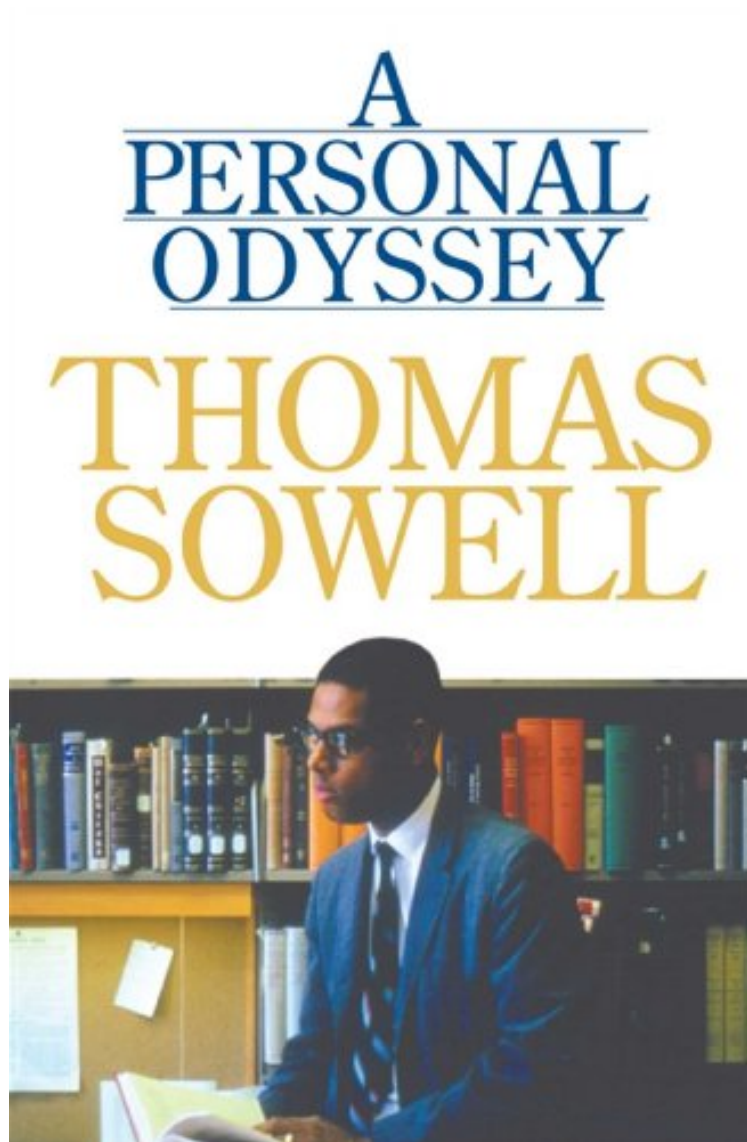


(Mobile ebook) A Personal Odyssey (English Edition)

## A Personal Odyssey (English Edition)

Von Thomas Sowell

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**Von Thomas Sowell : A Personal Odyssey (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Personal Odyssey (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.  
Anecdotes Of A ScholarVon James Gallen"A Personal Odyssey" is a collection of anecdotal remembrances of Thomas Sowell from his birth to the date of the writing. Written in an almost stream of consciousness style, it conveys his thoughts and values without preaching them.Born to a poor family in the south, Sowell was given to relatives who

became his new family. With this new family he moved to New York where he attended school and eventually left an intolerable home life to set out on his own at a young age. Through this book we learn of his family, schools, his jobs, both in and out of the academy, his brushes with the political world and his interaction with the black and white communities. There is something for many readers in this book. Everyone who has felt betrayed by family will sympathize with Sowell's young life. Everyone who has struggled with a difficult child will feel his pain when telling of his son's delayed speech. His succession of job experiences will be eye-opening for those who never worked in the academy. I think that readers generally will appreciate being spared the details of the breakdown of his marriage. The concept of Thomas Sowell as a black man in a white world runs throughout "A Personal Odyssey." Recognizing the discrimination prevalent in society, Sowell advocates realistic and helpful solutions, while expressing his disgust with what "Black Leaders" have done to their community. Throughout his career, Sowell has striven to be accepted as a man and an economist, not as a token or a black guru. As one who came in through the front door, he resents the implication that all successful blacks come in through the back door (affirmative action). Sowell devotes much ink to dispelling notions that he played significant roles in the Ford and Reagan Administrations. Although he is perceived as a Conservative Republican, he makes it clear that he is largely apolitical. I find Sowell's position as one who neither votes nor belongs to any political party as troublesome. Although his disgust with his treatment by political operatives is understandable, his decision to drop out of the political process is hard to understand. Thomas Sowell leaves each reader to formulate his own opinions of the author. Personally, I gained added respect for Sowell as one who has courageously surmounted daunting obstacles and has fought for what he believed to be right. At the same time, I have to suspect that he is a difficult person to get along with. He seems to have had a lot of family problems and has left an awful lot of jobs on bad terms. Perhaps the best evaluation is that he is very courageous and strong analytically, but may be weak in interpersonal skills. In the end, I believe that I have a better understanding of Thomas Sowell from having read this book. Read, enjoy, and form your own conclusions.

