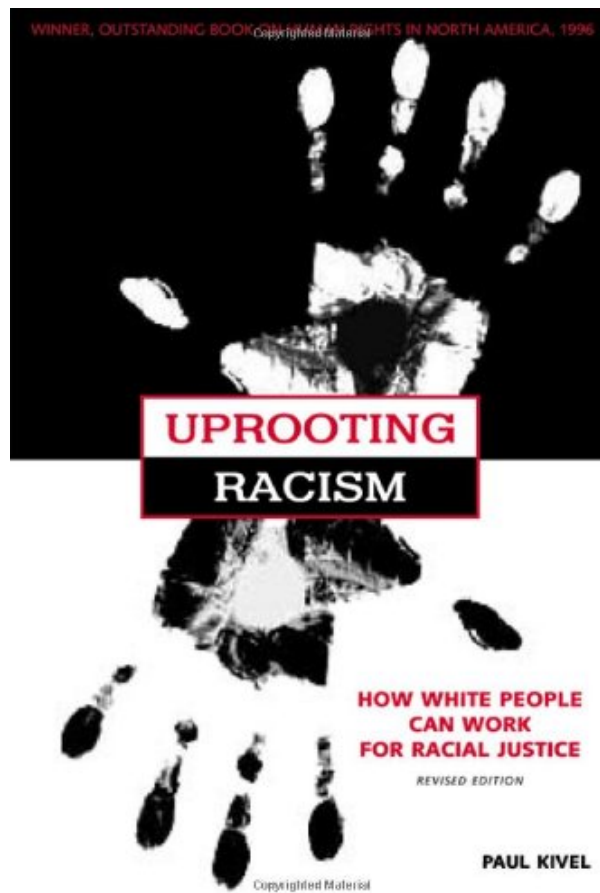


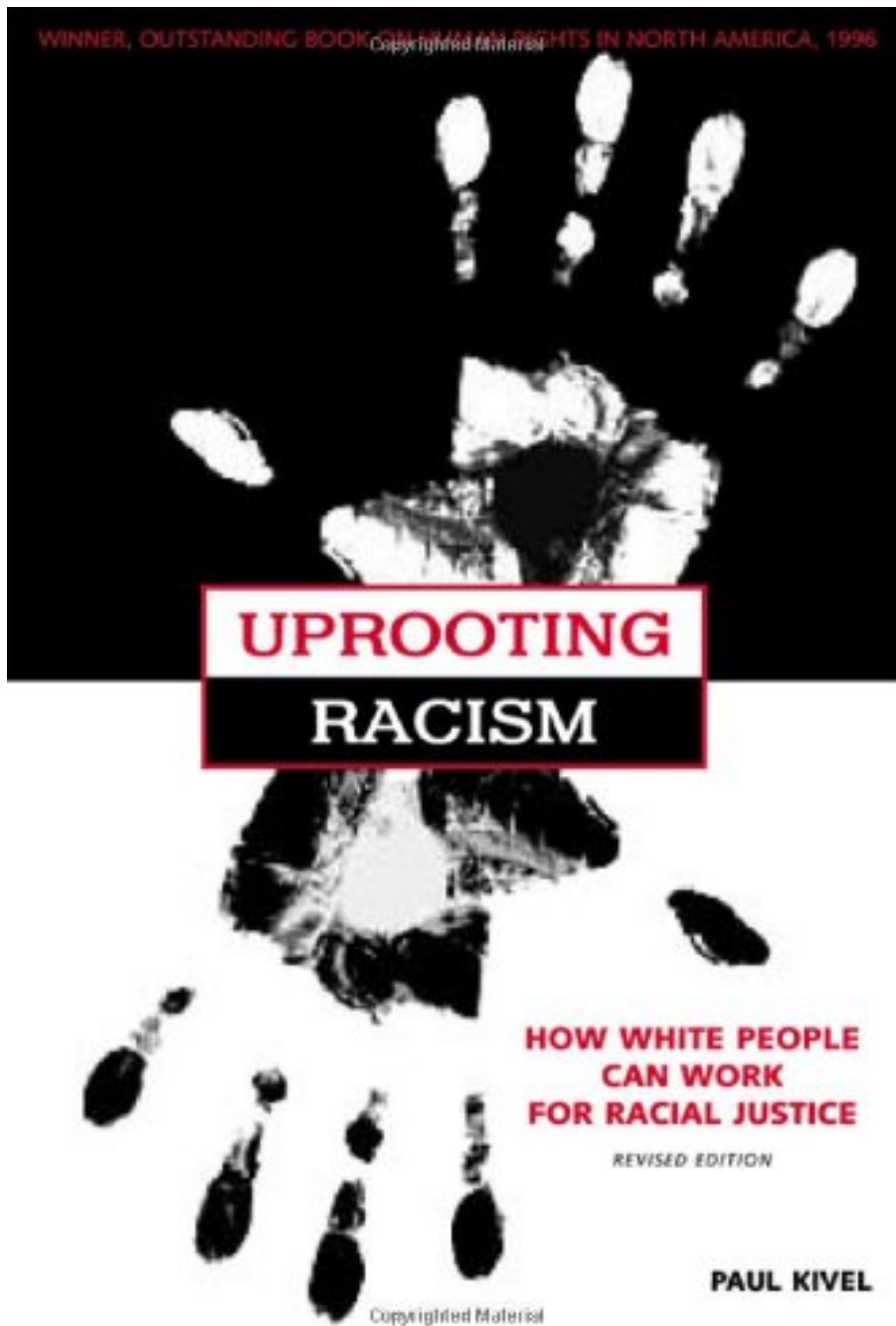
# UPROOTING RACISM: HOW WHITE PEOPLE CAN WORK FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

