

# Glenn Loury

## An Independent Mind

**b. 1948**

- Groundbreaking Economist
- Social Policy Critic
- Black Conservative
- Online Media Personality

**Contemporary Scholars: Lesson 3**

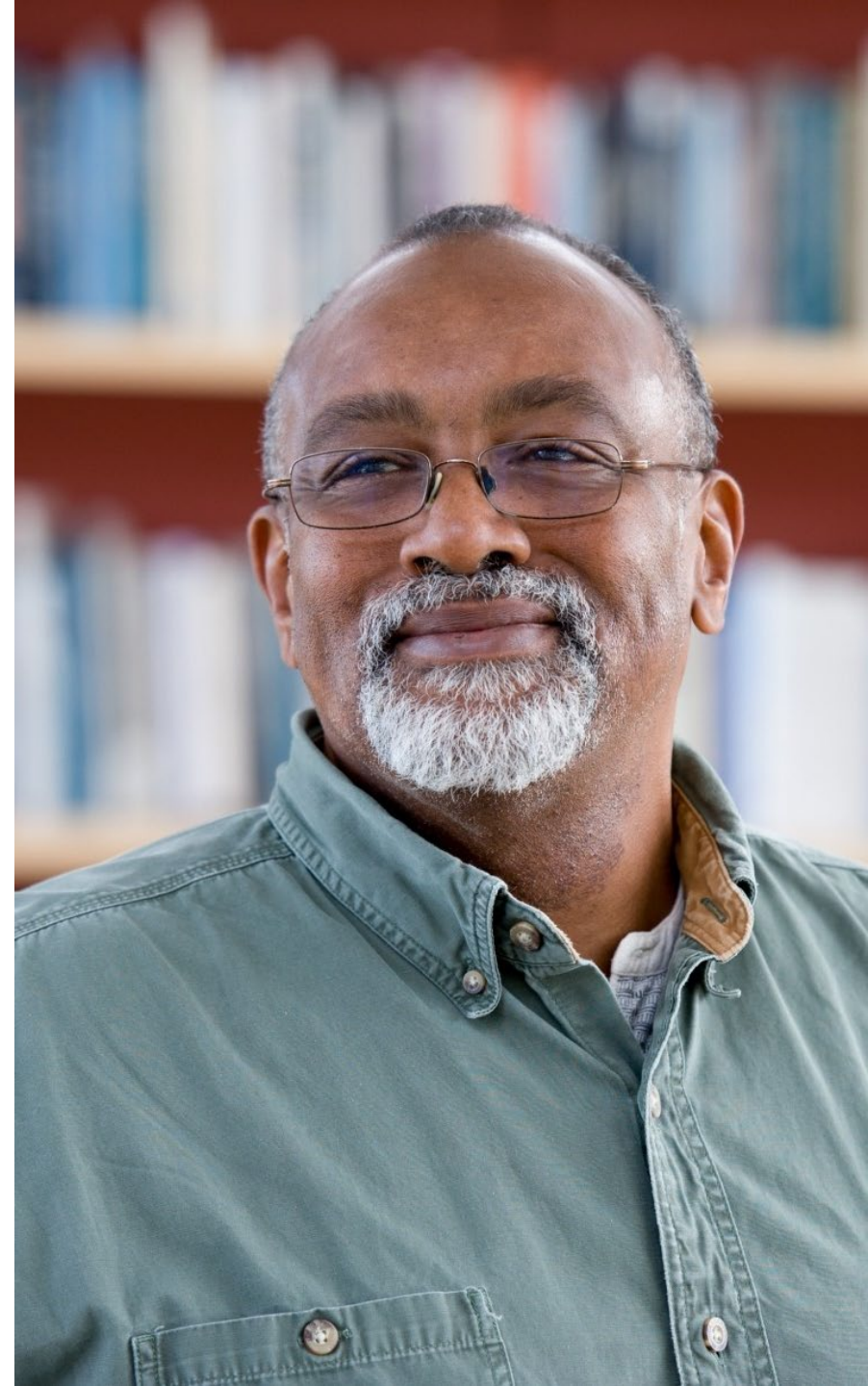




## Glenn C. Loury

Glenn Cartman Loury is an accomplished technical economist, essayist, and media personality best known for his **dissident** views on race in America.

Though he has identified intellectually as a **neoconservative**, progressive, and independent at different points throughout his career, Loury is known to his admiring followers as a provocative critic of conventional wisdom.



# Glenn C. Loury

In his books, essays, and popular YouTube program, The Glenn Show, Loury argues that liberal economic policies designed to reduce racial inequality actually have made the problem worse, and that well-intended social programs of the 1960s and 70s seriously damaged Black families and communities.

And he believes America is making many of the same mistakes today.

*Loury in the 1980s.*







# South Side of Chicago

Loury and his family lived on the South Side of Chicago, in the working-class Black neighborhood of Park Manor.

Loury remembers his community in the 1950s as defined by “[w]ell-kept lawns, respectable black folks inching their way toward prosperity, values instilled and sustained by church, the family, and common sense.”



*Regal Theatre in Bronzeville, a major hub of Black culture in Chicago, just north of Loury's home neighborhood, c. 1951.*

# South Side of Chicago



Loury inherited a fierce work ethic from his father, and a lust for life from his mother. After his parents' divorce when he was five, he lived with his mother, but remained close to his father, Everett.

Later in life, he described his dad as a “self-made man who labored hard all his life.”

*Loury shared this image on his Substack, captioned:  
“Commiserating with my Mama, Gloria, circa 1966.”*

