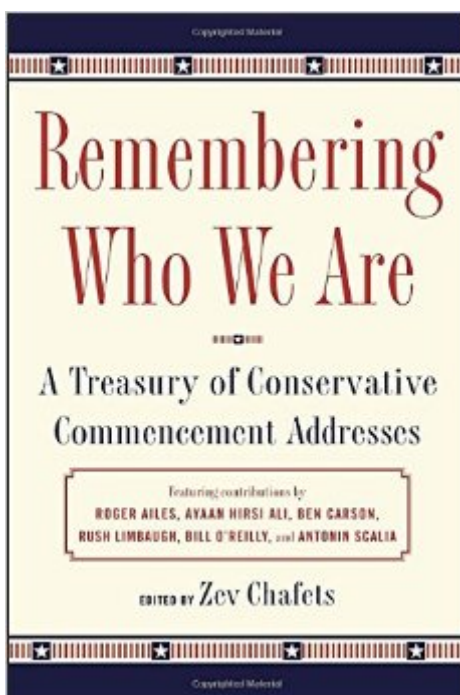


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Remembering Who We Are: A Treasury Of Conservative Commencement Addresses



Synopsis

The perfect gift for graduates — thirty commencement addresses about liberty, patriotism, tradition, and other conservative themes that are rarely heard on campus. The college graduation speech has become another casualty of our age of political correctness. Historically, universities are supposed to be strongholds of tolerance, where any idea can be discussed—and tested rigorously to see if it has merit. Students should benefit from free expression and diversity of opinions, about current events and eternal questions alike. But today, certain positions are considered too controversial for the fragile ears of liberal students, and for administrators who usually surrender to their demands. It's no longer unusual when a U.S. Senator like Ted Cruz, a pioneering neurosurgeon like Ben Carson, a Supreme Court Justice like Antonin Scalia, or a human rights advocate like Ayaan Hirsi Ali faces protests, disrespectful shouting, or petitions to have his or her invitation revoked. Fortunately, *Remembering Who We Are* collects the commencement wisdom of a wide range of thinkers who are willing to challenge the liberal consensus on campus. Editor Zev Chafets has brought together a diverse group of speakers from many walks of life, from playwright David Mamet to Ambassador Ryan Crocker, from Governor Bobby Jindal to humorist PJ O'Rourke. For example, you'll find in these pages: "Do Your Best to Be Your Best" by Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas; "Gridlock, An American Achievement" by columnist George F. Will; "We Have Something Wonderful" by novelist Marilynne Robinson; "The Art of the Entrepreneur" by business leader Mort Zuckerman; "Restore and Remake Our Country" by historian Victor Davis Hanson. Too many students now enter the real world after being taught that patriotism is misguided, that religious faith is for the foolish, and that free enterprise is unfair. The eloquent speeches in this collection will help them grasp the truth — that America is flawed but fundamentally good; that faith can have intellectual depth; that capitalism is the world's greatest force for fighting poverty; and much more.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I would have said I'm not the intended audience for this book, but according to the introduction, I might be. Looking at the title, one might think *Remembering Who We Are* is a book for conservatives. It is, but editor Zev Chafets wants liberals and moderates to know and understand what this book has to say. He says he doesn't agree with everyone in the book, and neither do I. And I'm certainly not conservative. However, I too believe it's important to understand people with whom you disagree. I don't love every essay in *Remembering Who We Are*, but it helped me understand more about what conservatives stand for, and for that, I'm glad I read it. This book comprises about 30 conservative speeches given at various colleges – some public and large, some private and tiny. At least one of the speeches was not actually given because of student or faculty outcry, and a few of them were published as general letters to college graduates rather than given at a specific college. They are very different – some congratulate the graduates; some tell them to shape up – but all contain some form of conservative ideals. There was a good deal in these addresses that I didn't agree with. I sighed at Bobby Jindal's insistence that the legalization of gay marriage would force churches to close their doors (no, that's not how the law works), nor did I care for the way Ted Cruz and Ben Carson inserted invective against those darned liberals in their speeches. (I personally don't believe politics, right or left, has any place at a commencement ceremony, but that's an opinion most colleges don't seem to share.) And those are only a few points I contended within these pages. Even so, there's a lot I agreed with in this collection.

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