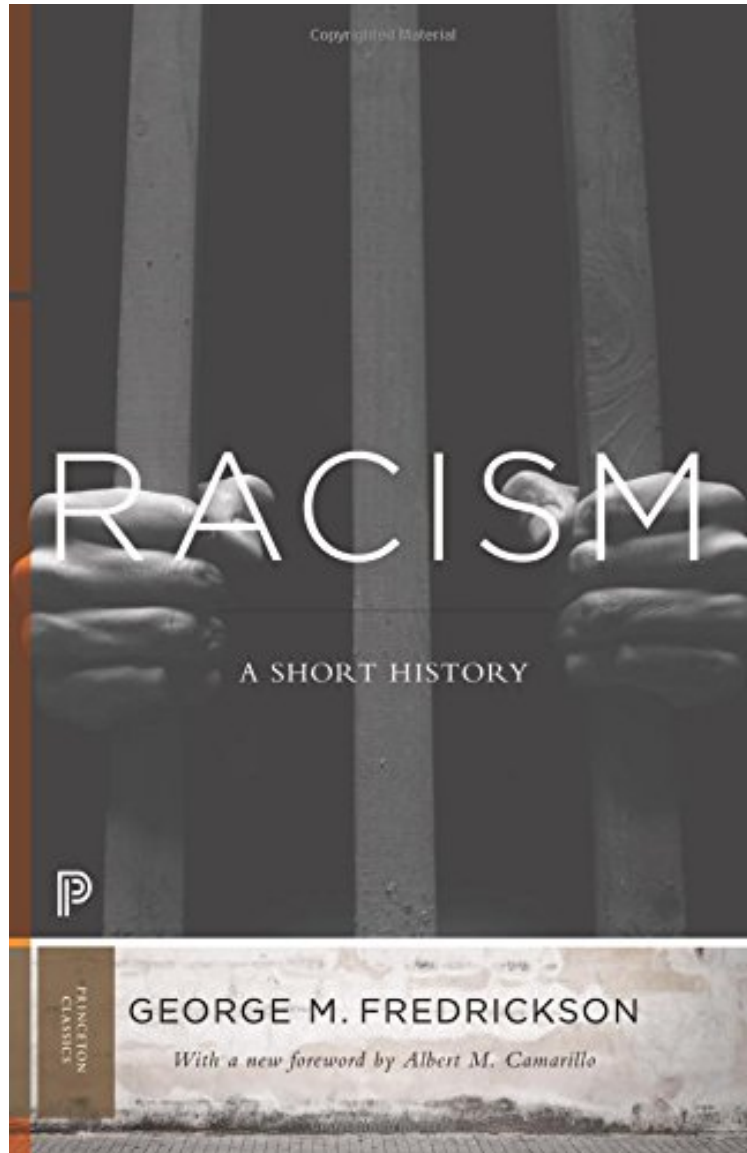


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## Racism: A Short History (Princeton Classics)

*George M. Fredrickson*

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**George M. Fredrickson : Racism: A Short History (Princeton Classics)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Racism: A Short History (Princeton Classics):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Racism:A Short HistoryBy A CustomerInsightful and engaging. This book proposed a comparative assessment of racism in the Jim Crow-American South, apartheid-driven South Africa and Nazi Germany. I would have enjoyed a deeper perspective on other racist events0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It gives a good foundation to start your research as it includes numerous ...By CustomerI

read part of this book for my philosophy class "Origins of Racism", and finished it on my own. It is a very well written book for someone starting to dive into the history of racism, and the evolutionary path that racism took in the course of history. If researching and understanding the course of racism is something that interests you I would start here. It gives a good foundation to start your research as it includes numerous cited references as well as information you can further explore on your own. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer Thank you

Are antisemitism and white supremacy manifestations of a general phenomenon? Why didn't racism appear in Europe before the fourteenth century, and why did it flourish as never before in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries? Why did the twentieth century see institutionalized racism in its most extreme forms? Why are egalitarian societies particularly susceptible to virulent racism? What do apartheid South Africa, Nazi Germany, and the American South under Jim Crow have in common? How did the Holocaust advance civil rights in the United States? With a rare blend of learning, economy, and cutting insight, George Fredrickson surveys the history of Western racism from its emergence in the late Middle Ages to the present. Beginning with the medieval antisemitism that put Jews beyond the pale of humanity, he traces the spread of racist thinking in the wake of European expansionism and the beginnings of the African slave trade. And he examines how the Enlightenment and nineteenth-century romantic nationalism created a new intellectual context for debates over slavery and Jewish emancipation. Fredrickson then makes the first sustained comparison between the color-coded racism of nineteenth-century America and the antisemitic racism that appeared in Germany around the same time. He finds similarity enough to justify the common label but also major differences in the nature and functions of the stereotypes invoked. The book concludes with a provocative account of the rise and decline of the twentieth century's overtly racist regimes--the Jim Crow South, Nazi Germany, and apartheid South Africa--in the context of world historical developments. This illuminating work is the first to treat racism across such a sweep of history and geography. It is distinguished not only by its original comparison of modern racism's two most significant varieties--white supremacy and antisemitism--but also by its eminent readability.