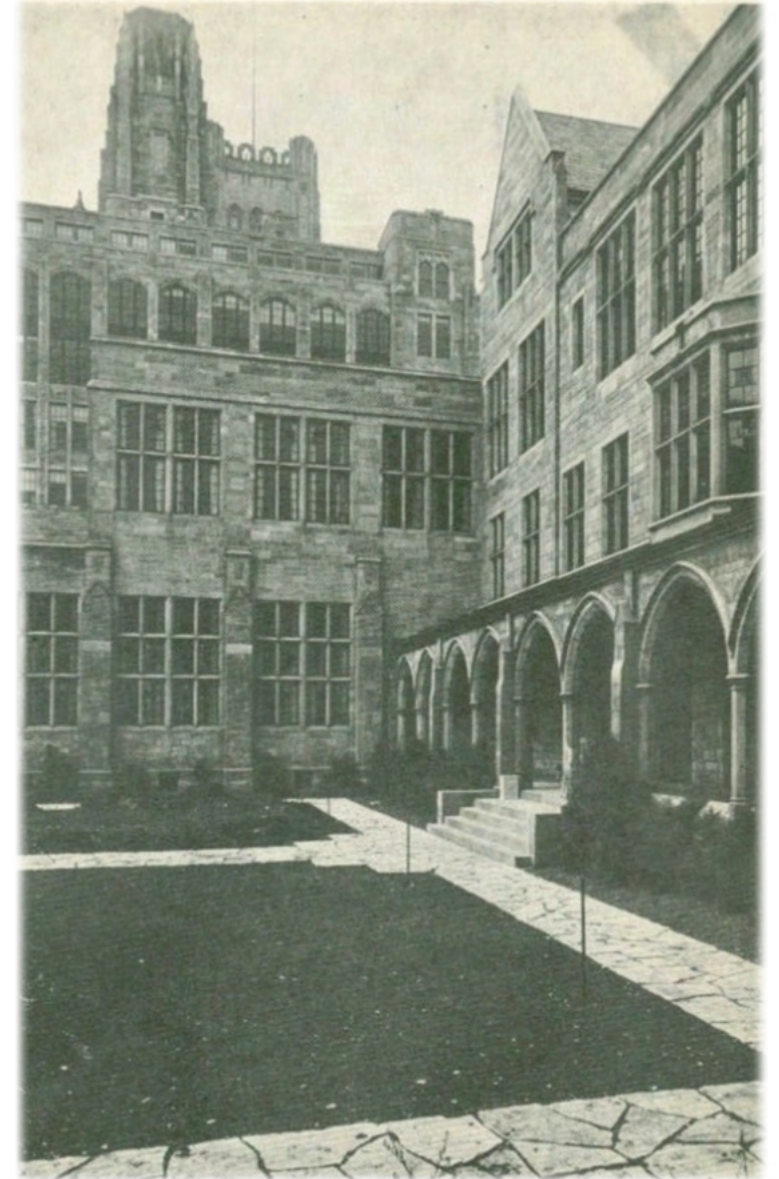


# Inspiring Uncles

Loury's heroes growing up were his uncles, the charismatic Alfred and Adlert. Both men were intelligent and enterprising. Adlert had a law degree from Northwestern University.

“[Adlert] ... saw the logic of playing the angles and working within the system, playing the game,” Loury told an interviewer in 1995.

*Northwestern University Law School c. 1950.*







# Inspiring Uncles



“Other guys were always talking about stuff that just wasn’t going to happen – like the revolution – while he would tell me about the law and how to work it to your advantage. That appealed to me.”

*Loury shared this family photo on Substack:*

*‘I’m actually in this photo, though not visibly so. It was taken in April 1948, and I was born in September of that very same year! My uncle Adlert looks over my mother’s left shoulder, Uncle Alfred looks over my father’s right shoulder...’*

# Lives of the Mind



Though many of the working-class Black Chicagoans Loury grew up with lacked much formal education, they were often immersed in an Afrocentric intellectual world that their white neighbors knew little about.

**What are the sources of intellectual life in your family or community?**  
**What ideas get discussed, for example, around the dinner table?**

*Newsboy selling copies of the Chicago Defender, one of the most influential African American newspapers in the country, c. 1942.*

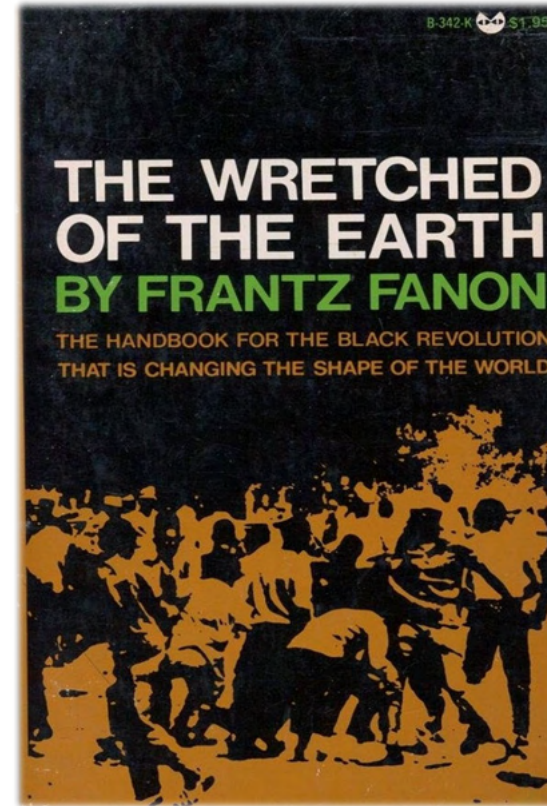




# Lives of the Mind

Black-owned bookstores on the South Side stocked works by writers like post-colonial theorist Frantz Fanon and Nation of Islam founder Elijah Muhammad.

Intense discussions of these ideas and the issues of the day were part of Louri's everyday life.



The Wretched of the Earth by Frantz Fanon (1961) and a Nation of Islam newspaper (1963).



# Lost World

In his seventies, Loury looked back at the lost world of his youth in urban, middle-class Chicago:

“There are fewer and fewer of us left who remember the black South Side at midcentury. The streets [where my friends and I] rode our bikes and the alleys where we played stickball, the homes in whose backyards stood the apple trees we pilfered are now, most of them, overrun by poverty and crime.”

*Chicago's South Side, mid-1970s. (John H. White.)*







# Lost World



*Children walking on the South Side of Chicago, c. 2016.  
Bill Healy / St. Martin's Press.*

“I would not walk through those neighborhoods myself, much less allow a child to play in them unsupervised.

There are many such neighborhoods in America's cities, black neighborhoods that must have felt, 75 years ago, as though they were on the upswing and that now lie fallow and half-abandoned.”







## Advanced Studies

He also honed his chess skills, a game he was first introduced to by his father and that would be a fixture in his life.

**What hobbies or activities did you learn from parents or family that you have continued throughout your life?**

**Why did you continue? What are this hobby's benefits?**



*Loury and Ravi Shankar playing chess during their 2023 interview.*



## A Job in Print

Loury briefly attended college, working in the kitchen at Burger King to survive, but dropped out after receiving life-changing news: his girlfriend, Charlene, was pregnant. Only 18 and soon to become a father, Loury found better pay as a clerk at the R.R. Donnelley and Sons printing plant.

The blue-collar workforce there was home to many would-be intellectuals like Loury, and he quickly made friends who shared his interests in music, philosophy, and chess.



*R.R. Donnelley and Sons lakeside printing plant in the Calumet area of Chicago.*





# On to Northwestern



Soon, he and Charlene were married with two children. Louri picked up as many shifts at the plant as he could while taking community college courses.

It was there that his calculus teacher recognized Louri's distinct talent and encouraged him to apply to Northwestern University. In 1970, he was accepted on scholarship.

