Fifty years after the term “meritocracy” was coined, this book asks where the idea of meritocracy has led.

- A team of commentators consider diverse topics such as family and meritocracy, meritocracy and ethnic minorities, and what is meant by talent

- Contains commentaries by a selection of researchers, activists and politicians, from Asa Briggs to David Willetts, on the origin, meaning and future of meritocracy

- Demonstrates that Michael Young, who wrote *The Rise of the Meritocracy*, was right to question the viability of political systems trying to organise themselves around the idea of meritocracy

- Essential reading for everyone interested in where we are going, and the future of New Labour itself
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Geoff Dench is a senior research fellow of the Young Foundation, and was formerly head of sociology and social policy at Middlesex University. He has written a number of books on ethnic relations and on family relationships, and edited several collections.

FEATURES

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