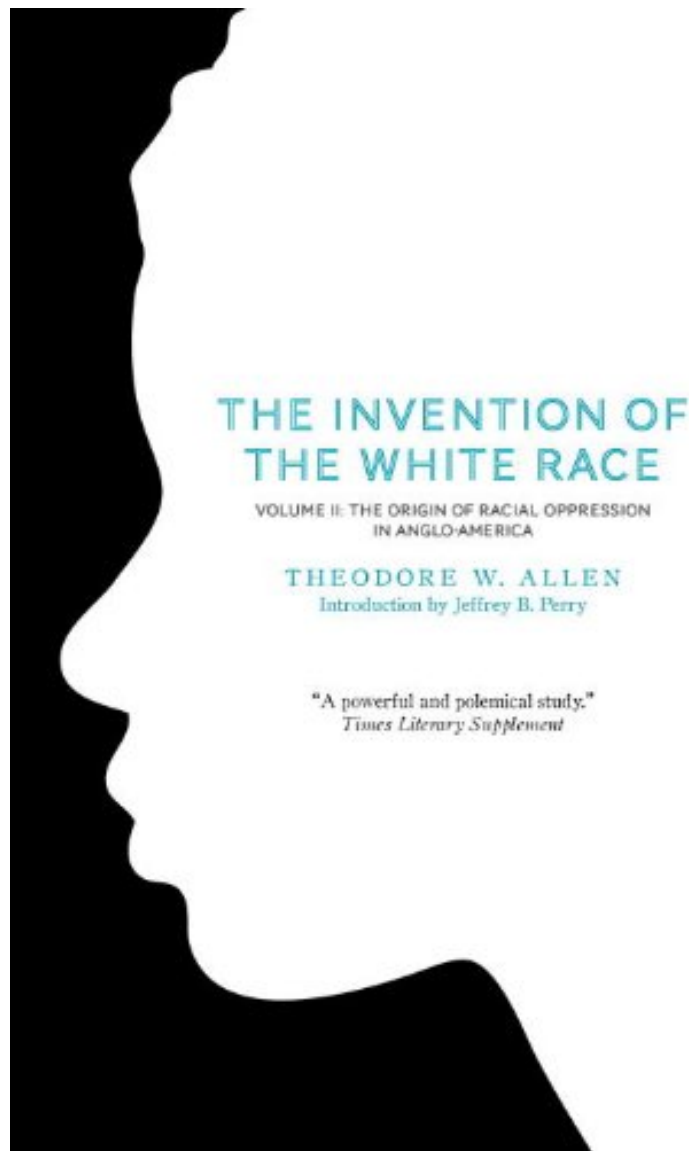


(Ebook free) The Invention of the White Race, Volume 2: The Origin of Racial Oppression in Anglo-America

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Theodore W. Allen

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Theodore W. Allen : The Invention of the White Race, Volume 2: The Origin of Racial Oppression in Anglo-America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Invention of the White Race, Volume 2: The Origin of Racial Oppression in Anglo-America:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful work! By Donald Pelles This book makes sense of American history and the American present: race relations in this country and the very concept of "race" itself: how it developed in Virginia in the 17th and early 18th Centuries and how it has played out every since, not only here but in Europe and the rest of the world as well. The nitty-gritty is in Volume II, examining in detail how contracted servitude in the beginnings of the Virginia colony developed into chattel bondage. Then in the years after Bacon's Rebellion - in which European- and African-descended bond servants made a common cause against their planter masters - the planter class invented "whiteness," dividing the working population into slaves, the Africans, and "whites," the Europeans, an insidious piece of social engineering that created stratum of poor "whites" to control the black slave population, allying that stratum to the planters themselves and against their natural allies, the slaves. Volume I discusses British oppression and control in Ireland, a very similar system and mechanism but where both oppressor and oppressed were light-skinned Europeans. The latter part of Volume II treats the period right after the Civil War, and how the promise and possibilities embodied in breaking up the plantations and distributing the land to poor whites and former slaves ("forty acres and a mule") were dashed and a new regime of slavery without the name was put in place instead. 14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. The most truly "radical" American history ever written. By Sean Ahern How and why did white supremacy establish itself in colonial Virginia in the late 17th century? Who benefited? Who lost? And why even now in the 21st century is it still a defining feature of our political and economic life? World War II and the post war Civil Rights movement pulled back the veil of American democracy to reveal to the world a sordid reality uncomfortably similar to the race supremacy practiced by Nazism and Japanese militarism. The resistance to Jim Crow posed a challenge to American historians to account for this defining feature of US society. White supremacy was enshrined in the 3/5 clause of the Constitution but even after a civil war and ten years of Reconstruction why was it resurrected in the form of Jim Crow? Theodore W Allen devoted the last 35 years of his life looking for answers. Among his numerous published and unpublished works, *The Invention of the White Race* (2 vols) is his magnum opus. Volume II in particular, subtitled *The Origin of Racial Oppression in Anglo America*, is increasingly acknowledged as a ground breaking definitive work and the foundation for a much needed and truly radical history of America. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Vitally important information for understanding society today. By Gina M. Harris Allen proves his case. It took two volumes, and studying years of history beyond 17th-century Virginia, but it all works out. There is so much information it is hard to know what to say about it, but I feel there is understanding here that is vitally important to how we need to proceed today.