*Northwestern University campus, with the Alice Millar Chapel in the background and a sign announcing a strike against the continuing war in Vietnam, 1970.*



## On to Northwestern

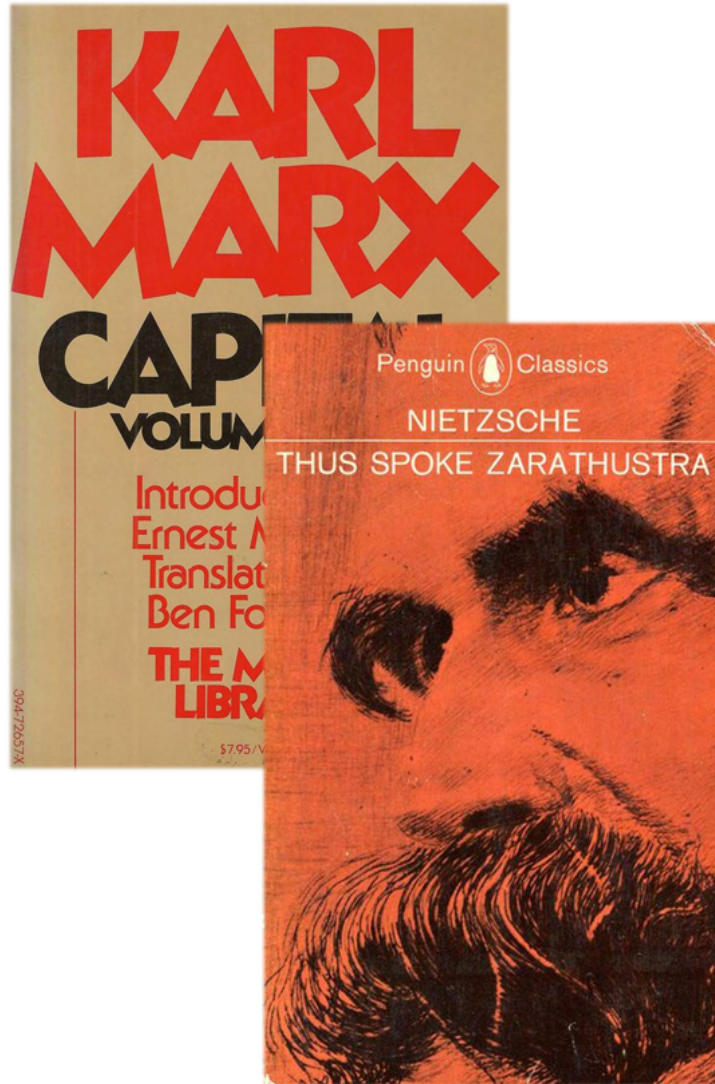
At Northwestern, Louri studied economics and political theory, spending time in the university's massive new library whenever he could spare time from his studies, family obligations, and shifts at the plant.

*Northwestern University Library, completed in 1970, the year Louri began his studies.*





# An Economist Rises



Loury found himself drawn to abstract, highly technical economic work, using math to find unexpected patterns and order behind the seemingly chaotic world of ordinary human behavior.

He read deeply the work of thinkers like Karl Marx and Friedrich Nietzsche.

Soon he was taking graduate-level courses in mathematics and economics.

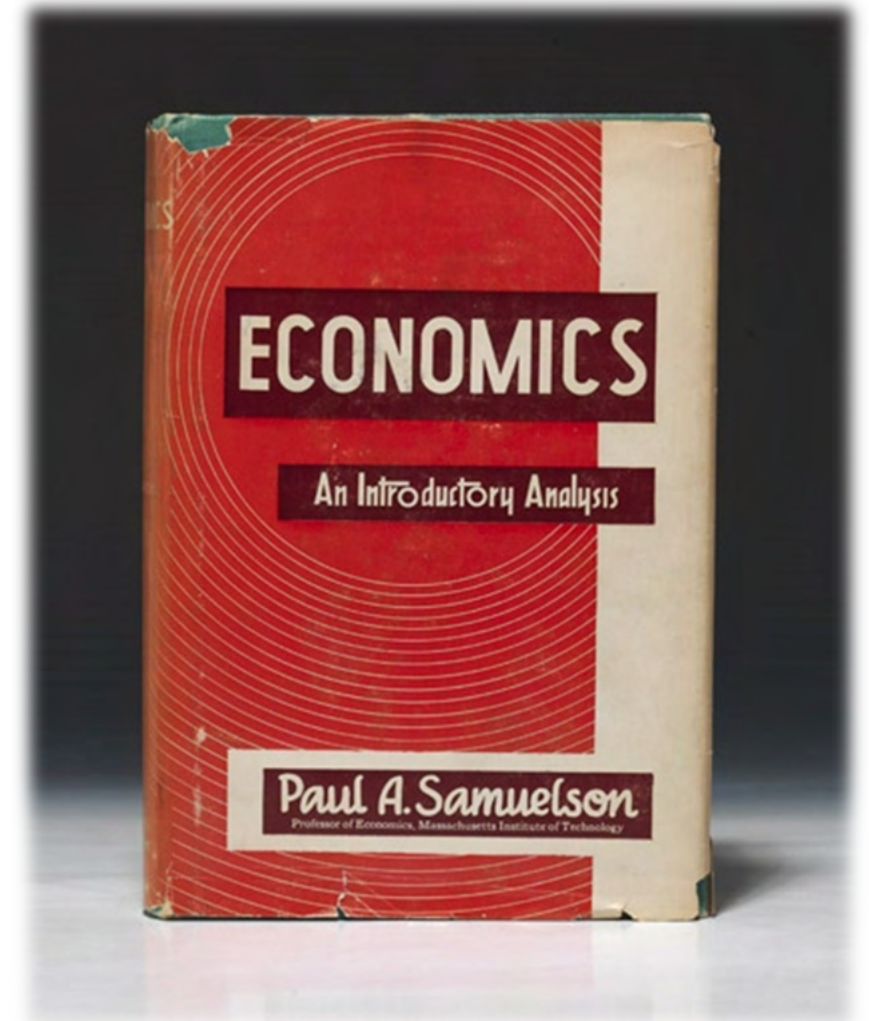




# An Economist Rises

In 1972, after close consultations with Northwestern faculty mentors, Loury applied to graduate school.

All the major universities – Harvard, University of Chicago, UC Berkeley – accepted Loury's application. He chose to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), likely the best economics program in the world.



