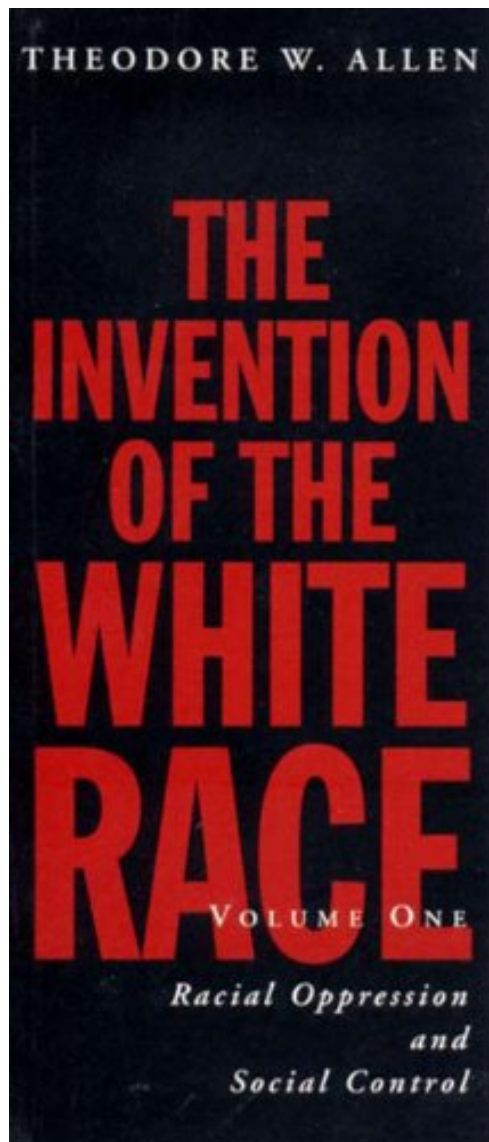


(Library ebook) The Invention of the White Race (Volume One: Racial Oppression and Social Control)  
(Haymarket Series)

## The Invention of the White Race (Volume One: Racial Oppression and Social Control) (Haymarket Series)

*Theodore W. Allen*

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**Theodore W. Allen : The Invention of the White Race (Volume One: Racial Oppression and Social Control) (Haymarket Series)** 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 One: Racial Oppression and Social Control) (Haymarket Series):

4 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Excellent and important work, but not clearly edited. By Walter D. Teague I am reading this and find it very interesting and an important historical work. However, the layout and editing is poor and confusing. Also redundant. Many similarly important works have been better presented. This is a work that should be easily read and remembered by all, not just professionals and scholars. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. People need to know this. By Gina M. Harris Good information, but really long, and I find electronic versions harder, but that's what was available to me. It is interesting in that so many slavery defenders use the Irish as examples of "worse" treatment. Comparing the long-term history of the Irish under English persecution, going back hundreds of years, is a better grounds for comparison - though there were some ways in which the Irish were treated more like the American Indians, and some ways in which it makes sense to look at Scottish slavery, all of which Allen does. The tragic thing becomes that even though the Irish in America had plenty of reasons to understand about prejudice and how damaging it could be, they quickly aligned with it as a way of protecting their own position. It is tragic that now and then people will still not see that allowing the oppression of one group may make your own status look better in comparison, but also holds you down. The material is still very timely, even though we should have had time and opportunity enough to be better by now. The funny thing is that in some ways it sounds like this volume's primary purpose was to lay the groundwork for volume 2, but it says some pretty important things on its own. Part of what the book covers in exhaustive detail is other theories of racism and their shortcomings. That makes the book drag in the beginning, but it is useful as well. 18 of 20 people found the following review helpful. a must have for anti racist and radicals. By landon howard I urge anyone (anti racist white folk especially) who are interested more fully understanding the social control function of white privilege and the national oppression of non white folk in the US and abroad in the form of imperialism. Allen does a excellent job at helping the reader understand the real history of white supremacy, class exploitation and crucially how they are interdependent. Although the content is very down to earth and understandable it is thick intellectually and challenges the reader to think about the nature of class society and possible alternatives. Enjoy

When the first Africans arrived in Virginia in 1619, there were no "white" people there; nor, according to colonial records, would there be for another sixty years. Historical debate about the origin of racial slavery has focused on the status of the Negro in seventeenth-century Virginia and Maryland. However, as Theodore W. Allen argues in this magisterial work, what needs to be studied is the transformation of English, Scottish, Irish and other European colonists from their various statuses as servants, tenants, planters or merchants into a single new all-inclusive status: that of whites. This is the key to the paradox of American history, of a democracy resting on race assumptions. Volume One of this two-volume work attempts to escape the "white blind spot" which has distorted consecutive studies of the issue. It does so by looking in the mirror of Irish history for a definition of racial oppression and for an explanation of that phenomenon in terms of social control, free from the absurdities of classification by skin color. Compelling analogies are presented between the history of Anglo-Irish and British rule in Ireland and American White Supremacist oppression of Indians and African-Americans. But the relativity of race is shown in the sea change it entailed, whereby emigrating Irish haters of racial oppression were transformed into White Americans who defended it. The reasons for the differing outcomes of Catholic Emancipation and Negro Emancipation are considered and occasion is made to demonstrate Allen's distinction between racial and national oppression.

"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, University of Missouri  
About the Author Theodore 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).