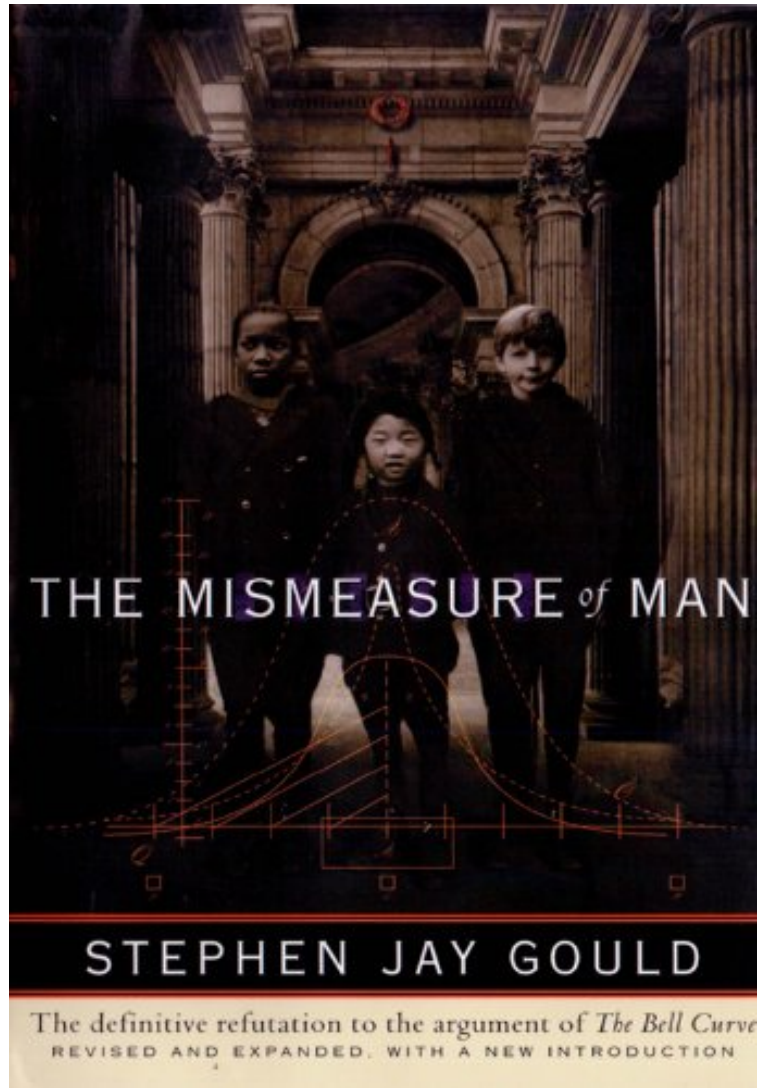


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## The Mismeasure of Man (Revised Expanded)

Von Stephen Jay Gould

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**Von Stephen Jay Gould : The Mismeasure of Man (Revised Expanded)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mismeasure of Man (Revised Expanded):

KurzbeschreibungThe definitive refutation to the argument of The Bell Curve.When published in 1981, The Mismeasure of Man was immediatly hailed as a masterwork, the ringing answer to those who would classify people,

rank them according to their supposed genetic gifts and limits. And yet the idea of innate limits of biology as destiny dies hard, as witness the attention devoted to *The Bell Curve*, whose arguments are here so effectively anticipated and thoroughly undermined by Stephen Jay Gould. In this edition Dr. Gould has written a substantial new introduction telling how and why he wrote the book and tracing the subsequent history of the controversy on innateness right through *The Bell Curve*. Further, he has added five essays on questions of *The Bell Curve* in particular and on race, racism, and biological determinism in general. These additions strengthen the book's claim to be, as Leo J. Kamin of Princeton University has said, "a major contribution toward deflating pseudo-biological 'explanations' of our present social woes." .de

How smart are you? If that question doesn't spark a dozen more questions in your mind (like "What do you mean by 'smart,'" "How do I measure it," and "Who's asking?"), then *The Mismeasure of Man*, Stephen Jay Gould's masterful demolition of the IQ industry, should be required reading. Gould's brilliant, funny, engaging prose dissects the motivations behind those who would judge intelligence, and hence worth, by cranial size, convolutions, or score on extremely narrow tests. How did scientists decide that intelligence was unipolar and quantifiable, and why did the standard keep changing over time? Gould's answer is clear and simple: power maintains itself. European men of the 19th century, even before Darwin, saw themselves as the pinnacle of creation and sought to prove this assertion through hard measurement. When one measure was found to place members of some "inferior" group such as women or Southeast Asians over the supposedly rightful champions, it would be discarded and replaced with a new, more comfortable measure. The 20th-century obsession with numbers led to the institutionalization of IQ testing and subsequent assignment to work (and rewards) commensurate with the score, shown by Gould to be not simply misguided--for surely intelligence is multifactorial--but also regressive, creating a feedback loop rewarding the rich and powerful. The revised edition includes a scathing critique of Herrnstein and Murray's *The Bell Curve*, taking them to task for rehashing old arguments to exploit a new political wave of uncaring and belt tightening. It might not make you any smarter, but *The Mismeasure of Man* will certainly make you think. --Rob Lightner

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A rare book-at once of great importance and wonderful to read.