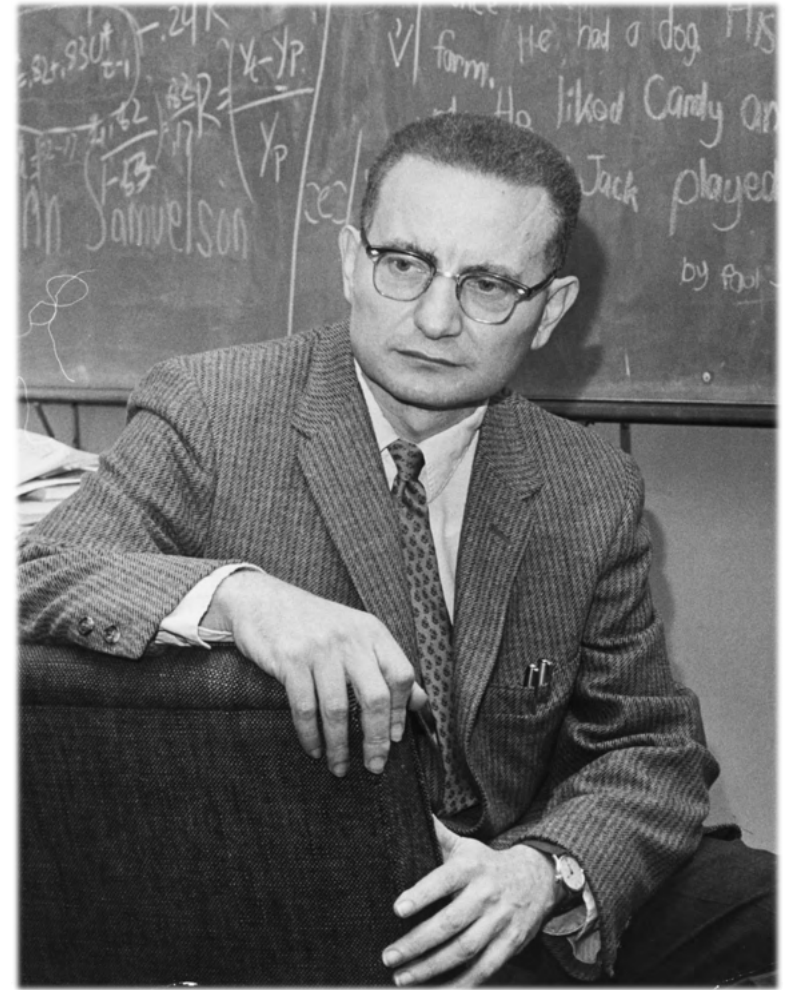
*Economics textbook by Loury's future professor, Paul Samuelson.*



# Cambridge and MIT

Loury, Charlene, and their children moved to Cambridge. Now in their mid 20s, they had never lived outside Chicago before. But Loury was supremely confident, ambitious, and hard-working, dazzling his professors and classmates.

His teachers included Paul Samuelson, who had won the Nobel Prize a couple years earlier, along with several future Nobel winners.

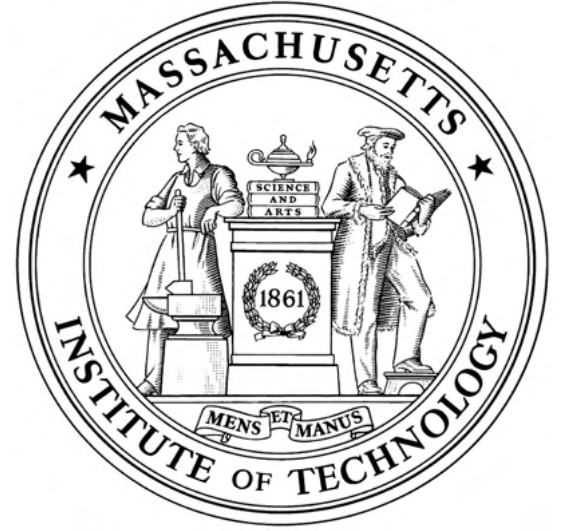


*Paul Samuelson c. 1973*



# Cambridge and MIT

Loury thrived in the Cambridge milieu. Though often the only Black man in the room at social events, he could hold his own in a conversation about almost anything; when he did find himself unable to contribute on a particular subject, he would read up on it so he'd be able to contribute the next time.



But Charlene felt completely out of place. Their marriage began to crumble and by 1974 they had separated.

*When have you found yourself in a radically new social situation? How did you handle it? What did you learn?*



# A Meeting of Minds



*Linda Datcher c. 2000s.*

At MIT, Loury met Linda Datcher, a Swarthmore graduate and fellow economics student.

He and Linda had much in common: both came from working-class backgrounds (Linda sent her Ford Foundation fellowship stipend back home to help pay the bills), both were academically gifted, and both were fiercely competitive.



## A Meeting of Minds

The relationship became romantic and, eventually, Loury and Datcher married and raised two sons.

An accomplished scholar, she conducted groundbreaking work in social economics, the study of how informational networks shared by family and community members affect economic outcomes.

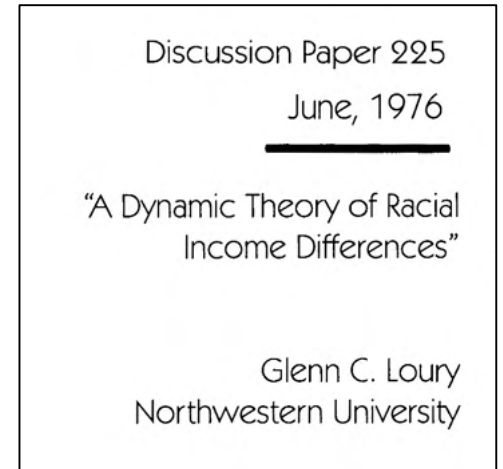
*Loury and Linda Datcher early in their relationship, in a photo he shared with his Substack subscribers in 2022.*



# Social Capital

One of Loury's key contributions to economic theory was the concept of "social capital." He was one of the first people to use this term, in his PhD **dissertation** in the late 1970s.

Social capital is the value we derive from connections with people: family, neighbors, friends, civic and faith communities. Trust, cooperation, and opportunities generated by these connections can be just as valuable as other, more easily measured forms of wealth.



