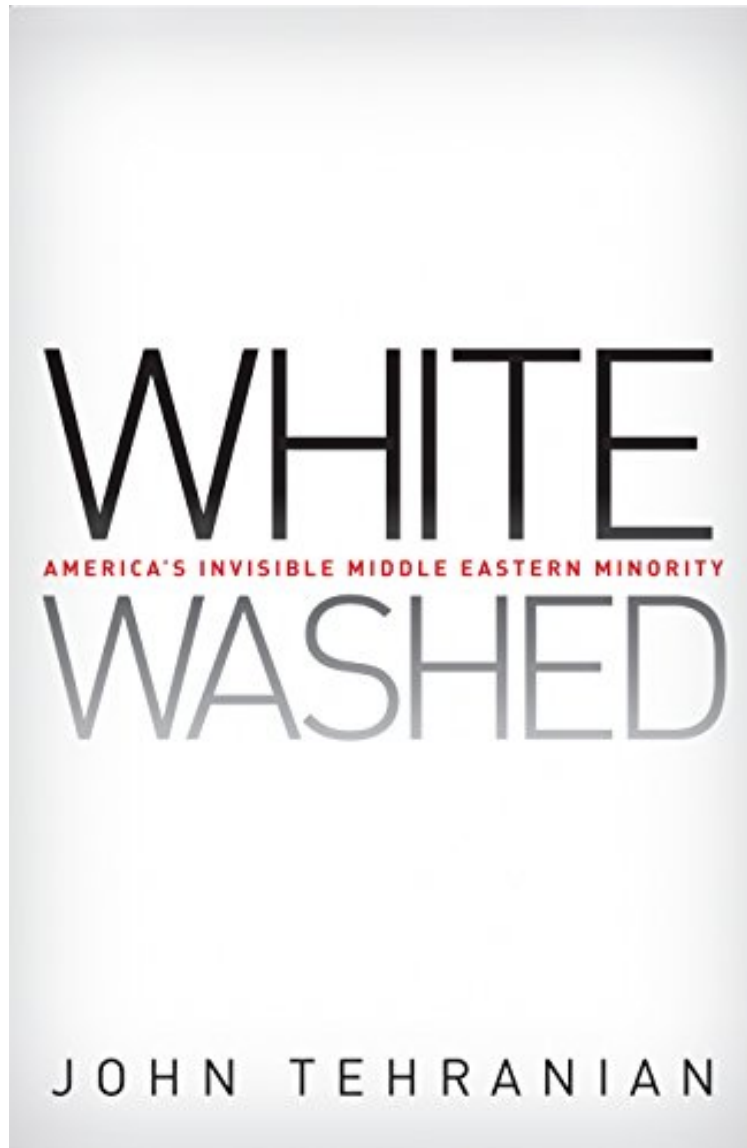


(Mobile library) Whitewashed: Americas Invisible Middle Eastern Minority (Critical America)

Whitewashed: Americas Invisible Middle Eastern Minority (Critical America)

John Tehranian

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#1292972 in Books NYU Press 2010-04-02 2010-04-02 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .64 x 6.00l, 1.15 #File Name: 0814782736256 pages | File size: 52.Mb

John Tehranian : Whitewashed: Americas Invisible Middle Eastern Minority (Critical America) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Whitewashed: Americas Invisible Middle Eastern Minority (Critical America):

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating and importantBy SusanmdThis book was quite

fascinating to read. For a long time, I have wondered how Arab Americans are considered "white/Caucasian" on the US Census, but are perceived as racially and/or ethnically different by most Americans. The history of that issue provided by Tehranian is thoughtful and eye-opening, and he creates a bridge from the past to the present to help you understand the situation today. 1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. excellentBy ruth moralesI received the book in just a couple of days and I did not even request prompt mailing. The book was in great condition. It looked like new. 2 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Incredibly disappointingBy 621J3To say I was severely disappointed by this book would be a major understatement. I was extremely excited to purchase this book because I feel the topic and the light it shines on it is extremely important and ignored. Tehranian had a golden opportunity to write a book on important topic and get the word out. He could have done so in a book that was easy to read and would appeal to the masses. Instead, in typical blowhard law professor style, he essentially wrote a glorified law review piece that could appeal only to his fellow blowhard law professors. He squandered his chance to write a readable book and really do justice to the neglected truths in his book. I was sorely disappointed and dismayed.