On the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in 1963, Martin Luther King outlined a dream of an America where people would not be judged by the color of their skin. That dream has yet to be realized, but some three centuries ago it was a reality. Back then, neither social practice nor law recognized any special privileges in connection with being white. But by the early decades of the eighteenth century, that had all changed. Racial oppression became the norm in the plantation colonies, and African Americans suffered under its yoke for more than two hundred years. In Volume II of *The Invention of the White Race*, Theodore Allen explores the transformation that turned African bond-laborers into slaves and segregated them from their fellow proletarians of European origin. In response to labor unrest, where solidarities were not determined by skin color, the plantation bourgeoisie sought to construct a buffer of poor whites, whose new racial identity would protect them from the enslavement visited upon African Americans. This was the invention of the white race, an act of cruel ingenuity that haunts America to this day. Allen's acclaimed study has become indispensable in debates on the origins of racial oppression in America. In this updated edition, scholar Jeffrey B. Perry provides a new introduction, a select bibliography and a study guide.

"A monumental study of the birth of racism in the American South which makes truly new and convincing points about one of the most critical problems in US history ... a highly original and seminal work."—David Roediger "A powerful and polemical study."—Times Literary Supplement "In a masterful two-volume work, Theodore Allen transforms the reader's understanding of race and racial oppression from what mainstream history often portrays as an unfortunate sideshow in U.S. history to a central feature in the construction of U.S. (and indeed global) capitalism ... more than a look at history; it is a foundation for a path toward social justice."—Bill Fletcher Jr., coauthor of *Solidarity Divided: The Crisis in Organized Labor and a New Path Toward Social Justice* "A must read for all social justice activists, teachers, and scholars."—Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, author of *Red Dirt: Growing Up Okie* "Decades before people made careers 'undoing racism,' Ted Allen was working on this trailblazing study, which has become required reading."—Noel Ignatiev, coeditor of *Race Traitor*, author of *How the Irish Became White* "A real tour de force, a welcome return to empiricism in the subfield of race studies, and a timely reintroduction of class into the discourse on American exceptionalism."—Times Higher Education Supplement "As magisterial and comprehensive as the day it was first published, Theodore Allen's *The Invention of the White Race* continues to set the intellectual, analytical and rhetorical standard when it comes to understanding the real roots of white supremacy, its intrinsic connection to the class system, and the way in which persons committed to justice and equity might move society to a