From Publishers Weekly An erudite comparison of racism and anti-Semitism throughout Western history, George M. Fredrickson's amazingly concise *Racism: A Short History* explains how medieval anti-Semitism influenced the racist rationalization of the African slave trade; shows how the Enlightenment and Romanticism opened up new avenues for thinking about Jews and slaves; and contrasts American Jim Crow laws, Nazi Germany's Aryan nation and South African apartheid. A U.S. history professor at Stanford and co-director of the Research Institute for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity, Fredrickson offers a scholarly but compelling and accessible narrative. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Amid the many books on the why's of racism comes a new analysis from Fredrickson (history, Stanford Univ.), author of several books on the history of racial ideologies, including *The Arrogance of Race* and *Black Liberation*. In this concise history, Fredrickson seeks to answer where and why racism began and what forms it has taken through the ages. Combining comparative, geographical, and historical perspectives, he studies the origin of Western racism from its emergence in the late Middle Ages to the present time. He begins by defining racism as a system that establishes a permanent racial hierarchy reflecting the laws of nature or decrees of God. Thus, stigmatized groups can never change their status and rise to a position of power within the dominant group. According to Fredrickson, this was first applied to Jews in the Middle Ages. Racism spread following European expansion and the African slave trade and grew during the Enlightenment. A particularly interesting insight is the comparison of the Jim Crow South, Nazi Germany, and apartheid South Africa. Both illuminating and distressing, this book is essential reading for anyone interested in understanding the evolution of one of the darkest sides of human nature. Recommended for informed readers in both public and academic libraries. Deborah Bigelow, Leonia P.L., NJ Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. One of Choice's Outstanding Academic Titles for 2003 "In *Racism: A Short History*, written in . . . [Fredrickson's] characteristically crisp, clear prose, he draws both on a wide range of recent work by others and on nearly half a century of his own writings on immigration, race and nationalism, in the United States and elsewhere, to provide us with a masterly--though not uncontroversial--synthesis. . . The book is worth reading just for its pathbreaking attempt to tell the stories of anti-Semitism and white supremacy together, while insisting both on their inter-connections and their differences."--Kwame Anthony Appiah, *The New York Times Book Review* "Fredrickson deftly combines intellectual with social and political history to explain the emergence of racism and its recent decline. Learned and elegant."--William H. McNeill, *The New York Times Book Review* "Fredrickson [stands] out from a number of distinguished colleagues [because of] his continuing urge to widen the comparative framework he uses to try to understand why these relations have developed as they did. *Racism: A Short History* is his most drastic venture to date--a brisk positioning of Southern racial domination within world history as a whole."--John Dunn, *Times Literary Supplement* "An erudite comparison of racism and anti-Semitism throughout Western history. . . Fredrickson offers a scholarly but compelling and accessible narrative."--Publishers Weekly "Fredrickson's book should be celebrated. The chief reason is the text itself. One of only a handful of attempts to cover Western attitudes towards race comprehensively, Fredrickson's *Racism* is by far the most concise and lucid. It is also the most balanced. . . . [W]hat ultimately makes Fredrickson's book so valuable is its original vision of the major racisms--its view of

them as belonging to a coherent historical narrative. . . . ers often apply the term 'path-breaking' to works that simply trim back a few errant branches. But Fredrickson's book really is path-breaking."--Paul Reitter, *The Nation*"In this incisive and thoughtful essay on the nature and historical trajectory of racism in the modern world, Fredrickson's magisterial command of his subject is on display as he provides a concise overview of racism's rise, climax, and retreat."--Choice"Racism, in short, comes with a history, and it is to scrutinize racism's history and reasoning that Fredrickson decided to write this brisk, intense, incisive probe of the concept and its implications. The result is the best, most erudite introduction to racism available."--Carlin Romano, *Philadelphia Inquirer*"Racism: A Short History is a tour de force within this genre. Richly footnoted and elegantly written, the book is a model of clarity and sophisticated analysis."--Milton Shain, *Kleio*