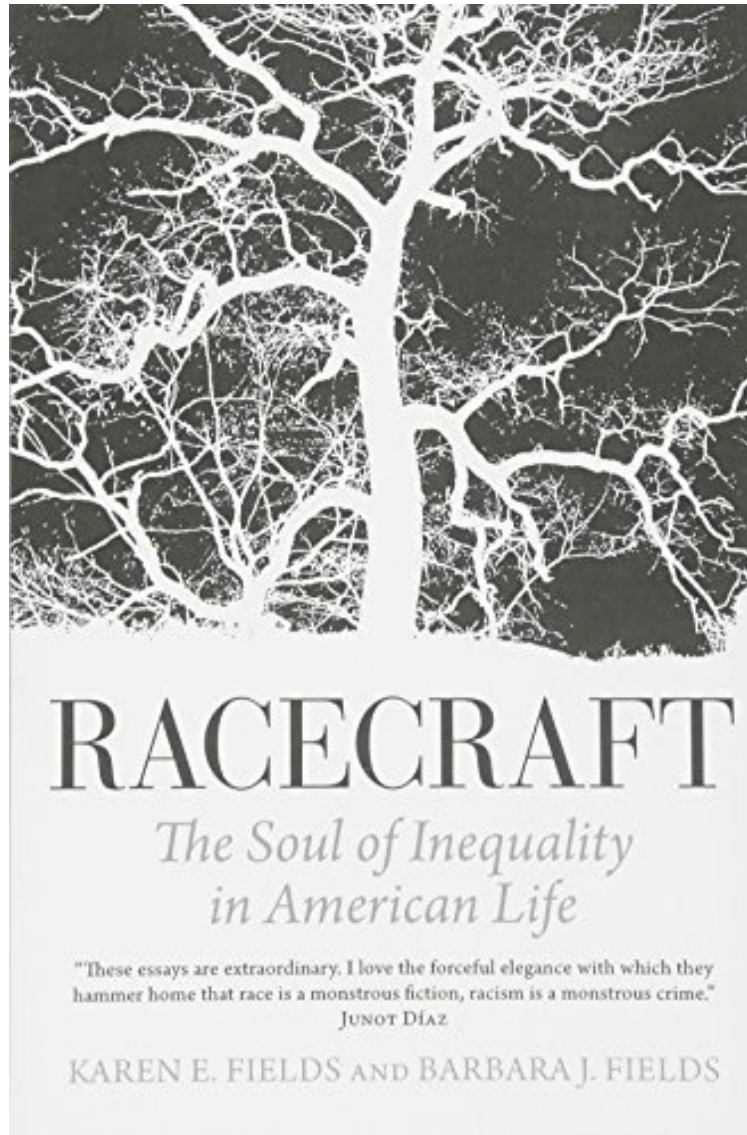


[Download ebook] Racecraft: The Soul of Inequality in American Life

Racecraft: The Soul of Inequality in American Life

Karen E. Fields, Barbara J. Fields

*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



 Download

 Read Online

#54324 in Books Verso 2014-03-04 2014-03-04Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.20 x .90 x 5.40l, .90
#File Name: 1781683131310 pagesVerso | File size: 40.Mb

Karen E. Fields, Barbara J. Fields : Racecraft: The Soul of Inequality in American Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Racecraft: The Soul of Inequality in American Life:

39 of 40 people found the following review helpful. Racecraft: Well craftedBy Tyrell StewartI'm a pretty big fan of this book. Racecraft has two central arguments. The first argument is that race and understandings of race operate in very similar ways to witchcraft. Meaning that race is used to explain different societal problems and historical events

because it seems like a commonsense explanation. Second, the authors argue that race is often used as a stand-in for racism, which is at best a distraction, and at worst, a continuation of systemic racism. Both of these arguments and the "rhetoric" of racism are engaging topics and the authors do a great job of running their arguments through a variety of situations to support their argument. I can easily recommend this book, but suggest that readers take a look at the different chapter titles and read the ones that seem most interesting. The book is a series of new and revised articles, which can be both repetitive and, at times, disjointed. After reading the most interesting parts, it might be a good idea to go back and read skipped sections for additional nuggets of wisdom. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I'll never look at race the same way again

