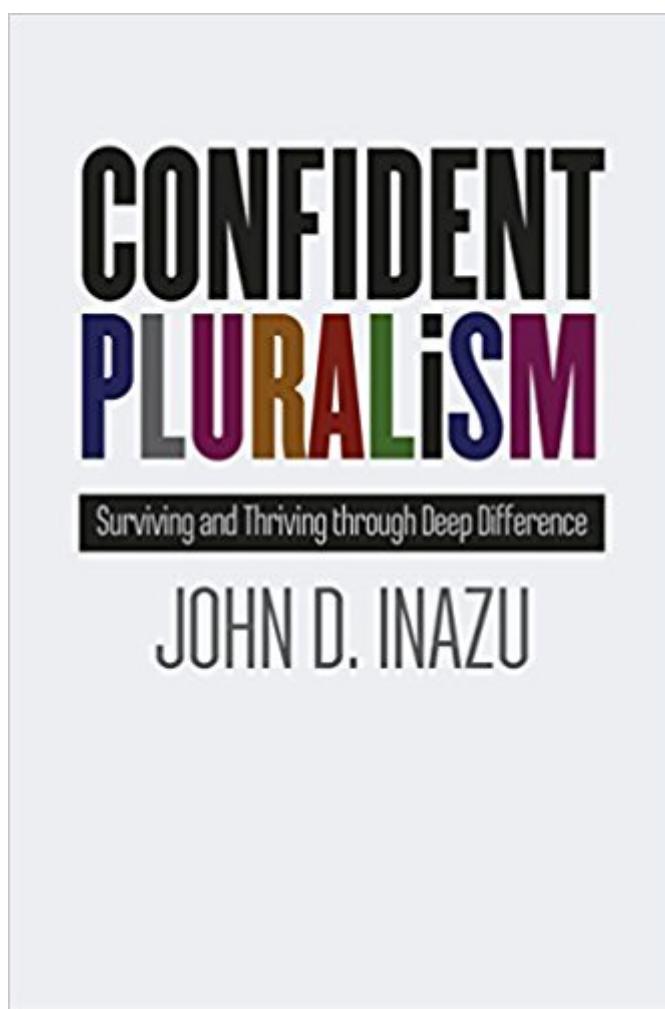


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Confident Pluralism: Surviving And Thriving Through Deep Difference



Synopsis

In recent years, the United States has become increasingly polarized and divided. This fissure is evident across the nation in conflict over LGBTQ rights; in challenges to religious liberty; in clashes over abortion; in tensions between law enforcement and minority communities. With all of this physical and emotional violence enacted by our legal system and such seemingly irresolvable differences in beliefs, values, and identities across the country, we are forced to ask "how can the people of this nation ever live in peace together? In *Confident Pluralism*, John D. Inazu analyzes the current state of the country, orients the contemporary United States within its broader history, and explores the ways that Americans can "and must" live together peaceably despite these deeply engrained differences. Pluralism is one of the founding creeds of the United States yet America's society and legal system continues to face deep, unsolved structural problems in dealing with differing cultural anxieties, and minority viewpoints. Inazu not only argues that it is possible to cohabit peacefully in this country, but also lays out realistic guidelines for our society and legal system to achieve the new American dream through civic practices that value toleration over protest, humility over defensiveness, and persuasion over coercion. An essential clarion call during one of the most troubled times in US history, *Confident Pluralism* offers a refreshing argument for how the legal system can protect peoples' personal beliefs and differences and shows how we can build toward a healthier future of tolerance, patience, and empathy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you want to continue living in your own small tribal bubble, listening to the echo chamber of your social network and gazing at your own reflection in the fun house mirror of cable news ... then do not read *Confident Pluralism*. If on the other hand you love America, buy 10 copies right now and pass them out to your friends and enemies.

This book isn't long, but it's outstanding. It's easy to find despondency with the current state of our government and national conversation (on a whole host of different issues). Inazu doesn't take that route; instead, he focuses on what he terms "confident pluralism," or the idea that while we needn't give up our deeply held views on issues of importance, we must find a way to live together despite those differences. His argument takes two forms. On one hand, he argues that we need a stronger constitutional framework that protects the freedoms of religion, speech, and assembly. Additionally, he argues that we as a society need to embrace attributes that enable conversations and relationships to happen despite deep differences. It's well worth the read (particularly given its length), and in modern-day America, it is essential for some version of Inazu's vision to be realized.

Absolutely riveting, brilliantly written and pioneering work, which really help me get a framework into my head about how to think about the controversies coming thick and fast around discrimination, rights, pluralism and religious liberty

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