

# WORLD YOUTH ALLIANCE BOOK LIST

## White Man's Burden

By William Easterly

"White Man's Burden" examines the failure of Western organizations in giving global aid to developing countries. In his book, William Easterly asserts "only the self-reliant efforts of poor people and poor societies themselves can end poverty, borrowing ideas and institutions from the West when it suits them to do so." In examining specific histories, economic practices, and governments, the book also pinpoints crucial concepts of what a national expression of dignity during economic development looks like and what truly empowers us all.

### Why White Man's Burden

In his book *White Man's Burden*, author William Easterly asserts that "only the self-reliant efforts of poor people and poor societies themselves can end poverty, borrowing ideas and institutions from the West when it suits them to do so." This approach is in line with World Youth Alliance's emphasis on the importance of cultivating integral human development.

### Guide questions for discussion groups

- Where did the term "White Man's Burden" originate?
- According to Easterly, what is the difference between "planners" and "searchers" in their approach to foreign aid? Which approach does he consider more effective? Which approach is more in line with WYA's core values?
- What does Easterly mean when he remarks "free market works, but free market reforms often don't" or "democracy works, but imposing democracy from the outside doesn't"? Is free market the recipe for every nation?
- What are some suggestions the author provides to improve the efficiency of aid organizations?

- What are some historical examples of foreign aid success stories?
- What is the purpose of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)? Why is Easterly critical of IMF loans?