

Caste: The Origins of our Discontents, Isabel Wilkerson

Before we get into more specific questions, would anyone like to share general thoughts on the book?

Caste begins with an image of one lone dissenter amidst a crowd of Germans giving the Nazi salute. Whether in the dominant caste or not, what are some of the ways that each of us, personally, can stand up to the caste system? What can organizations like ours do?

Wilkerson compares American racial hierarchy to a dormant Siberian virus, among other metaphors (the bones inside a body, the beams inside a house). How do these comparisons help combat the pervasive myth that racism has been eradicated in America? How convincing did you find her case on the role caste plays in our society regarding race?

If we think the notion of racial caste in the U.S. exists, how would/could it inform our current approaches and strategies in educating and supporting our students, and training and supporting our staff moving forward? What might we be missing?