BY PAUL KIVEL



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## **Review**

Uprooting Racism talks bout racism without rhetoric or attack. Speaking as a white to fellow whites, Kivel shares stories, suggestions, advice, exercises and approaches for working together to fight racism. He does this while discussing the timely issues of affirmative action, immigration, institutional racism, anti-Semitism, humor, political correctness and the meaning of whiteness. And he covers the different forms of racial injustice faced by Latinos, such as Asian Americans, African Americans, Native-Americans, and Jews. At once gentle and provocative, Uprooting Racism helps readers strategically intervene against racism in workplaces, institutions, public policy debates and everyday personal interactions. Uprooting Racism is a much needed book, helping the reader to understand and heal race relations in this country. -- Midwest Book Review

## **About the Author**

Paul Kivel is the founder of the Oakland's Men's Project and has conducted hundreds of workshops on racism and anti-violence for teens and men all over the USA. He lives in Oakland, California.

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Continuously at the top of New Society Publishers' best-seller list for five years, Uprooting Racism has sold over 25,000 copies since its first printing. Substantially revised and expanded, the new edition has more tools to help white people understand and stand-up to racism.

Uprooting Racism explores the manifestations of racism in politics, work, community, and family life. It moves beyond the definition and unlearning of racism to address the many areas of privilege for white people and suggests ways for individuals and groups to challenge the structures of racism. Uprooting Racism's welcoming style helps readers look at how we learn racism, what effects it has on our lives, its costs and benefits to white people, and what we can do about it.

In addition to updating existing chapters, the new edition of Uprooting Racism explores how entrenched racism has been revealed in the new economy, the 2000 electoral debacle, rising anti-Arab prejudice, and health care policy. Special features include exercises, questions, and suggestions to engage, challenge assumptions, and motivate the reader towards social action. The new edition includes an index and an updated bibliography.

#### Marketing Plans:

- Print review campaign to progressive and social action magazines
- Web publicity campaign to progressive and activist sites
- Course adoption campaign
- Advertising in Education magazines
- Promotional mailing to libraries

Paul Kivel is the author of *Boys Will Be Men* (ISBN: 0-86571-395-2, New Society Publishers, 1999) and *Men's Work* (ISBN: 0-34537-939-X, Ballantine, 1998). He is the founder of the nationally recognized Oakland's Men's Project and has conducted hundreds of workshops on racism and anti-violence for teens and men all over the country. He lives in Oakland, California.

Also Available by Paul Kivel

*Boys Will Be Men: Raising Our Sons for Courage, Caring, and Community*

TP \$16.95, 0-86571-395-2 • USA

- Sales Rank: #468459 in Books
- Brand: Brand: New Society Publishers
- Published on: 2002-05-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .60" w x 5.90" l, .99 pounds
- Binding: Paperback

- 272 pages

#### Features

- Great product!

#### Review

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#### Most helpful customer reviews

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Five Stars

By Carol Langbehn

The book arrived like brand new. Very happy with the purchase.

2 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

**DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE INTO A WORLD OF PATHOLOGICAL LEFTIST GUILT**

By Scott

I feel I'm at a loss to describe the surreal, otherworldly world view that this book portrays. The narrative flows in and out of rational thought as if the author has yet to recover from a serious head injury. He warns white readers that we'll become angry and defensive at some of the things he has to say but I found myself more stunned by the blatant dystopian world view that he portrays. I was hoping to read a logical assessment of the race issue in our culture, instead this seems to be an outlook heavily influenced by personal tragedy, of which he speaks openly. I will do my best to describe this.

The premise is that "white does not reflect a skin color so much as a racial purity that has never existed" and that those in the "club" (my quotes) have conscious and unconscious ways of keeping that club exclusive to whites. It's important to remember that when we say white we're not talking about skin, but a socially engineered hierarchy that has created and maintained power by exclusion of people of color for centuries.