different reality.”—Tim Wise, author of *White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son*“One of the most important books of U.S. history ever written. It illuminates the origins of the largest single obstacle to progressive change and working-class power in the U.S.: racism and white supremacy.”—Joe Berry, author of *Reclaiming the Ivory Tower*“As organizers of workers, we cannot effectively counter the depth of white racism in the U.S. if we don’t understand its origin and mechanisms. Ted has figured something out that can guide our work—it’s groundbreaking and it’s eye-opening.”—Gene Bruskin, *US Labor Against the War*“An intriguing book that will be cited in all future discussions about the origins of racism and slavery in America.”—*Labor Studies Journal*“A must read for educators, scholars and social change activists—now more than ever! Ted Allen’s writings illuminate the centrality of how white supremacy continues to work in maintaining a powerless American working class.”—Tami Gold, director of *RFK in the Land of Apartheid and My Country Occupied in Slave Plantation Societies*“Few books are capable of carrying the profound weight of being deemed to be a classic—this is surely one. Indeed, if one has to read one book to provide a foundation for understanding the contemporary US—read this one.”—Gerald Horne, author of *Negro Comrades of the Crown*“A richly researched and highly suggestive analysis ... Indispensable for readers interested in the disposition of power in Ireland, in the genesis of racial oppression in the U.S., or in the fluidity of ‘race’ and the historic vicissitudes of ‘whiteness.’”—Choice“‘The Invention of the White Race’ contributions to the debates on notions of a ‘white race’ are unquestionable and its relevance not simply for scholars of American history but for those interested in notions of race and class in any historical and geographical setting is beyond doubt.”—*Labour History* “Theodore W. Allen has enlisted me as a devoted reader.”—*Metro Times Literary Quarterly*“The most important book on the origin of racism in what was to become the United States—and more important now perhaps than when it was first released in the mid nineties.”—Gregory Meyerson, coeditor of *Cultural Logic*“This ‘modern classic’ presents an essential reconstruction of concepts necessary to any understanding of the Western heritage in the context of World history.”—Wilson J. Moses, author of *The Golden Age of Black Nationalism*“Truly original, and worthy of renewed engagement.”—Bruce Nelson, author of *Irish Nationalists and the Making of the Irish Race*“The Invention of the White Race is an important work for its meticulously researched materials and its insights into colonial history. Its themes and perspectives should be made available to all scholars ... A classic without which no future American history will be written.”—Audrey Smedley, author of *Race in North America: Origin and Evolution of a Worldview*“The most comprehensive and meticulously documented presentation of the historical, or as he calls it, ‘sociogenic’ theory of racial oppression.”—*Freedom Road Magazine*“In Volume One of *The Invention of the White Race: Racial Oppression and Social Control*, Theodore W. Allen painstakingly sets out the historical precedents, the comparative case studies, the means to dissect threadbare explanations of contemporary racism, and then provides us with nimble heuristic devices to disentangle the snarled derivatives of the white supremacy ideology we face today.”—Edward H. Peeples, Ph.D., Associate Professor Emeritus at Virginia Commonwealth University, civil rights activist, and author of *Twentieth Century Scalawag: A White Southerner’s Journey through Segregation to Human Rights Activism*“[The Invention of the White Race] will change your life and outlook forever. You simply can’t understand America and who we are without this book”—Carl Davidson, author of *New Paths to Socialism*“If one wants to understand the current, often contradictory, system of racial oppression in the United States—and its historical origins—there is only one place to start: Theodore Allen’s brilliant, illuminating, *The Invention of the White Race*.”—Michael Goldfield, author of *The Color of Politics: Race and the Mainsprings of American Politics*“Immigration historians should be particularly interested in Allen’s analysis of how the Irish, victims of racial oppression at home, learned that they were ‘white’ once they crossed the Atlantic and became ... supporters of a system of racial oppression in the United States.”—*Journal of American Ethnic History*“Allen has produced a two-volume tour de force that situates the development of racism, white supremacy, and racial identities in context of the sixteenth and seventeenth century British conquest of Ireland, the Atlantic slave trade, the rise of chattel bond-servitude in the Caribbean and English-speaking North America, and the destruction of Native American societies.”—Charles L. Lumpkins, author of *American Pogrom: The East St. Louis Race Riot and Black Politics*“Anyone who wants to understand the peculiar state of working class organizing in the USA ... needs to study and learn from the insights provided by the work of ... Allen.”—George N. Schmidt, editor of *Substance News*“Allen’s work adds a level of detail often overlooked. He incorporates ‘white’ people into the discussion, and not just as proponents and perpetrators of slavery. He shows how most ... whites perpetuated their own subordination by rejecting alliances with people of color.”—Kim Scipes, *Logos*“This outstanding, insightful original work with profound implications for the fractured working class protest tradition of the United States could not be more timely as working people throughout the world are shamelessly robbed and dispossessed by the financial manipulations of our Wall Street titans still wielding their poison bait of white skin privilege.”—Gwendolyn Midlo Hall, author of *Social Control in Slave Plantation Societies*“Essential reading for all students of race and power in America. This path-breaking research reframes and cuts across the disciplines of history, sociology and politics, shedding a dynamic new light on the important and often hidden phenomenon of race in America’s cultural evolution.”—Joseph Wilson, co-author *Race and Labor Matters in the New US Economy*“One of the great contributions of Allen’s study is a complete debunking of the myth that race and skin color are the same thing.”—Jonathan Scott, author of *Socialist Joy in the Writings of Langston Hughes*“The transition

