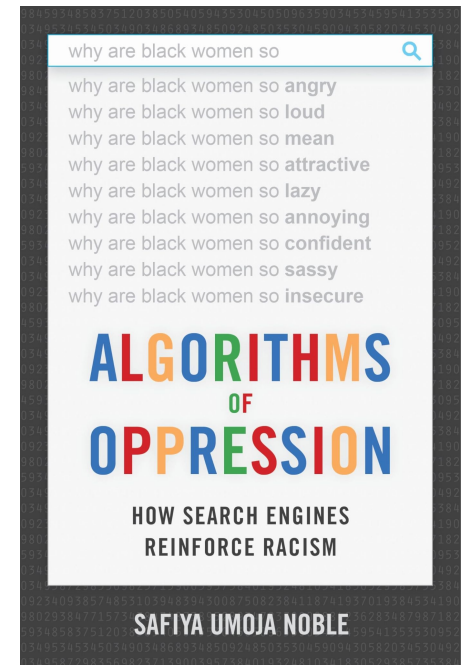


Algorithms of Oppression

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What is this book about?



- The book argues that search engines and algorithmic systems such as google's search engine are not neutral
 - Searching for specific things like "black girls" return certain results...
 - Another search such as 3 white boys vs 3 black boys return drastically different results
- "Algorithmic oppression"
 - Reproducing and reinforcing discrimination
- "Technological redlining"
 - digitally segregate or disadvantage certain groups
- The bigger idea behind this is that these search results aren't because of a technical glitch, but rather a deliberate attempt caused by underlying values and economic incentives embedded in technology

Key takeaway

- Utilitarianism
 - Benefits are to companies
 - Profit over equity
- Kantianism
 - Universalizability
 - Good will
 - Means and ends
- Contractualism
 - Power imbalances with tacit consent
 - Hypothetical consent
 - Reasonable rejection



Critiques



Strengths:

- Multi-layered argument
- Not tied to a single, potentially flawed, viewpoint
- Myriad of evidence from many studies (seen in the book)

Cons:

- Utilitarianism: These algorithms maximize profit and engagement for some, not well-being for all
- Kantianism: Intentions are hard to discern with such complex algorithms
- Contractualism: Hard to reach a universally accepted social contract, especially with power imbalances

Thank you!