It's important to note that he uses the term "People of Color" to portray this imbalance of power. In this regard he's portraying our modern struggle as those of European descent versus everyone else. This is an unrealistic depiction because he blatantly ignores the fact that not all of the groups under the umbrella of PoC are treated in a uniform racist manner, as one would imagine a group hell bent on racial purity and dominance would do. Asian American and Indian Americans comparatively make more money on the dollar than whites, achieve higher test scores and do not suffer from the same discrimination as blacks or Hispanics. He does address this discrepancy and explains it away by essentially saying that because Asian and Indian Americans might want to form exclusive groups to discuss common interests or advocate for certain change

(more Asians on TV, for example) that they should be considered as victims of white racism at the same level as all other races. Or, it's racist to compare the different experiences. It's essential for him to use the unified PoC argument because without it we're forced to evaluate the struggle between individual racial groups. When that happens the façade of "racial superiority" falls and we must look at the two sided issues of racial conflict.

On the issue of power and control he primarily focuses on institutional racist policy of the past and completely ignores the wholesale power in the court of public opinion in which our country is heavily influenced today. In fact the way he describes blacks being negatively portrayed in the movies and the media, women being "taught that men of color are highly sexual beings whose very gaze will assault them", that whites who stand up for social justice are defined as "race traitors", that whites will naturally assume a black man in a room is the hired help, etc. you would think he wrote this book in 1985. Today we cannot talk about racial power and control without a discussion on the power of social opinion. A simple accusation of racism can cost a person their livelihood, what amounts to a simple opinion on a lack of diversity can cost thousands of dollars and affect the very ways intuitions function. On the subject of power and control he is hopelessly stuck in the past.

His arguments that whites are taught to be racist are bewildering (as well as un-cited). If a white male foregoes the "traditional" male bonding which encourages aggression toward PoC he will be "vulnerable to physical and sexual aggression" by his peers. Whites focus on the dangers of PoC and are taught to fear them in order to hide the (presumed) trauma within our own communities and the guilt that comes with our racist genetic inheritance. He argues that any "pre-conceived notion of fear based on skin color is dysfunctional" because white people are rarely in danger of aggressive acts from PoC being that they have been so demoralized they offer no threat. In other words it's inherently racist to not want to travel through a certain neighborhood at night because you fear for your safety.

I held out hope because there wasn't a blatant moral judgement placed on the white reader for a while, but inevitably it had to happen. About half way through the book we get it, the "If you're not with us you're against us" fallacy. If you're not actively working against this web of supremacist control then you're an agent for perpetuating racism. Keeping in mind this web of supremacist control is entirely subjective interpretation. So now, if in mixed company, someone tells an off color(ed) joke and you simply roll your eyes and make a note that you won't be hanging out with this person again you're an agent of racism because you didn't say anything. But why stop there? When walking through the antique mall you see a booth with a confederate flag hanging. Are you an agent of white supremacy if you don't tell the manager that it should be taken down? "Ridiculous!", I can hear people say. But is it really that hard to imagine?

There are numerous points in the book where, despite the repeated declarations that we \*must\* be honest with the past, he gives a distorted view of the past to justify his claim of white supremacy.

-We're told how whites destroyed cultures, among many other legitimate horrors, during the Trans-Atlantic slave trade but the fact that the Arab Muslims atrocities dwarfed those of the Europeans when they did the exact same thing. But he can't acknowledge this because it doesn't fit in with his white supremacist narrative.

-We hear the old myth that whites copied the culture of the African slaves and profited from (blues, rock and roll, jazz dance, etc.). The truth is that this was never purely African culture, it was a hybrid of African and Pioneer European (or however you want to describe that). A small thing, but again one that doesn't support his narrative.

-He claims that whites hold "Anti-Asian rhetoric claims that we are under attack or being besieged". This is in response to the current push to buy American made products. You tell me, when this subject comes up do you hear "Those dirty Asians" or do you hear "Those dirty CEO's moving their production to Asia". Another clear distortion to create a façade of white supremacy.

I could go on, but you get the point.

After a time the book actually becomes difficult to read, knowing that you should be reading something else and actually learning something rather than getting a delusional trip down psychosis lane.

82 of 97 people found the following review helpful.

An outstanding book... useful for everyone!!

By Tim Birchard (timandamy@juno.com)

Kivel's book *Uprooting Racism* is very powerful. In it he offers concrete examples of how privilege exists in the day-to-day lives of Whites (European Americans), and furthermore, how Whites (like myself) can come to recognize this privilege (which is invisible to most Whites because it has become part of the institution of American society--passed down for generations so that many Whites don't even recognize its existence anymore) and work toward equity and equality for everyone. It gives examples of how to fight racism on the personal level, in common, everyday affairs.

Most importantly, it brings to light the many subtle, yet powerful, ways that even well-intentioned Whites act in ways that promote injustice, and gives powerful suggestions for improving the lives of everyone. Even those who believe themselves to be "non-racist" or "anti-racist" will find value in this book-- (I'd say 'ESPECIALLY those who believe themselves to be non-racist or anti-racist', since these are the people who UNKNOWINGLY promote racism and injustice.) Recommended to everyone, not just European Americans.

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## Review

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