The Middle Eastern question lies at the heart of the most pressing issues of our time: the war in Iraq and on terrorism, the growing tension between preservation of our national security and protection of our civil rights, and the debate over immigration, assimilation, and our national identity. Yet paradoxically, little attention is focused on our domestic Middle Eastern population and its place in American society. Unlike many other racial minorities in our country, Middle Eastern Americans have faced rising, rather than diminishing, degrees of discrimination over time; a fact highlighted by recent targeted immigration policies, racial profiling, a war on terrorism with a decided racist bent, and growing rates of job discrimination and hate crime. Oddly enough, however, Middle Eastern Americans are not even considered a minority in official government data. Instead, they are deemed white by law. In *Whitewashed*, John Tehranian combines his own personal experiences as an Iranian American with an expert's analysis of current events, legal trends, and critical theory to analyze this bizarre Catch-22 of Middle Eastern racial classification. He explains how American constructions of Middle Eastern racial identity have changed over the last two centuries, paying particular attention to the shift in perceptions of the Middle Easterner from friendly foreigner to enemy alien, a trend accelerated by the tragic events of 9/11. Focusing on the contemporary immigration debate, the war on terrorism, media portrayals of Middle Easterners, and the processes of creating racial stereotypes, Tehranian argues that, despite its many successes, the modern civil rights movement has not done enough to protect the liberties of Middle Eastern Americans. By following how concepts of whiteness have transformed over time, *Whitewashed* forces readers to rethink and question some of their most deeply held assumptions about race in American society.

From *Publishers Weekly* With a pastiche of personal experience, media analysis and legal theory, law professor Tehranian makes a case for "government recognition of Middle Eastern descent as a distinct racial category." He argues that Middle Eastern whiteness is a "bizarre racial fiction," for citizens of Middle Eastern descent "do not enjoy the benefits of white privilege," but "are denied the fruits of remedial action." Tehranian traces the acquisition of whiteness by successive waves of immigrants (Irish, Italian, Greek, Slavs, Armenians) through litigation where "assimilatory behavior" or "white performance" provides entry. But Middle Easterners hit a bump in the road, amplified in post-9/11 America: "selective racialization"--the famous or successful are perceived as white, while the infamous "are racialized as Middle Eastern." Tehranian addresses the impact of the "war on terror" on the lives and liberties of Middle Eastern Americans as their "public image transitioned from (possibly white) assimilable ethnics to the quintessential Other." His proposals for reform range from the ameliorative ("reform media portrayals") to the legislative (outlaw racial profiling). Tehranian's book covers fresh legal and social territory; while occasionally repetitious, it is consistently informative and casts off the cloak of invisibility. (Dec.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. He provides an important contribution to the dynamic study of the legal and political status of racial and ethnic minorities in the United States. -*The Law and Politics Book* Tehranian's book covers fresh legal and social territory . . . consistently informative and casts off the cloak of invisibility. -*Publishers Weekly* Tehranian has written a compelling account of discrimination against those of Middle Eastern descent. His book is an important addition to the literature on race in America and could not be more timely. -Erwin Chemerinsky, Founding Dean and Distinguished Professor of Law, University of California, Irvine, School of Law A learned, witty, and analytically biting analysis of race politics and race jurisprudence. A brilliant case that race is understood through performance and is hostage to the politics of fear. Tehranian's legal and intellectual thriller is hard to put down. -James C. Scott, Sterling Professor of Political Science and Anthropology, Yale University This book is a compelling study of one of the critical issues of our time: the debate regarding issues of assimilation, immigration, and national identity. . . a well-written and extremely readable book suited to general readers as well as faculty and researchers. -*CHOICE* "Whitewashed is an indispensable contribution to the effort to make visible the struggles of Middle Eastern community in the U.S. Activists and educators alike will benefit enormously from Tehranian's thorough research and highly accessible, often entertaining prose."