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Matthew Hughey

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MATTHEW W. HUGHEY

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Matthew Hughey : White Bound: Nationalists, Antiracists, and the Shared Meanings of Race before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised White Bound: Nationalists, Antiracists, and the Shared Meanings of Race:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book is absolutely incredible. Every American needs to ...By Jacklyn Hughes This book is absolutely incredible. Every American needs to read it, especially the white people. As a

white person myself, I think most white people in America are highly similar to the Whites for Racial Justice group. And that needs to change. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By CustomerGreat sociological analysis of the construction and maintenance of race 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating and challenging book on white racial identity By JC This book offered a fascinating look at how white nationalists and white antiracists conceptualize white racial identity in relation to other races. What may be shocking to most people is that Hughey found that the groups showed a lot of similarities, from the strategies they used to their views of people of color, despite having such utterly polar opposite goals. I imagine that may be difficult for people on both ends of the political spectrum to accept, and thus, there are a number of reactionary reviews on this site. Hughey outlines how both the white nationalists and antiracists had shared perceptions of nonwhites as having dysfunctional pathologies, claimed victimization, framed themselves as white saviors, used relationships with nonwhites as a form of capital in order to prove that they were knowledgeable about other races and nonracist, and had feelings of entitlement to racialized knowledge, with palpable frustration at feeling excluded and frequent dismissal of those things they didn't understand as unimportant. In short, both groups, even the antiracists, who desired multiculturalism and the dismantling of white privilege, still held stereotypical and racist views of minority groups and feelings of white superiority, although the antiracists' views were tinged with pity. Hughey does warn about the generalizability of these findings; while this ethnography is excellent for understanding these processes and patterns of thought, the two groups participating in this study may not be representative of whites in general. Indeed, they do tend to occupy two extremes. At the same time, it is certainly eye-opening to realize that two such disparate groups are, as Hughey puts it, two sides of the same coin.

2013 HONORABLE MENTION, ASSOCIATION FOR HUMANIST SOCIOLOGY BOOK AWARD 2012
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AWARD Discussions of race are inevitably fraught with tension, both in opinion and positioning. Too frequently, debates are framed as clear points of opposition--us versus them. And when considering white racial identity, a split between progressive movements and a neoconservative backlash is all too frequently assumed. Taken at face value, it would seem that whites are splintering into antagonistic groups, with differing worldviews, values, and ideological stances. *White Bound* investigates these dividing lines, questioning the very notion of a fracturing whiteness, and in so doing offers a unique view of white racial identity. Matthew Hughey spent over a year attending the meetings, reading the literature, and interviewing members of two white organizations--a white nationalist group and a white antiracist group. Though he found immediate political differences, he observed surprising similarities. Both groups make meaning of whiteness through a reliance on similar racist and reactionary stories and worldviews. On the whole, this book puts abstract beliefs and theoretical projection about the supposed fracturing of whiteness into relief against the realities of two groups never before directly compared with this much breadth and depth. By examining the similarities and differences between seemingly antithetical white groups, we see not just the many ways of being white, but how these actors make meaning of whiteness in ways that collectively reproduce both white identity and, ultimately, white supremacy.

"The author positions race squarely at the center to challenge the shared assumptions of white supremacist logic on both sides of the debate. The clever thesis blurs the boundaries between 'good whites' and 'bad whites', rendering the white reader intellectually stimulated ..." -Kathy A. Mills, *Qualitative Research* "Hughey's analysis suggests that, while different in form, members of both organizations are 'bound' by a tendency to diminish the disadvantages faced by racial minorities as well as a desire to highlight the alleged disadvantages faced by white Americans, sometimes aiming to make the claim that white actors experience disadvantages that are equal to those faced by 'people of color'." -Ajay Sandhu, *Canadian Journal of Sociology* About the Author Matthew W. Hughey is Associate Professor at the University of Connecticut. He is the author of *The White Savior Film: Content, Critics, and Consumption* (2014), co-editor of *The Obamas and a (Post) Racial America?* (2011), co-author of *The Wrongs of the Right: Race, Language, and the Republican Party in the Age of Obama*, and is a frequent voice in national media such as NPR, ABC News, USA Today, and The New York Times.