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## **DAVID SHIPLER**

**Pulitzer Prize-winning  
Journalist and Author**

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### **BIOGRAPHY**

David K. Shipler worked for *The New York Times* from 1966 to 1988, reporting from New York, Saigon, Moscow, and Jerusalem before serving as chief diplomatic correspondent in Washington, DC. He has also written for *The New Yorker*, *The Washington Post*, and the *Los Angeles Times*. He is the author of *Russia: Broken Idols, Solemn Dreams*; the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Arab and Jew: Wounded Spirits in a Promised Land*; *A Country of Strangers: Blacks and Whites in America* and *The Working Poor: Invisible in America* and his most recent book, *The Rights of the People: How Our Search for Safety Invades Our Liberties* (Knopf, April 2011).

### **LECTURE SUMMARY**

#### **THE WORKING POOR: INVISIBLE IN AMERICA**

Based on his *New York Times* best seller *The Working Poor: Invisible In America*, David Shipler presents a searing, intimate portrait of working American families struggling against insurmountable odds to escape poverty. The invisible poor are engaged in the activity most respected in American ideology—hard, honest work. But their version of the American Dream is a nightmare: low-paying, dead-end jobs; the profound failure of government to improve upon decaying housing, health care, and education; the failure of families to break the patterns of child abuse and substance abuse. Shipler exposes the interlocking problems by taking us into the sorrowful, infuriating, courageous lives of the poor—white and black, Asian and Latino, citizens and immigrants—and makes pointed, informed recommendations for change.

## **THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE HOW OUR SEARCH FOR SAFETY INVADES OUR LIBERTIES**

David Shipper presents an impassioned, incisive look at the violations of civil liberties in the United States that have accelerated over the past decade—and their direct impact on our lives.

How have our rights to privacy and justice been undermined? What exactly have we lost? Pulitzer Prize-winner David K. Shipper searches for the answers to these questions by examining the historical expansion and contraction of our fundamental rights and, most pointedly, the real-life stories of individual men and women who have suffered. With keen insight and telling detail he describes how the Supreme Court's constitutional rulings play on the streets as D.C. police officers search for guns in poor African American neighborhoods, how a fruitless search warrant turns the home of a Homeland Security employee upside down, and how the secret surveillance and jailing of an innocent lawyer result from an FBI lab mistake. Each instance shocking and compelling—is a clear illustration of the risks posed to individual liberties. And, in Shipper's hands, each serves as a powerful incitement for a retrieval of these precious rights.

## **A COUNTRY OF STRANGERS**

A Country of Strangers is an exploration of the psychological landscape where blacks and whites meet. To tell the story in human rather than abstract terms, the Pulitzer Prize-winning writer David K. Shipper bypasses both extremists and celebrities and takes us among ordinary Americans as they encounter one another across racial lines.

We learn how blacks and whites see each other, how they interpret each other's behavior, and how certain damaging images and assumptions seep into the actions of even the most unbiased. We penetrate into dimensions of stereotyping and discrimination that are usually invisible, and discover the unseen prejudices and privileges of white Americans, and what black Americans make of them. We explore the competing impulses of integration and separation: the reference points by which the races navigate as they venture out and then withdraw; the biculturalism that many blacks perfect as they move back and forth between the white and black worlds, and the homesickness some blacks feel for the comfort of all-black separateness. There are portrayals of interracial families and their multiracial children--expert guides through the clashes created by racial blending in America. We see how whites and blacks each carry the burden of our history.

## **ARAB AND JEW: WOUNDED SPIRITS IN A PROMISED LAND**

The Jew, according to the Arab stereotype, is a brutal, violent coward; the Arab, to the prejudiced Jew, is a primitive creature of animal vengeance and cruel desires. In his monumental book, and now lecture, David Shipper delves into the origins of the prejudices that have been intensified by war, terrorism and nationalism.

Focusing on the diverse cultures that exist side by side in Israel and Israeli-controlled territories, Shipper examines the process of indoctrination that begins in schools; he discusses the far-ranging effects of socioeconomic differences, historical conflicts between Islam and Judaism, attitudes about the Holocaust, and much more. And he speaks about the people: the Arab woman in love with a Jew, the retired Israeli military officer, the Palestinian guerrilla, the handsome actor whose father is Arab and whose mother is Jewish. For Shipper, their stories and hundreds of others reflect not only the reality of "wounded spirits" but also a glimmer of hope for eventual coexistence in the Promised Land.