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## White Racism: The Basics

*Joe R. Feagin, Hernn Vera, Pinar Batur*  
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Second Edition **JOE R. FEAGIN, HERNÁN VERA,**  
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**Joe R. Feagin, Hernn Vera, Pinar Batur : White Racism: The Basics** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised White Racism: The Basics:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good resourceBy KJMGood resource.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not Earth-Shattering but Very Well DoneBy RasheedWhite Racism is a look into Racism by whites. It's titled White Racism because the authors contend at the very beginning that:"From the perspective we take in this book, black racism does not exist. We conceptualize racism in structural and institutional as well as individual

terms. Racism is more than a matter of individual prejudice and scattered episodes of discrimination. There is no black racism because there is no centuries-old system of racialized subordination and discrimination designed by African Americans to exclude white Americans from full participation in the rights, privileges, and benefits of this society." Then on page 7 they define racism as: "...the socially organized set of attitudes, ideas, and practices that deny African Americans and other people of color the dignity, opportunities, freedoms, and rewards that this nation offers white Americans." So, with that as the framework (which I greatly appreciated as it gave the book a point of reference), it was clear why that title was chosen (although it isn't unique, Joe Kovel had a similarly titled book before them as they mention). The book takes a look at racism in very specific, non-traditional incidents as opposed to a macro, generic view. Racism is expected from the KKK or the Aryan Brotherhood. Racism is expected in the deep south or amongst poor uneducated whites. But what about university campuses, or entire towns of Iowa, or from national restaurant chains or from presidential candidates? By looking at very specific occurrences in which race was an issue they helped pull back the veil that many live under. Many, if not most, whites will contend that they are not racist because they aren't part of the KKK or they don't use the N-word, but will call blacks apes or would bar them from living in their neighborhood or other than that. Feagin and Vera separate racists into the officiants, the acolytes and the passives. Very few people are officiants, or active racists that partake in traditional racist behavior; but many more are acolytes--helpers, and more still are willing to sit idly by and allow racism to occur when they have an ability to oppose it. Granted, *White Racism* is no Earth-shattering expose or some huge revelation but it is a serious problem that has existed for a very long time. It's one thing to shout "that's racist and that's racist" and it's another thing entirely to put in time and research to find out what is really racist and how far does it go. The book is very well done and very well researched and very concise at 194 pages of text. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Hernan Vera is very missed, having passed away a few years ago. But his work lives on in this amazing book. By Juliet Dallaire Hernan Vera is very missed, having passed away a few years ago. But his work lives on in this amazingly important book. As for Joe R. Feagin: My recommendation is simple - read everything you can that he has written. He is brilliant and a true social justice warrior.

First published in 2001. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor Francis, an informa company.

From Publishers Weekly Calling white racism "the most consequential [problem] for the nation's future," two University of Florida sociologists offer several recent case studies: cross burnings in Dubuque, Iowa; discrimination against black patrons at the Denny's restaurant chain; the readiness of the Boston police and the media to believe Charles Stuart when he accused a black man of committing the murder he himself committed—a case consistently mentioned in discussions Sue Smith, who said a black man kidnapped her two children before she confessed to killing them. Much of this has already been picked over by the media but the authors suggest that these events could have turned out differently save for certain individual and societal perceptions and reactions. For example, the authors uncover knee-jerk reactions in media treatment of 1988 presidential campaign scarecrow Willie Horton and rapper Sister Souljah. The book's opening description of the Los Angeles riots as an "urban rebellion" telegraphs a strong PC bias, in which the authors avoid nuanced discussion of race (try Stephen Carter or Cornel West), dismiss white (not to mention black) fears of black crime and offer such dubious proposals as reparations for slavery and a new constitutional convention that would entrench identity politics. Still, the authors are correct to say that blacks have more contact with whites than vice versa, and that whites must develop cross-racial empathy; those who have "some personal experience with exploitation, discrimination, or oppression" are, they say, more likely to empathize. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Feagin and Vera's well-intentioned book presents seven case studies of American racism perpetrated by middle-class whites against blacks (who, for Feagin and Vera, belong to no class). The cases are those of cross burnings in Dubuque, Iowa, that protested a proposal to attract black families to the preponderantly white city; ill will among undergraduates at a college (Olivet) founded by abolitionists; discrimination in family restaurant chains (Shoney's, Denny's, IHOP); whites (skinheads) who murder blacks or frame them for murder; Rodney King and the LAPD; Willie Horton and George Bush; and Sister Souljah and Bill Clinton. The concise recaps of these newsy racial incidents may become godsend to students with term papers to write but don't make up for the book's great weakness--deploring racism's cost in dollars but nowhere even estimating it. The volume's final contribution to understanding American racism could be glossed, unimpressively but not completely unfairly, "Few white Americans realize that racism was not ended by the Civil War. Even fewer realize something even more disturbing: racism is wrong." Roland Wulbert *White Racism* is a bold and highly recommended text that contains many important insights toward the dismantlement of white racism. -- Philadelphia Tribune... useful as a supplementary reading in a race relations course; it would make eye-opening reading for white students who have not thought much about racism in society or in themselves and it might stimulate dialogue between white and black students. -- Journal of American Ethnic History