**Kurzbeschreibung** This is the gritty story of one man's lifelong education in the school of hard knocks, as his journey took him from Harlem to the Marines, the Ivy League, and a career as a controversial writer, teacher, and economist in government and private industry. It is also the story of the dramatically changing times in which this personal odyssey took place. The vignettes of the people and places that made an impression on Thomas Sowell at various stages of his life range from the poor and the powerless to the mighty and the wealthy, from a home for homeless boys to the White House, as well as ranging across the United States and around the world. It also includes Sowell's startling discovery of his own origins during his teenage years. If the child is father to the man, this memoir shows the characteristics that have become familiar in the public figure known as Thomas Sowell already present in an obscure little boy born in poverty in the Jim Crow South during the Great Depression and growing up in Harlem. His marching to his own drummer, his disregard of what others say or think, even his battles with editors who attempt to change what he has written, are all there in childhood. More than a story of the life of Sowell himself, this is also a story of the people who gave him their help, their support, and their loyalty, as well as those who demonized him and knifed him in the back. It is a story not just of one life, but of life in general, with all its exhilaration and pain..deThomas Sowell is known for speaking--and writing--his mind, even when his opinions won't win him any popularity contests. In thoughtful, straightforward books like *The Quest for Cosmic Justice* and *Civil Rights: Rhetoric or Reality?* he questioned affirmative action and expressed frustration with government bureaucracy, elaborating on his ideas of personal freedom and responsibility in the process. In *A Personal Odyssey*, we're shown glimpses of the man behind the ideas, and while the narration is sometimes frustratingly distant, it's an enjoyable history of a fascinating man. Beginning with his early life in North Carolina, where his encounters with white people were so limited that he didn't really believe that "yellow" was a possible color for hair, Sowell details his childhood with humor and appreciation for the adults who raised him with love, attention, and high expectations. Throughout the experiences that follow, from the U.S. Marines to Howard and Harvard Universities to his fellowship at Stanford's Hoover Institute, Sowell's strong opinions make him stand out from the herd. His brother sums up this trait in describing Sowell's son: "Tommy, when I see a dozen kids, all doing the same thing, and in the midst of them is one kid doing something entirely different, I don't have to guess which one is our mother's grandson." You don't have to be familiar with Sowell's scholarly works to appreciate his life--this is a read for any freethinking iconoclast. --Jill LightnerFrom Kirkus sFrom African-American economist and author Sowell, a forthright memoir of growing up the hard way in Harlem--without a father, but with an admirable refusal to compromise one's principles.As a grown man, Sowell can now discern helpful guideposts (that would later determine his success) in what was an often frightening and uncertain childhood. He is grateful that he left the South too young to be subjected to its pervasive racism, that he was in public school when its education was still excellent, and that he became a professor before affirmative action called into question many black accomplishments. Born in 1929 in North Carolina, he never knew his own father and was adopted soon after his birth by an aunt. He left the South after an idyllic childhood and moved to Harlem with his mother and two older sisters in

1939. There he entered the local public school, and was soon an outstanding, as well as an outspoken, student. The family was proud of his accomplishments, but when he was accepted at the prestigious Stuyvesant High School, they objected to the hours he spent studying instead of earning money, and he had to drop out. Drafted into the Marines during the Korean War, he took advantage of the GI bill to finish high school, as well as attend college, graduating from Harvard. The following years-spent teaching at colleges like Cornell or working in Washington while he finished his dissertation-were often rocky. And he describes his run-ins with obstructive bureaucrats, careerist academics, and bigoted racists, encounters sometimes exacerbated by his often-unpopular political opinions. Though Sowell writes movingly of his son who was a late talker, this is not a personal memoir, but rather an account of a philosophical and professional evolution shaped by a lifetime of challenging experiences. Hard-edged, tough-minded, and unabashedly opinionated, but a refreshingly frank record of a controversial life. -- Copyright 2000 Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.