***What are the sources of "social capital" in your life?***



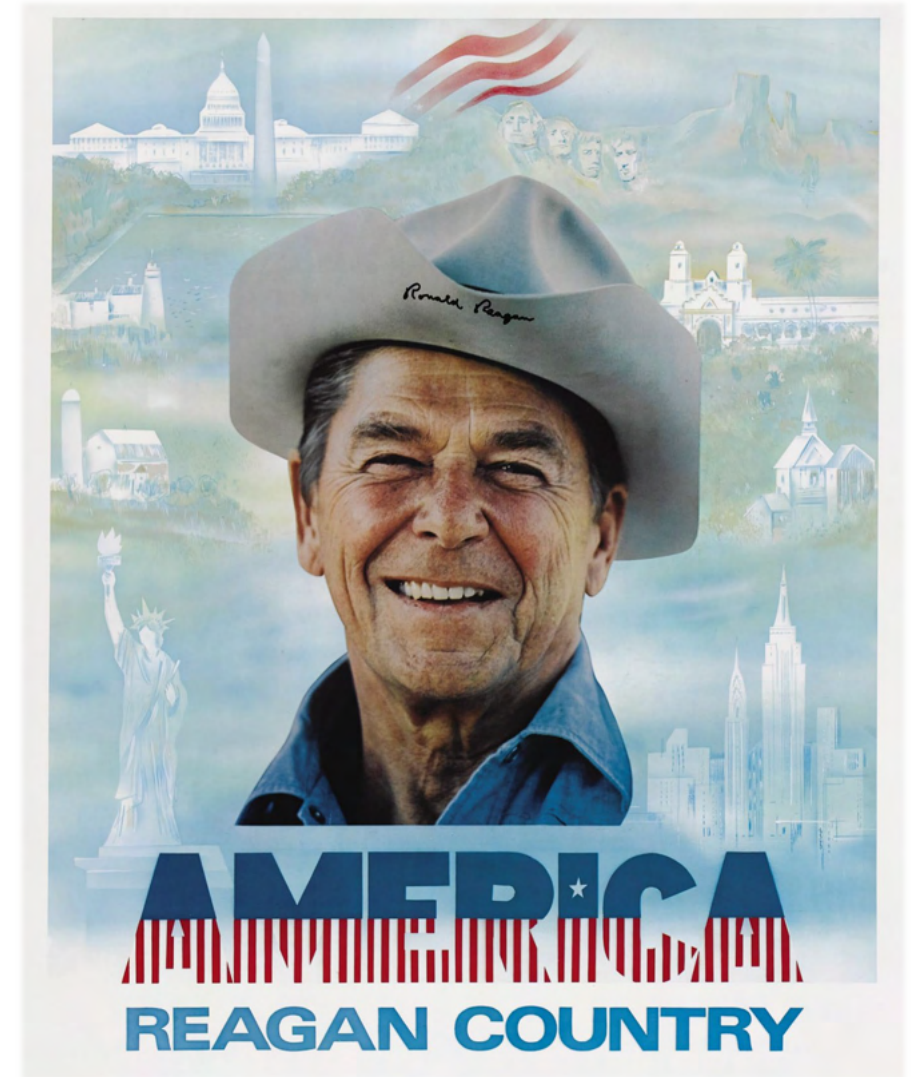


# Loury the Reaganite

In 1982, when he was only 33 years old, Loury became Harvard University's first-ever African American tenured professor of economics.

Having reached this milestone, Loury began to say publicly what he had once kept private: that he was a political conservative who voted for Ronald Reagan.

*Autographed Reagan campaign poster, 1980.*





# Breaking Ranks

Loury was tired of hearing Black political leaders assume the mantle of Civil Rights by denouncing racism and police brutality while ignoring the realities of crime, dysfunction, and moral decay in America's poorest neighborhoods.

At the same time, Loury's economic work was trending toward the *laissez-faire* ideas that animated Reagan's political career, and he began working as a consultant for the natural gas lobby.



*Loury and President Reagan in 1985.*



# Breaking Ranks

In the summer of 1984, Loury gave a talk to Black leaders in Washington, D.C. called “A New American Dilemma,” in which he declared, “The civil rights movement is over.” He argued that the “pathologies” of the “black underclass,” not white racism, are responsible for racial inequality in America.

Reflecting later on his motives, he wrote. “I’m not hiding from the truth as I see it, nor am I apologizing for it.”



*Skeptical headline in the New York Times reports President Reagan meeting with Black Conservatives like Loury and his longtime friend and colleague Bob Woodson, January 16, 1985.*





## Public and Personal Critics

As Loury made his conservative social and economic views more public, high-profile liberal Black intellectuals like political scientist Martin Kilson and law professor Derrick Bell denounced Loury as a sellout and a hypocrite.



*Professors Bell (above) and Kilson (below), two prominent critics of Loury.*

The reaction from his own family was similar. “We could only send one of us to Northwestern and MIT,” his Uncle Alfred told him. “We sent you. I don’t see us in anything you do.”



# A Double Life

Though he was a rising star as one of the most prominent of a small number of Black conservatives who vocally supported the Republican agenda, the late 1980s were years of crisis for Loury.

*Wall Street Journal article on the controversial news that the Reagan White House might appoint Loury to the Department of Education.*

## Critics Riled by Talk of Giving Education Post To Black Economist Who Doesn't Fault Whites

By DAVID WISSEL  
Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—Glenn C. Loury, a professor at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, recently got a fan letter from a man in Savannah, Ga., who had read an essay in which Mr. Loury urged blacks to stop blaming whites for their current problems.

The writer suggested that he and Mr. Loury held similar views, and enclosed a poem he had written—a poem Mr. Loury describes as a "racist's creed."

Mr. Loury's admirer would surely be shocked to learn that the 38-year-old economist to whom he wrote is black.

The letter underscores one reason Mr. Loury is so controversial among the black political and academic establishment. "The position that Loury is taking is the basic position that has always been taken among the most racist elements in the white community," says Barbara Jones, a professor at Clark College in Atlanta and president of a black economists' association.

Mr. Loury will soon be getting more attention—and probably more criticism—because President Reagan is expected to nominate him as undersecretary of education. If confirmed by the Senate, he will be the administration's second-ranking black member, after Samuel R. Pierce Jr., secretary of housing and urban development. Then, his friends and foes agree, he'll have a scant 20 months to prove he can accomplish something more than being an addition to the number of black Reagan appointees.

Mr. Loury argues that the primary obstacle to black progress in America today isn't bigoted whites or racist institutions. Instead, it is what's going on within the black community itself—"the attitudes, values and behavior of young people, particularly in low-income communities."

### Complex Views

While Mr. Loury is often called a critic of affirmative action, his views are more complex than sometimes described. He concedes the need for affirmative action in

rather than individual achievement. And they imply that "blacks, on the whole, must through the use of quotas make up for what they lack in intellectual capabilities."

"Too often we tell our kids that being black has burdened them in some way. I don't want my kids thinking that way," Mr. Loury says of his two children, both of whom are in college. "I'd rather they'd think that there's nothing in the world they can't do."

In speeches and writings, he comes close to taunting black leaders and white civil-rights activists for fighting old battles that have already been won instead of attacking today's enemies.

In Commentary this year, for instance, he accused U.S. Rep. John Conyers (D., Mich.) of "rationalizing black-on-black violence as inevitable" and saving his "selective indignation" for police brutality. "The positions taken by this Congressman cover an intellectual and moral void that cannot be concealed by his adversarial rhetoric," he wrote. A spokesman for Rep. Conyers says the criticism was based on incomplete newspaper accounts of the congressman's statements.

And in Public Interest, Mr. Loury asked: "How long can blacks continue to evoke the 'slavery was terrible and it was your fault' rhetoric and still suppose that dignity and equality can be achieved thereby?"

### Disturbing the Mainstream

None of this sits very well with mainstream black leaders or intellectuals. "It makes the rest of the American society simply spectators, totally divorced in terms of cause or responsibility for the economic problems of the black poor," says Ms. Jones.

Bernard Anderson, a University of Pennsylvania economist, calls Mr. Loury's views "pretentious, academic hogwash." He adds, "Read what he says: If black kids are coming out of school without the kind of basic skills that they need to get a job, it isn't because of the failure of the schools, it's because the kids don't have the right attitudes, values and behavior."

Some other black leaders, Jesse Jackson among them, also stress the importance of the values and attitudes. Mr. Loury says those leaders escape the virulent criticism he gets because they also heap blame on white institutions and the Reagan administration. "I have been insufficiently willing to take the obligatory

former Kennedy School professor who is now chief of staff to the secretary of education, calls Mr. Loury "a rare combination . . . someone very concerned with costs, benefits and efficiency" and "the effects of government policy on individuals' character and behavior."

### Dilemma for NAACP

One administration official can scarcely contain his glee as he imagines the dilemma the NAACP and other black organizations would face as they decide whether to oppose his nomination. "What are they going to say? That he isn't qualified?" he says. (They may. Rep. Conyers's spokesman complains that Mr. Loury hasn't any expertise in education. An NAACP spokeswoman says the group won't comment until Mr. Loury is formally nominated.)

