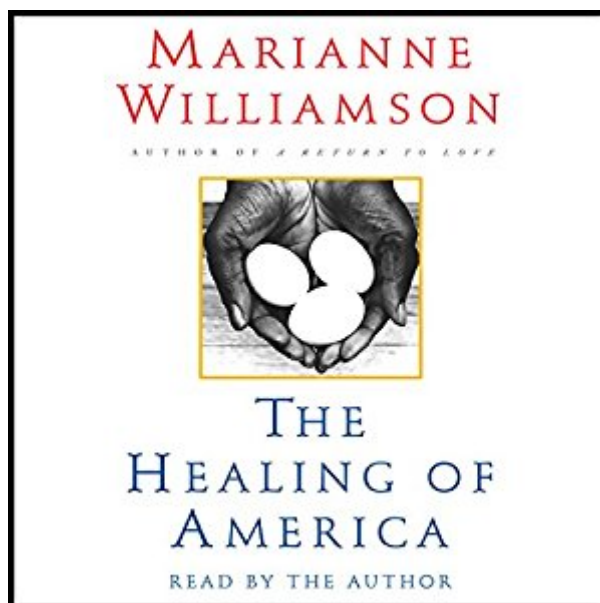


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# The Healing Of America



## Synopsis

"In a nation of 260 million our healing is actually extremely personal. We must each mature into a deeper understanding of our lives and why we're living them, for such understanding is the womb out of which will come new life for American culture." With the publication of *The Healing of America*, Marianne Williamson became a powerful voice for social conscience in American society. While citing the virtual abandonment of social justice as a dominant political theme since the 1960s, Williamson notes historian Arthur Schlesinger's contention that Americans express renewed political interest every thirty years. This is a time, according to Williamson, for Americans to once again return to first principles - political and spiritual. In this landmark work, Williamson draws plans for the transformation of American political consciousness and the re-emergence of powerful citizen involvement in a genuine healing of American society. According to Williamson, we need a new paradigm of political understanding, a moral commitment to express it, and a new kind of activism to bring it forth. *The Healing of America* is a blueprint for all three.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Here is a heavy dose of what we all need. Williamson shines the light in places too long in shadow. Once you get past the first third of the book and its overindulgent imagery and mixed metaphors, you find yourself heart-deep in truth. This book will help you see what's important out there. So turn off the TV and pick up a copy, then write a letter, or make a noise, or take a stand.

Williamson offers very little here that we don't already know. The message, of course, always falls

back to love, but the author tends to beat this notion to death, over and over and over. The one ludicrous suggestion in "Healing" America is by disregarding Columbus Day as a means of "healing" the injustices suffered by Native Americans. What Williamson does not mention, is the bulk of atrocities committed against Native Americans occurred decades \*after\* Columbus's death. In the end, after so many years of injustice and genocide, will Native Americans feel better or be "healed" by simply dropping Columbus Day? How naive. Williamson's solution will "heal" Native America's pain like a Band-Aid will heal multiple stab wounds.

I'm tempted to say this is Marianne Williamson's most important, yet most under-appreciated, book. You probably already know her for her work on spiritual healing. Most of her other works focus on inner healing, this book is about taking our inner journey outward, and how we can share our new thought/new energy with the world...and why this is vital. I say this is more important now than ever before. It's very interesting to listen to this program, which was recorded right before the 2000 elections, and hear her talk about social and political issues that were pivotal at that time. Ironically, this program is even \*more\* relevant today. Many of the important issues she raises -- global climate change, recycling, health care, animal extinction, the rain forests -- are no longer simply issues. Over the past few years, these have escalated to CRISES! And, now that we have the opportunity to elect true progressives into office, and now that the nation (and world?) is ready to hear about environmental and social healing, these ideas are as important as ever.

Written in 1997, "The Healing Of America" calls for people to have a more conscious involvement in politics and world events. Author, Marianne Williamson, cites our current levels of affluency as a key ingredient that has lulled the typical American into a state of disinterest with world events. Williamson says, "No doctor can guarantee physical health to a patient who refuses to take care of her body, and no leader can guarantee social health to a people who refuse to take care of their society." (p. 176). Prophetically, Williamson predicts that America will experience a renaissance or a catastrophe which will take us back to who we are. She further says, "Nothing short of a spiritual awakening will heal this wounded nation." Williamson makes a strong case for needing to take care of your own healing via cleaning up old unfinished business. She points out that this is step one and needs to be handled before involvement with healing the larger society. She provides examples and insights into how one can do this. Timely and beautifully written, this book provides food for thought.

I must respectfully disagree with the Costa Mesa, Ca reader's review that this book is simply

another "big government" fix. The 2 main heroes in the book, Ghandi and Dr. ML King Jr., never ran for or attained elected office. It is a book about empowering our citizenry to do what we all know is right. It is about the citizenry taking back the government from big business and special interests. Of course, she speaks of the necessity to wake up out of our consumer-drunkenness, one person at a time, before this can ever happen. It is a tragedy that in our Country, people are afraid to speak out for the poor, the homeless, the troubled youth, in fear of being labeled a "bleeding heart" or a "whiner" or a "new age liberal" (see above review). Ms. Williamson beautifully and eloquently asks us to take a look in the mirror, try to figure out what we really feel is right, and then use the democratic process to do something about it. Not a novel idea, but certainly one that desperately needs to be awakened.

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