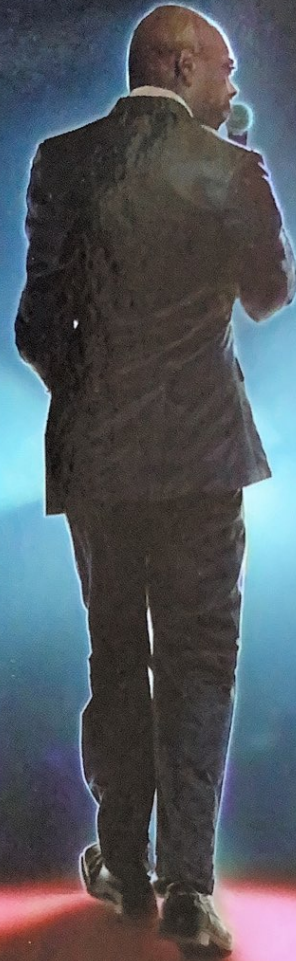




POP CULTURE AND PHILOSOPHY®



DAVE CHAPPELLE AND PHILOSOPHY

WHEN KEEPING IT WRONG
GETS REAL

Edited by Mark Ralkowski

This book has not been prepared, authorized,
or endorsed by Dave Chappelle.

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Dave Chappelle's Positive Propaganda

CHRIS A. KRAMER

Americans are told in a multitude of ways, from a variety of sources, from a very young age, that the United States of America is the land of freedom and opportunity—it's the greatest. If you work hard, you can make it because everyone is treated equally and therefore has the same opportunities in our schools, granted equal concern in our hospitals, equal access to our free markets, and is equally respected under the law. We should therefore be perplexed to hear stories like this about Dave Chappelle and his white friend Chip encountering the police, while high:

My white buddy, he was smoking a joint. [*Chappelle as Chip shouts*] "Dave! It's the goddamn cops, [*Chip takes a long comfortable drag on a joint*] I'm gonna ask him for directions." I said "Chip, no! Chip, don't do it!" It was too late. He was walking over there. This man was high as shit. "Excuse me. Excuse me, sir. Excuse me!!! I need some information." He starts confessing things he shouldn't confess. "I'm a little high. All I wanna know . . . which way is Third Street?" The cop is like, "Hey, take it easy. You're on Third Street. You better be careful. Go ahead. Move it. Move it." [*Chappelle in his own voice*] That's all that happened, that's the end of the story. Now, I know that's not Black fellas here, that shit is fucking incredible. (*Killin' Them Softly*)

Chappelle is not describing anything new, especially for Black folks, and it *should not* be news for white people either, but largely due to what Jason Stanley refers to as undermining, demagogic, negative propaganda, the reality of situations like this has not filtered through, certainly not in 2000 when this was performed, even with decades of forceful argument and direct protests highlighting police brutality against Black