Mr. Loury grew up with his mother, a secretary, in a middle-class neighborhood on Chicago's South Side. His parents are divorced; his father, a lawyer and accountant, now works for the Internal Revenue Service. Glenn Loury started college at age 16, but dropped out, went to work as a clerk in a factory and started a family. Unhappy with factory wages, he began taking classes at a junior college, where a math professor persuaded him to apply to Northwestern University.

Mr. Loury majored in math, but was drawn to economics because "one could do math while maintaining the credible pretense of relevance by labeling the variables." He got a doctorate in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and taught economics at Northwestern and the University of Michigan for five years before Harvard hired him in 1982.

While his thesis was about income dis-



Glenn C. Loury

# A Double Life

He was nominated for Deputy Secretary of Education in the second Reagan administration in 1987, the culmination of years of building connections in Washington.

But he was living a double life. By day he was an Ivy-League academic, by night he often haunted the sketchier parts of Boston and began using cocaine.



*Old Dover Station in Boston's South End, demolished in 1987.*





# A Double Life



*Iconic First Church of Roxbury at night, c. 2000s.*

At first, Loury relished his ability to walk between these two worlds.

Hanging out in places like the Roxbury neighborhood put him back in touch with working-class Black America, and rebuked affluent Black academics who called him an Uncle Tom.



## A Double Life

These were places his liberal critics only ventured for protests, but Loury was spending his nights there playing chess with blue-collar pals and blending in with the kind of Black people his **detractors** claimed to speak for.

But he was also indulging his self-destructive habits.

*Youth of the hip-hop scene in Boston,  
Downtown Crossing, 1980s.*





## Withdrawals

In June of 1987, Loury withdrew himself from consideration for Deputy Secretary, knowing that a series of personal failings were about to become public: infidelity, drug abuse, and trouble with the law.

Months later, as his addiction worsened and his life spiraled out of control, he entered a drug **rehabilitation** program.



*Glenn Loury after withdrawing from consideration in 1987.*





## A Shift to the Center

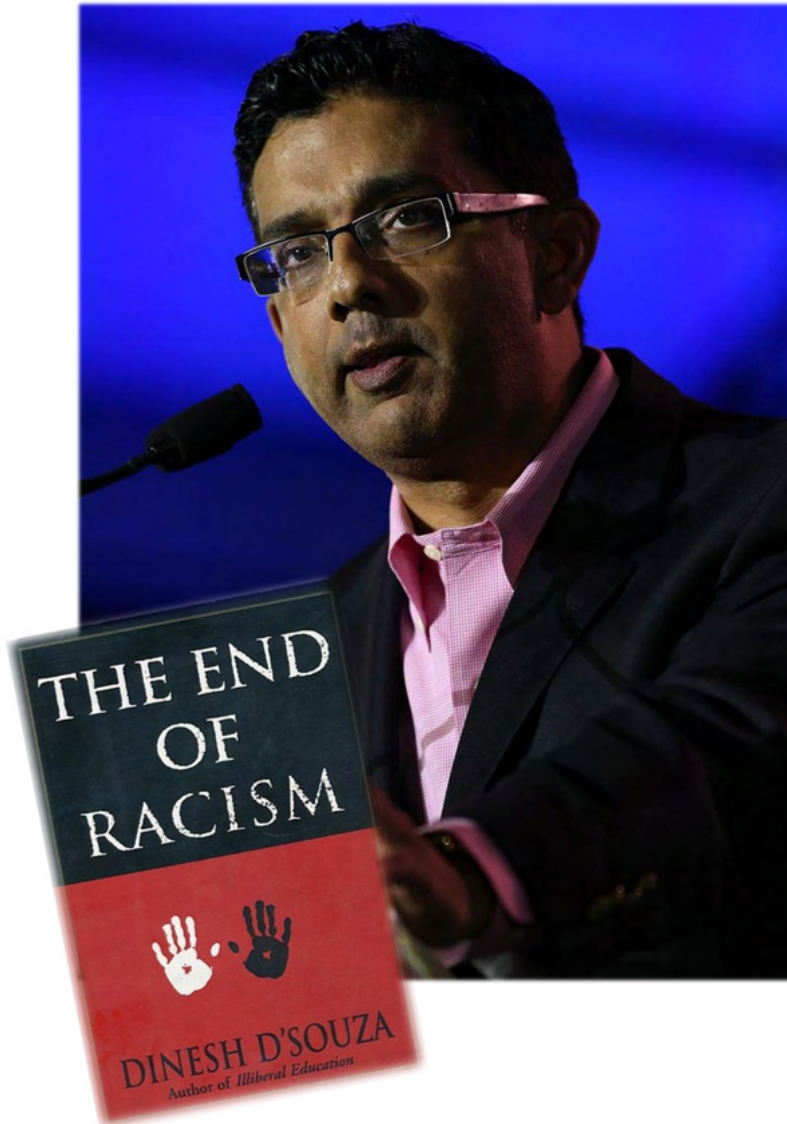


*Glenn Loury in 1995 on  
The Charlie Rose Show.*

*Click to watch a 15-  
minute interview if  
time allows.*

In the early 1990s, Loury grew increasingly weary of conservative attitudes towards race, which struck him as both **fatalistic** and unrealistic. The familiar refrain of “I don’t see race” and unqualified embrace of “colorblind” policies irritated him.

# Against D'Souza



The last straw came in 1995, when conservative polemicist Dinesh D'Souza published *The End of Racism*. Loury was appalled by the book's treatment of Black Americans – and by its positive reception by many conservatives.

*Dinesh D'Souza, c. 2010s, and the cover of his controversial 1995 book.*



## Against D'Souza

While Lounry basically agreed with D'Souza's critique of liberal social policy, "the mode of argument he employed and the **flippant**, irreverent, and inflammatory language he used to describe African Americans whom he should have regarded as his countrymen ought to have placed the book beyond the pale."

*TIME magazine, October 1995, after the "Million Man March." Though deeply critical of its message and leadership, Lounry attended and was increasingly sympathetic to its spirit.*







## A Shift to the Left



*Loury in the 2000s.*

Loury's rising frustration with the conservative movement began his movement to the political left.

In the next couple decades of his life, he would adopt progressive views that were more in line with the majority of Black Americans – including those family members and academic peers who had once taken **umbrage** at Loury's Reaganite views.

