But to suggest that the black conservatives were color-blind visionaries who offered a realistic program for contemporary black advancement was equally misguided. In reality, black conservative intellectuals in modern America were neither counterfeit heroes nor color-blind visionaries. (Pg. 156). This book will be of great interest to those interested in critical views of many well-known leaders of the black conservative movement. Read more. One person found this helpful. The book includes a recounting of little-known Black success stories immediately after the Civil War, including examples of former slaves who died millionaires. "Most people don't know that," he said. "Many of the slaves who were freed were very skilled craftsmen â€“ they were iron workers, they were carpenters, they were the ones who built these plantations, and there was a bidding war for the labor of these artisans." Mr. Woodson, who describes himself not as a conservative but as a "radical pragmatist," said he would like to produce 1776 Unites books for kids, too, as well as videos. So far, however, Ms. Winfrey hasn't come knocking. "It's a matter of taking the content that we have and raising the kind of money," he said. What intellectual legitimacy did the conservative movement have? In addition, conservatives confronted a second crucial intellectual challenge: the search for an authentically American conservative heritage. What was conservatism in America? How should the Right refute the recurrent criticism that conservatism was â€œun-Americanâ€ because the United States was really a â€œliberalâ€ country? "A splendid narrative of the rise of black conservative intellectuals who emerged into the public sphere with the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980. . . . A first-rate, evenhanded account of black conservatism that will likely be a pivotal work on the topic for years to come." Journal of American History. Michael Ondaatje has taken on a subject that few have written about so thoroughly and extensively, and his book makes a notable contribution to modern American intellectual history and race relations. He probes deeply into the thought of black conservative intellectuals, exploring their positions on such key racial issues as affirmative action, welfare policy, and public education. Black conservatives emphasize traditionalism, patriotism, self-sufficiency, and strong cultural and social conservatism within the context of the black church. In the United States it is often, but not exclusively, associated with the Republican Party. The Reconstruction era began the greatest shift of conservative African Americans in American politics in modern history. In his book, The Content of Our Character, Shelby Steele offers an interpretation of the color-blind society ideology and why people should accept it. Black Conservative Intellectuals in Modern America. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. p. 220. ISBN 9780812242065.