from being poor, dispossessed, Catholic and oppressed when in Ireland, to fully ordained members of the 'white race' when in America, with all the privileges, rights and immunities appertaining thereto, illustrates the sociological relativity of notions of race ... [and] confirms Allen's preference for a 'sociogenic' understanding of racial oppression rooted in sociological processes, rather than 'phylogenic' or genetic interpretations."—Ethnic Racial Studies“Allen ... an independent scholar ... has pursued an idea across the frontier of conventional specializations, supported in his labours by a belief that to determine the origin of white racism will contribute to its eradication. It is difficult to envisage such a work being produced in the wasteland of contemporary academic life.”—Ecumene“Allen's use of the Irish example lends support to the argument that race is a social construction. A strength of Allen's book is his effort to view race apart from biology, to see racial categories as ever-changing social conventions and not as immutable classifications fixed in nature or the human psyche.”—Virginia Magazine of History and Biography“Allen is concerned here with ... a comparative analysis of racial oppression in Ireland and in the United States ... and the shift in identity among Irish immigrant Catholics, who moved from a group oppressed on racial grounds in Ireland to one defined as 'white' in the United States ... What pulls the entire discussion together is the notion of 'Social Control.' Allen argues that racial oppression (racial social control) is one of various mechanisms a ruling elite can utilize to protect its position in society.”—Contemporary Sociology“Allen champions the superiority of socioeconomic over psychocultural approaches to the study of race and slavery ... [and] notes, “only by ‘understanding what was peculiar about the Peculiar Institution can one know what is exceptional about ‘American Exceptionalism.’”—Journal of American History“Allen sees race as an invention—and he knows who invented it. Racial slavery was the creation of colonial power (or a ruling class, or the bourgeoisie), and what was done in North America was analogous to what was done in Ireland. So the struggle against capitalism and the struggle against race are part of the same campaign.”—Tribune (London)“Allen's two volume masterpiece—The Invention of the White Race—is vital ammunition for those of us engaged in Revolutionary Change because his work helps to expose the current myth of a post-racial US society/world and reveal the underbelly of a dying capitalism's hyper-racial world of violence, terror and human and natural exploitation.”—S.E. Anderson, author of The Black Holocaust for Beginners“If you hope to understand the tangled history of race and class, The Invention of the White Race has to be on your reading list.”—Will Shetterly, author of Dogland“The notion of 'privilege' is ubiquitous amongst radicals today. But few of them understand its origins in Ted Allen's conception of 'white privilege,' and fewer still have read and wrestled with his masterwork The Invention of the White Race. Allen's provocative thesis—that the 'white race' was a category constructed to suppress class conflict—asks deep and troubling questions about the foundation of the United States and the intersection of race and class, while openly challenging the Left's fundamental assumptions about social change in this country.”—Spencer Sunshine, assistant editor of Monthly About the AuthorTheodore W. Allen (1919–2005) was an anti-white supremacist, working-class intellectual and activist who began his pioneering work on “white skin privilege” and “white race” privilege in 1965. He co-authored the influential White Blindspot (1967), authored “Can White Workers Radicals Be Radicalized?” (1969), and wrote the ground-breaking Class Struggle and the Origin of Racial Slavery: The Invention of the White Race (1975) before publication of his seminal two-volume classic The Invention of the White Race (1994, 1997).