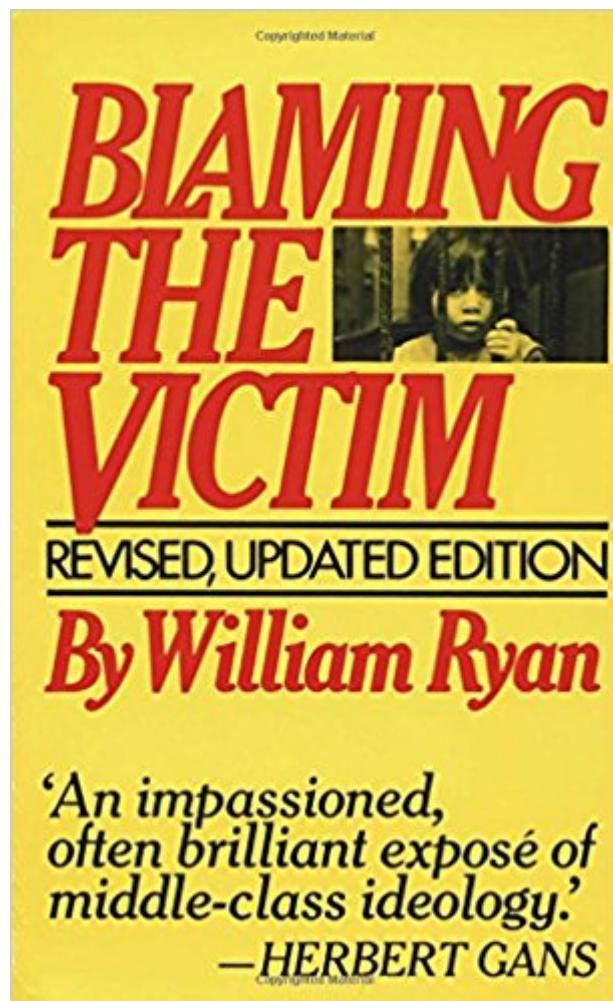


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# Blaming The Victim



## Synopsis

The classic work that refutes the lies we tell ourselves about race, poverty and the poor. Here are three myths about poverty in America: Minority children perform poorly in school because they are "culturally deprived." African-Americans are handicapped by a family structure that is typically unstable and matriarchal. Poor people suffer from bad health because of ignorance and lack of interest in proper health care. *Blaming the Victim* was the first book to identify these truisms as part of the system of denial that even the best-intentioned Americans have constructed around the unpalatable realities of race and class. Originally published in 1970, William Ryan's groundbreaking and exhaustively researched work challenges both liberal and conservative assumptions, serving up a devastating critique of the mindset that causes us to blame the poor for their poverty and the powerless for their powerlessness. More than twenty years later, it is even more meaningful for its diagnosis of the psychic underpinnings of racial and social injustice.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"An impassioned, often brilliant expose of middle-class ideology."--Herbert Gans  
"An illusion-shatterer of the first order if you are concerned, you must read this book. It will stop you in your tracks."--Library Journal

"An impassioned, often brilliant exposé of middle-class ideology."--Herbert Gans

This book offers a useful critique of specific liberal programs and strategies. More importantly, though, it provides an eye-opening deconstruction of social strategies that explicitly or implicitly identify the victim as the cause of any given social problem. The specifics may be dated, but the general point still stands. Critical reading for anyone interested in social change and especially for those in the helping professions, which are often where victim blaming theories find a home.

required book for social work class. Interesting read.

I receive the book Blaming the victim last week on the promise date that was listed when I ordered it thank you. I appreciated.M.A.

Bought for school. So much less than college bookstore prices. Good book.

wordy

love it

Great Book bought it as a requirement for a Social Problems Class, but it is still a very good read!It's a Great Purchase

This book was first published on the heels of the famous Moynihan Report in 1965, which identified problems in the African American family to the fact that there were so many fatherless families in that culture. Mr. Ryan is distinguished by having invented the expression "Blaming the Victim" with this book. He accuses the Moynihan Report of blaming the black community for its own problems. The problem is that is not what the Moynihan report did. It provided an explanation for those problems which was different from the assumption at the time of not enough schools or jobs. Moynihan connected the cause to the history of slavery and discrimination over the previous centuries. Mr. Ryan does not so much argue against Moynihan's conclusion as he accuses Moynihan of continuing racism. Now, I cannot say some people did not reach racist conclusions from Moynihan's report; however, there is no sense criticizing a worthy explanation, since the only way one will cure a problem is by understanding its causes. There are other, worthy books, as recently published as 4 years ago, which defend Daniel Patrick Moynihan's conclusions, which is a

good thing, because the problem has not yet disappeared.

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