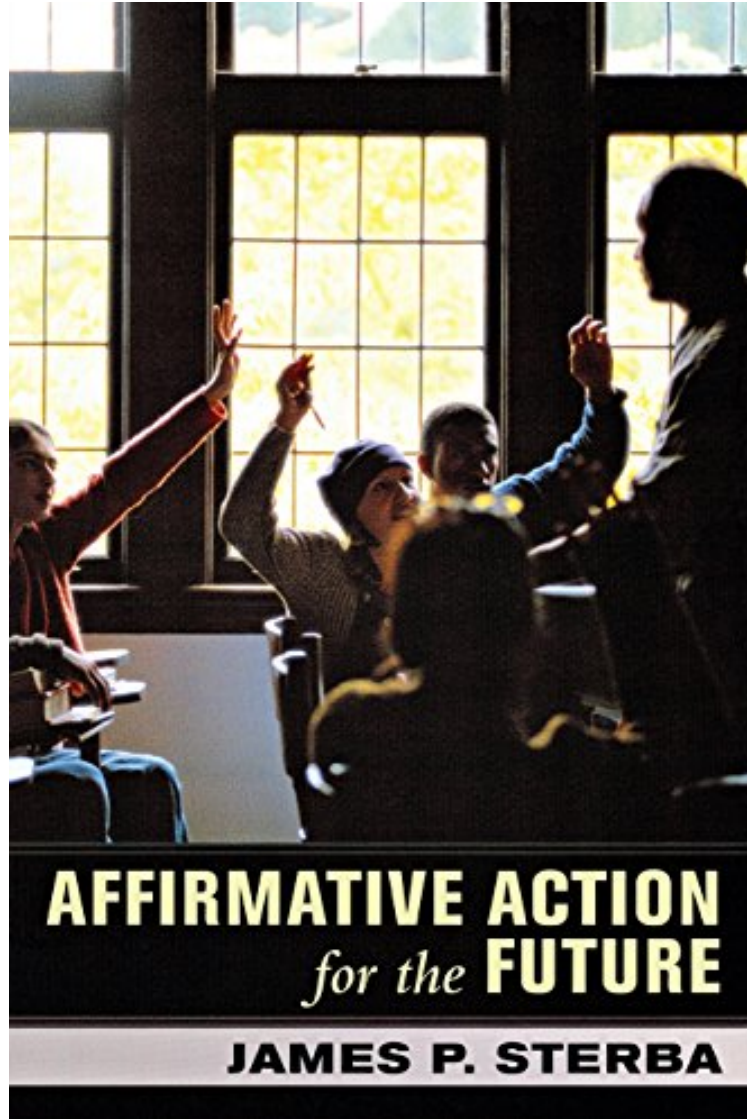


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Affirmative Action for the Future

James P. Sterba

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James P. Sterba : Affirmative Action for the Future before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Affirmative Action for the Future:

At a time when private and public institutions of higher education are reassessing their admissions policies in light of new economic conditions, Affirmative Action for the Future is a clarion call for the need to keep the door of

opportunity open. In 2003, U.S. Supreme Court's Grutter and Gratz decisions vindicated the University of Michigan Law School's affirmative action program while striking down the particular affirmative action program used for undergraduates at the university. In 2006 and 2008, state referendums banned affirmative action in some states while upholding it in others. Taking these developments into account, James P. Sterba draws on his vast experience as a champion of affirmative action to mount a new moral and legal defense of the practice as a useful tool for social reform. Sterba documents the level of racial and sexual discrimination that still exists in the United States and then, arguing that diversity is a public good, he calls for expansion of the reach of affirmative action as a mechanism for encouraging true diversity. In his view, we must include in our understanding of affirmative action the need to favor those who come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, regardless of race and sex. Elite colleges and universities could best facilitate opportunities for students from working-class and poor families, in Sterba's view, by cutting back on legacy and athletic preferences that overwhelmingly benefit wealthy white applicants.

"James P. Sterba has thoroughly canvassed the subject of affirmative action, and his arguments in this book are very clear and compelling. Affirmative Action for the Future will be read eagerly by anyone interested in affirmative action and social justice, whether their primary focus is on philosophy, law, political science, race theory, or feminism." Anita M. Superson, University of Kentucky, author of *The Moral Skeptic* "Wherever we might stand on the topic of affirmative action, James P. Sterba's extraordinarily well-informed book in defense of the practice truly deserves our attention. We who oppose affirmative action will find significant considerations that give us tremendous pause. We who support it will find new resources for refashioning our arguments in far more powerful ways. Written with thoroughness, eloquence of thought, and purity of heart, Affirmative Action for the Future is a book that no one should ignore. It is a magnificent piece of philosophical writing that is most timely." Laurence Thomas, Syracuse University, author of *The Family and the Political Self* From the Back Cover "James P. Sterba has thoroughly canvassed the subject of affirmative action, and his arguments in this book are very clear and compelling. Affirmative Action for the Future will be read eagerly by anyone interested in affirmative action and social justice, whether their primary focus is on philosophy, law, political science, race theory, or feminism." -Anita M. Superson, University of Kentucky, author of *The Moral Skeptic* "Wherever we might stand on the topic of affirmative action, James P. Sterba's extraordinarily well-informed book in defense of the practice truly deserves our attention. We who oppose affirmative action will find significant considerations that give us tremendous pause. We who support it will find new resources for refashioning our arguments in far more powerful ways. Written with thoroughness, eloquence of thought, and purity of heart, Affirmative Action for the Future is a book that no one should ignore. It is a magnificent piece of philosophical writing that is most timely." --Laurence Thomas, Syracuse University, author of *The Family and the Political Self* About the Author James P. Sterba is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame. He is the author, coauthor, or editor of twenty-five books, including *Affirmative Action and Racial Preference: A Debate*, *Does Feminism Discriminate against Men-A Debate*, *Justice for Here and Now*, and *Terrorism and International Justice*. He is also past president of the American Philosophical Association, Central Division, and several other philosophical organizations.