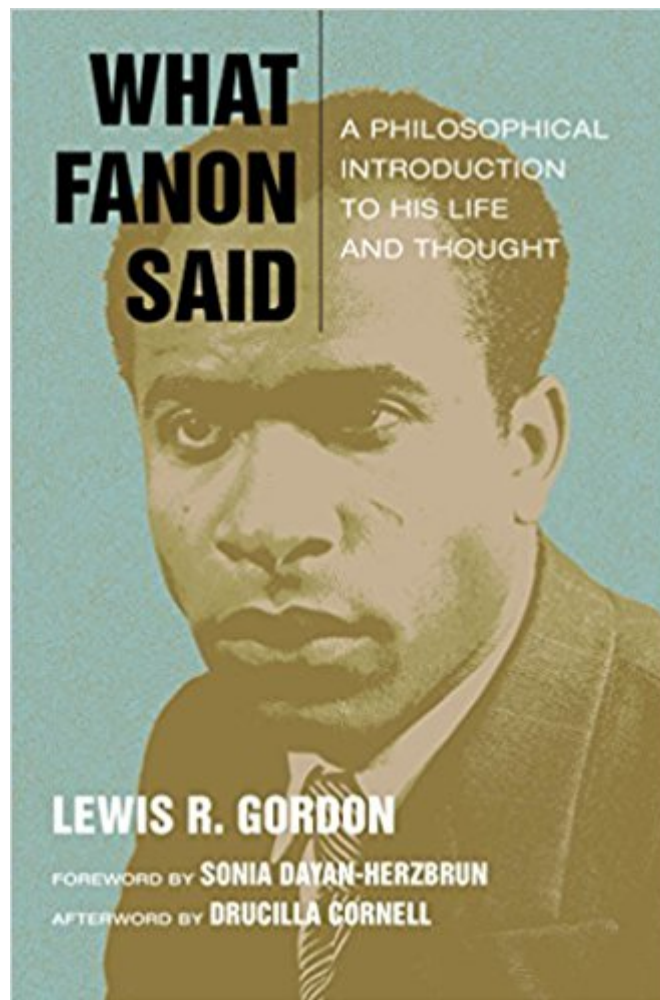




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What Fanon Said: A Philosophical Introduction To His Life And Thought (Just Ideas)



Synopsis

Antiblack racism avows reason is white while emotion, and thus supposedly unreason, is black. Challenging academic adherence to this notion, Lewis R. Gordon offers a portrait of Martinican-turned-Algerian revolutionary psychiatrist and philosopher Frantz Fanon as an exemplar of a living thought • against forms of reason marked by colonialism and racism. Working from his own translations of the original French texts, Gordon critically engages everything in Fanon from dialectics, ethics, existentialism, and humanism to philosophical anthropology, phenomenology, and political theory as well as psychiatry and psychoanalysis. Gordon takes into account scholars from across the Global South to address controversies around Fanon's writings on gender and sexuality as well as political violence and the social underclass. In doing so, he confronts the replication of a colonial and racist geography of reason, allowing theorists from the Global South to emerge as interlocutors alongside northern ones in a move that exemplifies what, Gordon argues, Fanon represented in his plea to establish newer and healthier human relationships beyond colonial paradigms.

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Customer Reviews

"Gordon is interested in understanding and correcting the systematic delegitimization of black intellectuals, both in philosophy and within the broader scope of theory. This is how Gordon pertinently introduces considerations of race and racism within the epistemological field, engaging

his readers to be more perceptive with regard to what could be called a "colour line in theory".

(Lucy Kim-Chi Mercier *Radical Philosophy* 198)

Gordon allows us to read Fanon in new and different ways, contextualizing his thought in a wide arc of knowledge from St. Augustine and traditional African philosophy to contemporaries such as De Beauvoir, Sartre, and Senghor, to more recent continental philosophers. Along the way, Gordon incorporates relevant debates from contemporary theoretical movements such as critical race theory. *What Fanon Said* is a provocative and illuminating study.

(Abdul R. JanMohamed, University of California, Berkeley University of California, Berkeley)

"Gordon has contextualised Fanon's words in an impressive analysis of his texts in relation to other thinkers and critics." (Socialist Review)

"In the hands of Lewis Gordon, *What Fanon Said*, becomes what Frantz Fanon says to us today. The book brings alive the revolutionary thought and practice of Fanon into the continuing struggles for structural economic, political, social, and psychic transformations of our world. The struggle against anti-black racism is an integral part of it, and Gordon's Fanon is the many-sided thinker who saw it all and give it words of fire in his works, particularly *Black Skin, White Masks* and *The Damned of the Earth*."

(Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, author of *Wizard of the Crow*, from the Wits University Press edition)

Lewis R. Gordon is Professor of Philosophy and Africana Studies at the University of Connecticut, Storrs; European Union Visiting Chair in Philosophy at Université Toulouse Jean Jaurès, France; and Nelson Mandela Distinguished Visiting Professor at Rhodes University, South Africa. His books include *Existentialism in Africa*; *Disciplinary Decadence*; *An Introduction to African Philosophy*; and, with Jane Anna Gordon, *Of Divine Warning: Reading Disaster in the Modern Age*.

Sonia Dayan-Herzbrun is University Professor Emerita of the Social Sciences at the University of Paris-Diderot.

Drucilla Cornell is Professor of Political Science, Women's and Gender Studies, and Comparative Literature at Rutgers University. She also teaches at Birkbeck College, University of London, and the University of Pretoria in South Africa.

Awesome book on Fanon. Gordon breaks down Frantz Fanon's work so elaborate and concise, that there is no need to look elsewhere for a book on Fanonian idealism.

Fantastic review and critique of an important but overlooked philosopher by an eminent professor. Must read for anyone interested in understanding the effects of colonialism on prejudiced and marginalized peoples. Fanon's life and work have a tremendous ethical importance for today's polarized society and Prof. Gordon's text has excellently provided a clear explication of the thinker's

views.

The best book on Fanon!

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