By Robert Hayes
Race and racism are two things which have had immeasurable influence in American history, yet we often take them for granted as acceptable social reality. The major insight here, which goes beyond the elementary "race as social construction," is that far from being irrational, the concept of race stems from the ways in which society sees itself as compared to others. It isn't limited to inborn differences, but also extends to invisible qualities, what we usually call stereotypes. The book is composed of several essays, written in different contexts, but united in theme. This includes a complete dismantling of traditional scientific bases for race, the complexities of Jim Crow, and an imagined conversation between Emile Durkheim and W. E. B. DuBois. Where it all comes together, as with many books, is the conclusion, which goes into how racecraft masks and diverts our attention from an inequality that is burned into American society. In this respect, it shares much with Ian Lopez's *DOG WHISTLE POLITICS*. With such a wide range of thought and approach, this book deserves to be widely read in order to change hearts and minds. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An important work. I found the argument a bit ...

By Customer
An important work. I found the argument a bit repetitive the framework of the discussion valuable. The writing style is largely conceptual and punctuated with personal stories from the author including hypothetical interactions among historical figures. It seemed light on detail. All in all a worthy contribution to the understanding of racism

Most people assume that racism grows from a perception of human difference: the fact of race gives rise to the practice of racism. Sociologist Karen E. Fields and historian Barbara J. Fields argue otherwise: the practice of racism produces the illusion of race, through what they call "racecraft." And this phenomenon is intimately entwined with other forms of inequality in American life. So pervasive are the devices of racecraft in American history, economic doctrine, politics, and everyday thinking that the presence of racecraft itself goes unnoticed. That the promised post-racial age has not dawned, the authors argue, reflects the failure of Americans to develop a legitimate language for thinking about and discussing inequality. That failure should worry everyone who cares about democratic institutions.

"It's not just a challenge to racists, it's a challenge to people like me, it's a challenge to African-Americans who have accepted the fact of race and define themselves by the concept of race."—Ta-Nehisi Coates
"Demanding and intelligent." —Jennifer Vega, PopMatters
"These essays are extraordinary. I love the forceful elegance with which they hammer home that race is a monstrous fiction, racism is a monstrous crime."—Junot Díaz
Karen E. Fields and Barbara J. Fields have undertaken a great untangling of how the chimerical concepts of race are pervasively and continuously reinvented and reemployed in this country."—Maria Bustillos, Los Angeles of Books
"The neologism 'racecraft' is modelled on 'witchcraft' ... It isn't that the Fieldses regard the commitment to race as a category as an irrational superstition. On the contrary, they are interested precisely in exploring its rationality—the role that beliefs about race play in structuring American society—while at the same time reminding us that those beliefs may be rational but they're not true."—Walter Benn Michaels, London of Books
"A most impressive work, tackling a demanding and important topic—the myth that we now live in a postracial society—in a novel, urgent, and compelling way. The authors dispel this myth by squarely addressing the paradox that racism is scientifically discredited but, like witchcraft before it, retains a social rationale in societies that remain highly unequal and averse to sufficiently critical engagement with their own history and traditions."—Robin Blackburn
"[Racecraft] should be more widely read than it is—no matter its current reach. In it, the authors achieve an intelligence and agility that is rare in discussions of identity, racism, and inequality." —Matthew McKnight, Nation
"Liberal mores against overt racism are crumbling in the face of Trump. We must build them better ... The Fields sisters dive through sociology, history, and science to reach the material truth: races is a product of racism, not the other way around."—Charlie Heller, Paste
"With examples ranging from the profound to the absurd—including, for instance, an imaginary interview with W E B Dubois and Emile Durkheim, as well as personal porch chats with the authors' grandmother—the Fields delve into "racecraft's" profound effect on American political, social and economic life."—Global Journal
"This is a very thoughtful book, a very urgent book."—The Academic
The Artist Cloudcast
About the Author
Barbara J. Fields is Professor of History at Columbia University, author of *Slavery and Freedom on the Middle Ground: Maryland During the Nineteenth Century* and coauthor of *Free at Last: A Documentary History of Slavery, Freedom, and the Civil War*.
Karen E. Fields, an independent scholar, holds degrees from Harvard University, Brandeis University, and the Sorbonne. She is the author of many articles and three published books: *Revival and Rebellion in Colonial Central Africa*, about millennialism; *Lemon Swamp and Other Places: A Carolina Memoir* (with Mamie Garvin Fields),

about life in the twentieth-century South; and a retranslation of Emile Durkheim's masterpiece, *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. She has two works in progress: *Bordeaux's Africa*, about the view of slavery from a European port city, and *Race Matters* in the American Academy.