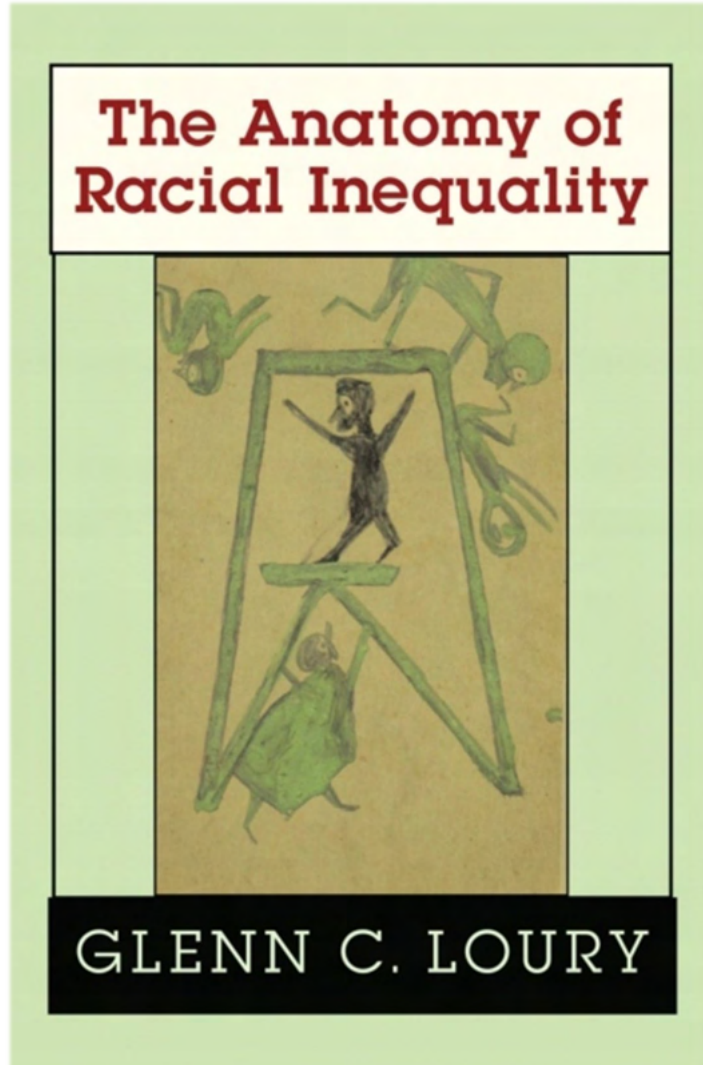
## A Shift to the Left

He publicly supported affirmative action (though with some lingering reservations) and argued in favor of reparations for slavery. Inspired in part by the compassionate neighborhood outreach demonstrated by his local church, he assailed the mass incarceration of Black men in America.

*Loury in the classroom. Mark Oston,  
Brown Alumni Magazine, 2008.*



# The Anatomy of Racial Equality



In 2000, Loury was invited to deliver the prestigious W.E.B. Du Bois Lectures at Harvard.

In his presentations, Loury set aside the emotionally-charged but intellectually vague idea of “racism” and focused instead on what he termed “biased social cognition.”

*The Anatomy of Racial Inequality, First Edition, Harvard University Press, 2002.*



# The Anatomy of Racial Equality

He hoped to show how racial bias and discrimination could perpetuate inequality even in the absence of genuine racial animus.

The talks were collected as a book that was warmly received by liberals and progressives who had balked at Loury's Reagan-era views.

CrisisForum

books

## On Second Thought: A Black Conservative Reconsiders

### The Anatomy of Racial Inequality

By Glenn Loury  
(Harvard University Press, \$22.95)

Conventional wisdom holds that modern Black conservatism has its roots in the economic agenda set by Booker T. Washington just over a century ago. The "Tuskegee wizard's" emphasis on self-help, industrial education, moral character and indifference to civil rights is well known. Less frequently discussed are his anonymous attempts to undermine the legal edifice of Jim Crow via strategic lawsuits and his late-life endorsement of labor organizing and civil rights work. In publishing *The Anatomy of Racial Inequality*, an indictment of the politics of "racial stigma" in America, Boston University economist Glenn Loury may be more in the tradition of "Bookerism"

reviewed by William



Glenn Loury

Loury's intellectual about-face began with his resignation from the American Enterprise Institute.

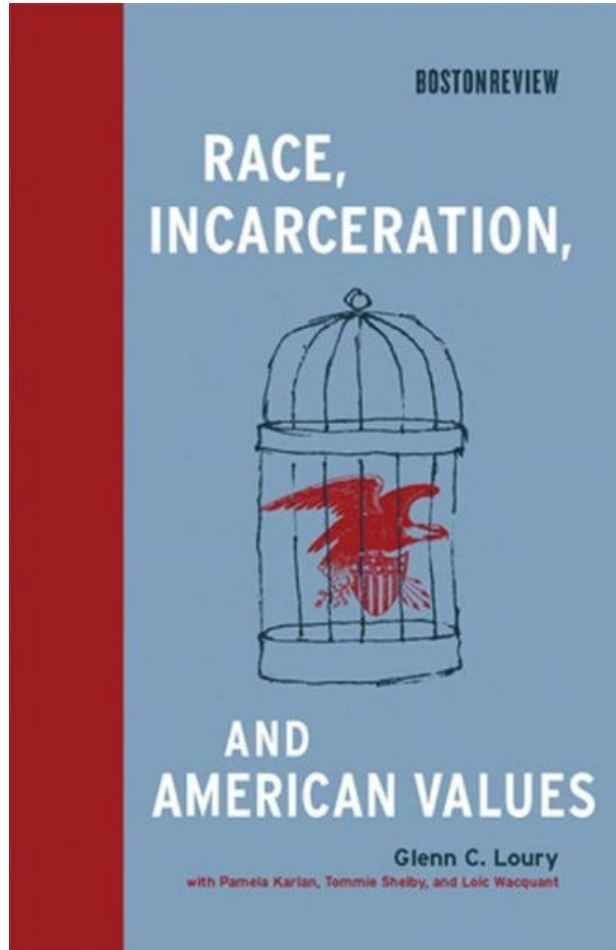
an intellectual volte-face that began with his 1995 resignation from the American Enterprise Institute. The conservative think tank supported Dinesh D'Souza,

incarceration is a "moral quandary," Loury argues. Racially oppressive economic institutions, he says, are the communal expropriation of their descendants. A particularly notable idea has been the idea of the social contract, like the social contract of Wilson for some more striking in previous ideas.

As a means of posing a number of highlight the way "ma" reinforces racial

While Loury is insightful — one compelling — they note that Black subordination is a mis-informed justice. In this book, it is largely as a economic consequence to grapple with racism is an integral element of the. Certainly the "most responsible for Black incarceration is the economic boon to the tries building new industrialized cities. These facilities are nascent security

# A Nation of Jailers?



A few years later, a series of lectures in which Loury condemned mass incarceration were collected and published. He made the moral argument that America simply could not lock up millions of Black men without addressing the problems of poverty and despair in high-crime neighborhoods.

While not denying the individual guilt and responsibility of those in prison, he also insisted on the responsibility of the state to treat all its citizens with dignity.

*Race, Incarceration, and American Values, Boston Review Press, 2008.*



# Talking Heads



Because of this book, Loury became friends with philosopher Joshua Cohen, an editor of *Boston Review*, which published the book under their imprint.

*Glenn Loury and Joshua Cohen during a Bloggingheads.tv conversation in 2012.*

Cohen invited Loury to an online discussion with him on a new platform called *Bloggingheads*, an early version of the “talking heads” format that would become a staple of online media in the coming decade. Loury began to participate regularly.





