

# Race In Society: The Enduring American Dilemma

## The Historical Context

The issue of race has been a constant challenge in American society. From the time of slavery to the Civil Rights Movement, and even today, racial tensions continue to persist. This article explores the enduring American dilemma surrounding race and its impact on society.

## The Legacy of Slavery

The roots of racial inequality can be traced back to the African slave trade. Millions of Africans were forcibly brought to America as slaves, enduring unimaginable hardships and suffering. Although slavery was abolished in the 19th century, its legacy is still deeply ingrained in American society. Systemic racism continues to plague institutions, perpetuating inequality and hindering progress.

## The Civil Rights Movement and Progress

The Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s brought about significant changes in American society. Led by influential figures such as Martin Luther King Jr., the movement fought for equal rights for all citizens, regardless of their race. The passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 were major milestones in dismantling institutional racism. However, despite these victories, racial disparities persist today.

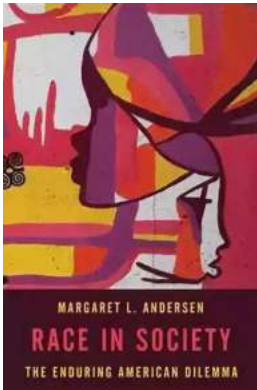
### **Race in Society: The Enduring American Dilemma**

by Margaret L. Andersen(2nd Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 33895 KB



Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 429 pages



## Contemporary Issues

Race continues to play a significant role in various aspects of society. Racial profiling and police brutality continue to disproportionately affect minority communities, leading to widespread protests and calls for justice. Economic disparities also persist, with minority groups facing lower income levels and reduced access to quality education. Furthermore, racism is not limited to personal biases but is deeply ingrained in systemic structures.

## The Importance of Education and Awareness

Addressing racial inequality requires education and awareness. It is essential to teach individuals about the historical context of racism and its ongoing effects. Educating future generations about the value of diversity and inclusion can lead to a more equitable society. Additionally, continuous self-reflection and acknowledging privilege can help dismantle systemic racism on an individual level.

## The Role of Legislation

Legislation has played a critical role in combating racial discrimination. Laws prohibiting racial discrimination in employment, housing, and public

accommodations have been enacted. Affirmative action policies aim to promote equality by providing opportunities for historically disadvantaged groups. However, debates surrounding affirmative action continue, highlighting the complexities inherent in addressing racial disparities through legislation.

## **The Power of Grassroots Movements**

Throughout history, grassroots movements have been instrumental in bringing about change. From abolitionists to Civil Rights activists, individuals coming together to challenge racial injustice have had a lasting impact. Today, grassroots organizations continue to fight for racial equality and justice. By empowering individuals and communities, these movements aim to dismantle existing systems that perpetuate inequality.

## **The Way Forward**

Addressing the enduring American dilemma of race requires a collective effort. It requires recognizing that racial inequality exists and actively working towards dismantling systemic racism. Education, legislation, and grassroots movements all play critical roles in effecting change. By fostering empathy, understanding, and equal opportunity, we can strive for a more just and inclusive society.

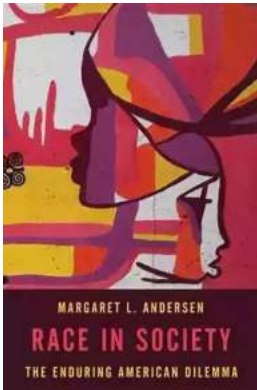
The American dilemma surrounding race persists, but it is not insurmountable. By acknowledging the historical context, understanding contemporary issues, and actively working towards change, we can move closer to a more equitable society for all. It is imperative that we address and confront racial inequality head-on, for only then can we truly forge a better future.

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The second edition of *Race in Society* analyzes the social dynamics of systemic racism and the persistence of racial inequality in US institutions. The book is informed by contemporary social science research and includes the most recent studies on racial disparities during the COVID pandemic and current racial protests.

*Race in Society* is intended for courses in the sociology of race and ethnicity and can be used in other social science and interdisciplinary courses. Its accessible writing style, student friendly approach, and brevity make it attractive to instructors who want to pair it with other monographs or anthologies.

Four themes guide the organization of the book:

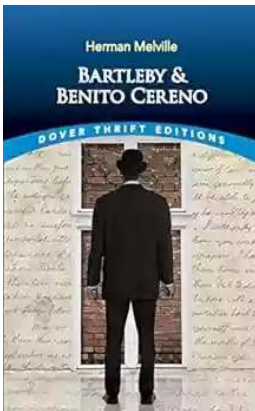
1. the social construction of race and ethnicity, as they evolve within systems of power and privilege;
2. the social dynamics of prejudice, bias, and racism;
3. the systemic character of racial inequality in US social institutions; and,
4. strategies for social change, especially as the United States becomes increasingly racially and ethnically diverse. A new feature in the second

edition, “Taking Action against Racism,” will appeal to students who want to know what they can do to challenge racism.

New to this edition:

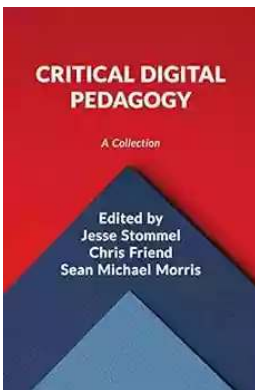
- New preface and
- Chapter 2 has been updated to include new research on the significance of racial resentment, as well as discussion of racial backlash and white rage
- Chapter 3 includes current data on the inclusion of people of color in media organization and media usage by diverse groups
- New material in Chapter 4 on multiracial identities and multiracial relationships
- Chapter 5 includes current attitudinal data on immigration, all of which reflects evolving US politics about immigration, the border wall, and national borders.
- Chapter 6 features a section on colonialism and postcolonial theory, as well as an extended discussion of intersectional theory
- Chapter 7 has been updated throughout to reflect both the ongoing economic and work disparities based on race, but also to note the disparate impact of economic change brought by the pandemic on people of color in low wage service jobs
- Chapter 9 includes updated information on residential and educational segregation. There is also new material on the racial achievement gap and how that is likely to be affected by school closures during the pandemic
- Chapter 10 opens with evidence of the huge racial disparities that have been sadly, but vividly, unveiled by the COVID pandemic

- Chapter 11 has been updated to reflect current national discussions and policing and police violence
- “Taking Action against Racism” is included at the end of each chapter to suggest how people can make a difference through action against racial injustice
- Updated charts, graphs, and new data are featured throughout



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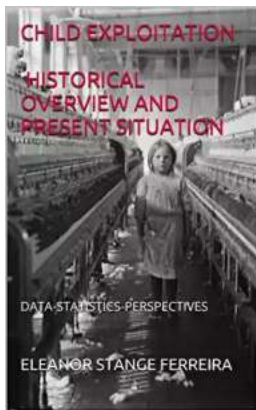
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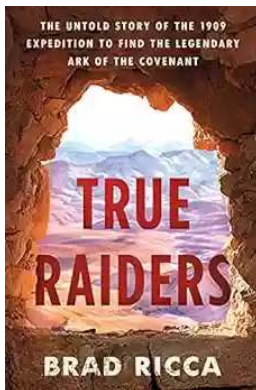
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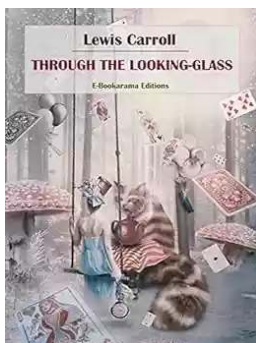
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