



# Lifting the White Veil: An Exploration of White American Culture in a Multiracial Context

By Jeff Hitchcock

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*Lifting the White Veil* is a highly readable, information packed, personable and engaging work. One might imagine there is little to say about the experience of being white in America. Hitchcock not only proves this false, he shows why looking at white culture is a necessary step in fostering a multiracial society.

The book draws upon contemporary scholarly thought from a range of disciplines, including history, psychology, sociology, and literary studies. But the author retains a common touch, adding his personal observations and experiences, fusing an informative fact-based presentation with some old-fashioned self-revelation and story telling.

*Lifting the White Veil* is an uplifting, thought-provoking and hopeful book that will point white Americans in new and fruitful directions, both in terms of self-understanding and in terms of moving toward the actualization of a multiracial society in the United States.

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### Editorial Review

From the Publisher

Testimonials

In *Lifting the White Veil* Jeff Hitchcock provides an insightful, challenging and much needed roadmap for moving towards a multiracial society. -- Paul Kivel -- (*Author of Uprooting Racism: How White People Can Work for Racial Justice*)

From the classroom to the corporate board room this is a must read. *Lifting the White Veil* by Jeff Hitchcock provides a straight forward, no nonsense, no guilt, no blame book to help white people understand and explore what it means to be White in America. This bold and comprehensive book is a major contribution and critical tool for us all to better understand one of the unspoken aspects of race and race relations today -- being white. -- Judith H. Katz, Ed. D. -- (*Executive Vice President, Kaleel Jamison Consulting Group, and author of White Awareness: Handbook for Anti-Racism Training, Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 1978, 2003*)

Rather than preach, Hitchcock shares frank and often brutally honest reflections on his own struggles with racism. In doing so, he eloquently drives home the point that an examination of white culture is, while at times painful, possible and worthwhile for all white Americans. -- Kathleen Korgen, Ph.D. -- (*Author of From Black to Biracial, Praeger 1998, 1999*)

Jeff Hitchcock has performed an invaluable service with this volume, for persons at all levels of anti-racist experience. By presenting the often difficult-to-discuss issues of racism and racial identity in clear, concise language, he has provided newcomers to these subjects with a critical starting point; and for those more versed in the dialogue of race, he has reminded us why these matters are so important. -- Tim Wise -- (*Antiracist activist, essayist, advisor to Fisk University Race Relations Institute*)

From the Inside Flap

Race--a provocative issue--is often confusing and almost always controversial, particularly to white people. Here, author and white studies expert Jeff Hitchcock explores how cultural practices of the past can no longer guide white Americans who want to truly experience living in a multiracial society.

The first chapter sets the tone for the book by opening with a riddle: Logic says if A is different from B, then B is different from A. When it comes to race, people of color are different from white people, but white people are not different from anything. At least that's what our contemporary thinking leads us to believe. The author goes on to suggest that there is a discrepancy between dreams of racial togetherness and the reality of racial experience--or the lack thereof.

Part I continues with a discussion on the definition of a multiracial society. Hitchcock points out a fascinating fact: Simple math demonstrates that in four generations, if race made no difference in the selection of marriage partners, the number of purely white people in the United States would go from 70 percent to 1 percent. Further chapters discuss "remedial education for white folk" and how color-blindness is used to avoid discussing race.

Part II provides an overview of the first 250 years of European settlement within the United States. The

author discusses a series of "problems" the culture encountered and shows how solutions evolved into the current definition of whiteness. Chapter 6 provides some perspective on slavery and ownership of culture: "Rather than bloodlines, we can speak of ancestors as those who came before us in the past and shaped our way of life. Their connection to us may not be by direct genealogical descent, but in creating the cultural surroundings into which we are born, usually in association with those from whom we are directly descended, these people in fact have created us as the people we are."

The author looks ahead to the near future at some of the issues and possible developments of white studies in Part III. He discusses the first National Conference on Whiteness and White American Culture and examines other trends of a new, anti-racist white consciousness. He also provides additional resources for further study.

### About the Author

Jeff Hitchcock is the co-founder and executive director of the Center for the Study of White American Culture, Inc. The Center's mission is to define and examine white U.S. culture and to address its role in, and impact on, the greater American culture. The Center publishes educational materials; operates a web site; undertakes public speaking appearances; offers workshops, training, and consulting services; and conducts research on cultural issues.

Hitchcock has a master's degree in social and personality psychology from Rutgers University and an MBA from the Stern School of Business at New York University. He is a past president of G.I.F.T. (Getting Interracial Families Together), an interracial social group based in Montclair, New Jersey, and a member of the Beta Gamma Sigma Honorary Society.

He has presented dozens of workshops at universities and conferences all over the United States, covering such topics as "Learning How to Talk About Whiteness," "White Culture in America: Myth or Fact?," "Becoming Multiracial," and "Decentering Whiteness to Create Multiracial Community." Additionally, Hitchcock has been a frequent presenter, panelist, discussion leader, and speaker on aspects of contemporary white American culture.

Hitchcock, who happened to be born white in America, has been living a multiracial lifestyle for many years. He has been married since 1982 to a black feminist sociologist--Charley Flint, with whom he co-founded the Center for the Study of White American Culture--and is the father of two children of color.

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In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in each and every way. By being competitive now, people have do something to make these people survives, being in the middle of the actual crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that sometimes many people have underestimated that for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a reserve your ability to survive enhance then having chance to endure than other is high. To suit your needs who want to start reading a book, we give you this Lifting the White Veil: An Exploration of White American Culture in a Multiracial Context book as nice and daily reading book. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

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