## Glenn and John

One early conversation partner on *Bloggingheads* was the young, center-right-leaning Columbia linguistics professor John McWhorter.



*Screen shot from Bloggingheads in 2007, Loury's first public conversation with McWhorter.*

*Click to watch Glenn and John in 2023 review their first conversation from 2007, and discuss how their views have changed over the years.*



## Glenn and John

“I put the screws to John in that conversation, trying to figure out why this brilliant young black intellectual was so gung-ho on positions that sounded suspiciously right-wing to me (and I was in a position to know). He held his own, though, and while I did not say so at the time, I secretly thought he well may have been more often right than wrong.”

More than 15 years later, McWhorter and Louri are continuing their conversation on *The Glenn Show*, Louri’s popular YouTube series.



*Glenn and John discuss their history, going back to 2005, in this clip from The Glenn Show. **Click to watch!***



# Hope and Change?

Loury was optimistic but skeptical when Illinois Senator Barack Obama emerged as a serious contender for the Presidency in 2008.

Though Loury couldn't deny that Obama was intelligent and that his election would be a milestone for the nation, he later came to see Obama's presidency as a wasted opportunity.



*Famous "Hope" poster by Shepard Fairey from Obama's 2008 presidential run.*





# Hope and Change?

“I kind of soured on him, soured on the cult of personality I saw,” Loury said in 2020, “especially among African-Americans.”

After Obama's election, many **pundits** and public intellectuals argued that the inauguration of the first Black president was the beginning of a “post-racial” America.

But during Obama’s second term, new conflicts and the rise of movements like Black Lives Matter would make race-focused topics central in American politics again – and lead Loury to break with the liberal beliefs he adopted in the mid-1990s.



*President Obama discusses the Ferguson protests of 2014.*



# Tough Questions

Loury was deeply skeptical of this new wave of activism after tragedies like the shootings of Trayvon Martin in Florida in 2012 and of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014, which led to weeks of civil unrest.

He questioned the conventional wisdom surrounding the killings themselves and the extent they represented trends across America.



*Protestors defy a police order to disperse in Ferguson, Missouri. November 2014, AP/Charlie Riedel.*



In 2020, in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, a video showing the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police sparked an unprecedented blaze of outrage.

Around the world, people who had quarantined or “socially distanced” for months now took to the streets in protest.

*Protest in Houston, Texas after the killing of George Floyd, May 2020.*







# Summer of Discontent

Some saw righteous anger, but Loury was disgusted by the chaos and violence that descended on many American cities – especially in Black majority neighborhoods where the widespread destruction of property seemed to be inflicted largely at the hands of protestors and **opportunists** from outside the community.



*Aftermath of a night of arson and looting, Minneapolis, MN, May 2020. AP / Ted Shaffrey.*



# Open for Debate?

Now the Merton P. Stoltz Professor of the Social Sciences and Professor of Economics at Brown University, Loury also saw this new spirit rising in America during the summer of 2020 as a threat to free speech and open inquiry on college campuses and beyond, writing:

“If we foreclose debate over **contentious** issues by declaring that there’s only one way for a decent person at this university to think about them – how can we fulfill our mission of teaching our students to think critically?”

***What is the value of debating contentious issues at a university?  
What limits should be placed on such debate?***



BROWN

## Prized Fellow



In 2022, Loury received the Bradley Prize, a grant recognizing exceptional intellectual achievements by conservative and libertarian intellectuals and was named the John Kenneth Galbraith Fellow from the American Academy of Political & Social Science.

*Glenn Loury receives the Bradley Prize in 2023.*





## Prized Fellow



### THE GLENN SHOW

PRESENTED BY  
MANHATTAN INSTITUTE

He continues to produce The Glenn Show through his Substack newsletter, which has tens of thousands of subscribers.

In 2024, at age 75, he released *Late Admissions*, a memoir reflecting on the winding path of his intellectual journey – and the centrality of Black American culture and identity in his life.

# Late Admissions

“For all my desire to see America get past its resurgent obsession with racial identity,” he wrote in its conclusion, “I could not disavow the central role my experience, my social being, as a black man played in my critique. It was a reprise of a familiar theme...”

*Glenn Loury with writer Ravi Shankar for Brown Alumni Magazine (Philip Keith, 2023).*

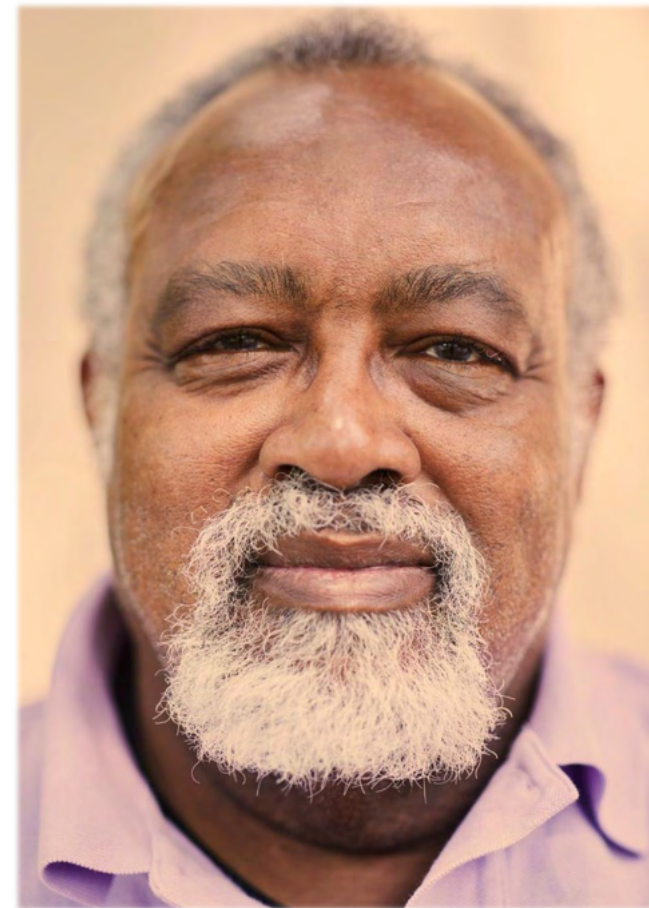




## Late Admissions

“To be an economist and to be a black economist, to be a conservative and to be a black conservative, to be a man and to be a black man. I am a man of the West, and accordingly I can lay claim to the cultural heritage of the West. ...

And yet, as I have felt compelled to insist, the unique history of African-descended peoples on the North American continent has ineradicably shaped my consciousness and self-understanding. My blackness is at the core of my being.”



*Glenn Loury in 2021.  
(Beeld Bart Heynen.)*





WOODSONCENTER

## Vocabulary

contentious  
detractors  
dissertation  
dissident  
fatalistic  
flippant  
laissez-faire  
milieu  
neoconservative  
opportunists  
pundit  
rehabilitation  
umbrage

Cover of Glenn Loury's memoir, released in May 2024.

