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Kwame Anthony Appiah

One of America's Leading Public Intellectuals
Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers

THE LATEST: Anthony Appiah has just been named the new President of PEN American Center, the internationally acclaimed literary and human rights association.

Called a post-modern Socrates, Kwame Anthony Appiah asks profound questions about identity and ethics in a world where the sands of race, ethnicity, religion and nationalism continue to realign and reform before our eyes. His seminal book *Cosmopolitanism* is a moral manifesto for a world where identity has become a weapon and where difference has become a cause of pain and suffering. In intellectually stimulating language, Appiah challenges you to look beyond the boundaries -- real and imagined -- that divide us, and to see our common humanity.

Appiah is the Laurance S. Rockefeller University Professor of Philosophy at Princeton University. He was born in London, to a Ghanaian father and a white mother; raised in Ghana; and educated in England, at Cambridge University, where he received a Ph.D. in philosophy. As a scholar of African and African-American studies, he established himself as an intellectual with a broad reach. His classic book *In My Father's House* and his collaborations with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. -- including *The Dictionary of Global Culture* and *Africana* -- are major works of African struggles for self-determination. In 2007, *Cosmopolitanism* won the Arthur Ross Book Award, the most significant prize given to a book on international affairs. In 2009, he was featured in the documentary *Examined Life*, and was named one of *Foreign Policy's* Top 100 public intellectuals.

Anthony Appiah Speech Topics

Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers

In his acerbic lectures, Appiah explores some of the central ethical questions of our time. How is it possible to consider the world a moral community, for instance, when there is so much disagreement about the nature of morality? He offers answers that are grounded in a new ethics (Cosmopolitanism) which celebrates our common humanity, while at the same time offering a practical way to manage our differences. With wit, reason and humanity, he offers a new approach to living a moral life in the modern age -- where the competing claims of "a Clash of Civilizations" on one hand, and a groundless moral relativism on the other, can make such a project seem impossible.
