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SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

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Harvard University Press
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Cambridge, MA 02138

The following review appeared in the June 2006 issue of CHOICE:

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Shelby, Tommie. **We who are dark: the philosophical foundations of black solidarity.** Belknap, Harvard, 2005. 320p
bibl index afp ISBN 0674019369, \$27.95

The factors that have created community loyalty among African Americans for centuries are no longer adequate to bond together all those who have ties to the African American community. The diversity within the community has grown beyond such unifying factors as biologic racism, cultural ethnicity, and black nationalism. Should there be a loyalty to black solidarity? From his training in political philosophy, Shelby argues that there is a need for black political solidarity as a continuing tool of emancipation. Drawing on the ideas of Martin Delaney, W. E. B. DuBois, Malcolm X, Black Power, and black cultural nationalism, Shelby concludes that the transcending unifying factor now is the "pragmatic nationalist conception of political solidarity." As a unity that does not demand "thick collective identity or ideological cohesiveness," the pragmatically collective political action advocated by Shelby deserves loyalty because its cohesive unifier is its commitment to social justice, which can bring the desired end for African Americans and, incidentally, for others as well. This provocative, stimulating, and readable book can offer a fresh understanding of the virtue of black solidarity and introduce readers to the thinking ways of philosophers. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. All levels/libraries. --*J. H. Smith, Wake Forest University*