

nell irvin painter the history of white people

****Nell Irvin Painter and The History of White People: Unpacking Race, Identity, and Power****

nell irvin painter the history of white people is more than just a phrase or a topic; it opens the door to a fascinating exploration into how race—and particularly whiteness—has been constructed, understood, and wielded throughout history. Nell Irvin Painter, a distinguished historian and scholar, has profoundly influenced the way we think about race in America and beyond. Her work challenges the simplistic notions of racial identity, especially focusing on the often overlooked or misunderstood concept of whiteness itself.

In this article, we'll delve into how Painter's book **The History of White People** sheds light on the social, cultural, and political construction of whiteness, tracing its origins and evolution over centuries. By examining her insights, we gain a richer understanding of race as a fluid and powerful social category rather than a fixed biological fact. Along the way, we'll explore related themes such as racial identity, racial hierarchy, and the historical contexts that shaped these ideas.

Who Is Nell Irvin Painter?

Nell Irvin Painter is an esteemed American historian known for her work on African American history, race relations, and the history of ideas. With a career spanning decades, Painter's scholarship stands out for its depth, clarity, and commitment to unveiling the complexities of race in American society. Her academic background and personal experience as a Black woman historian add unique perspectives to her analysis of whiteness, making her work both authoritative and engaging.

Painter's book **The History of White People**, published in 2010, is a groundbreaking study that traces how "white people" came to be defined and understood through history. It dismantles the assumption that whiteness is a natural or self-evident category, revealing instead how it was created and maintained through cultural, scientific, and political means.

The Origins of Whiteness: Insights from Nell Irvin Painter

One of the most compelling parts of Painter's work is how she traces the idea

of whiteness back to its historical roots. Contrary to popular belief, the concept of whiteness as a distinct racial identity is relatively recent, emerging primarily in the last 500 years.

From Antiquity to the Middle Ages

Painter explains that in ancient civilizations such as Greece and Rome, people did not categorize others primarily by skin color. Instead, distinctions were often made based on culture, language, or class. The notion of “white people” as a separate racial group simply didn’t exist.

During the Middle Ages, Europe was marked by diverse populations with various ethnic backgrounds, but skin color was not the main way people were classified. It was only with the onset of European colonialism and the transatlantic slave trade that a rigid racial hierarchy began to form, placing whiteness at the top.

The Role of Science and Pseudoscience

Painter’s research also highlights how emerging scientific ideas in the 18th and 19th centuries played a pivotal role in defining whiteness. Early anthropologists and scientists attempted to categorize humans by race, often placing white Europeans as superior based on flawed measurements and biased theories.

This pseudoscientific approach gave a veneer of legitimacy to racial discrimination and helped entrench white supremacy in social and political institutions. Painter carefully unpacks these developments, showing how they were less about objective truth and more about power dynamics.

Understanding Whiteness as a Social Construct

A central message in **The History of White People** is that whiteness is not a biological given but a social construct—meaning it is created and maintained through social practices, laws, and cultural narratives.

Whiteness and Power

Painter emphasizes that defining who counts as white has always been linked with power. Being categorized as white historically meant access to privilege, rights, and social status. Conversely, those excluded from whiteness were often marginalized and oppressed.

This dynamic is visible in laws that restricted citizenship, property ownership, and voting rights based on race. Painter's work invites readers to reflect on how these historic processes still shape racial inequalities today.

The Fluidity of Whiteness

Interestingly, Painter reveals that the boundaries of whiteness have shifted over time. Groups now considered white, such as Irish, Italians, and Eastern Europeans, were once excluded from this category in America.

This fluidity underscores that whiteness is not fixed but changes according to social, economic, and political contexts. Such insights challenge rigid racial classifications and encourage a more nuanced understanding of identity.

Why Nell Irvin Painter's Work Matters Today

In a time when racial tensions and debates about identity are highly visible, Painter's **The History of White People** offers crucial historical context. It helps demystify race and reminds us that racial categories are human-made, not natural.

Understanding the constructed nature of whiteness can help dismantle racism by exposing the arbitrary lines drawn between people. It also prompts important questions about privilege, belonging, and justice in contemporary society.

Applications in Education and Social Discourse

Educators, activists, and policymakers can draw on Painter's scholarship to foster more inclusive and honest conversations about race. Teaching the history of whiteness alongside the histories of other racial groups promotes a fuller picture of American and global history.

Moreover, it encourages individuals to critically examine their own identities and the social systems that shape them.

Tips for Engaging with the History of Whiteness

If you're interested in exploring this topic further, here are some helpful approaches:

- **Read primary sources:** Look at historical documents and texts that illustrate how whiteness was discussed in different eras.
- **Explore interdisciplinary studies:** Combine history with sociology, anthropology, and cultural studies for a well-rounded view.
- **Reflect on personal and societal implications:** Consider how the history of whiteness influences current social dynamics and your own perspectives.
- **Engage in dialogue:** Discuss these ideas with diverse groups to broaden understanding and empathy.

Related Themes in Nell Irvin Painter's Scholarship

While *The History of White People* is a key work, Painter's broader scholarship touches on several related themes that enrich the conversation about race and identity.

African American History and Identity

Painter's deep knowledge of African American history provides essential context for understanding whiteness. By studying Black experiences, struggles, and resistance, she highlights how racial categories have been constructed in opposition to Blackness.

Race and American Politics

Painter often explores how race shapes political structures and policies. The history of whiteness is inseparable from the history of American democracy, citizenship, and civil rights movements.

Art and Cultural Representations

Painter also investigates how art, literature, and popular culture have reflected and reinforced ideas about race and whiteness. These cultural expressions play a significant role in shaping public perceptions and identities.

Nell Irvin Painter's **The History of White People** invites us to reconsider everything we think we know about race and identity. By uncovering the origins and evolution of whiteness, Painter not only enriches our historical knowledge but also equips us to challenge ongoing inequalities. Engaging with her work is a step toward a more informed and just society, where the categories that divide us can be understood—and perhaps transcended—through thoughtful reflection and dialogue.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Nell Irvin Painter and what is her significance in history?

Nell Irvin Painter is a distinguished American historian and author known for her work on African American history and race relations. She is significant for her scholarly contributions that challenge traditional narratives about race and identity in America.

What is the main focus of Nell Irvin Painter's book 'The History of White People'?

'The History of White People' by Nell Irvin Painter explores the social construction of whiteness, tracing the concept of 'white people' from ancient times to the present. The book examines how definitions of whiteness have changed over time and their impact on race relations.

How does 'The History of White People' challenge traditional views on race?

The book challenges traditional views by showing that whiteness is not a fixed biological category but a social and historical construct that has evolved. Painter highlights how racial categories were created and manipulated to justify social hierarchies and power dynamics.

What time periods does Nell Irvin Painter cover in 'The History of White People'?

Painter covers a broad historical range, starting from ancient civilizations such as the Greeks and Romans, through the Middle Ages and Renaissance, up to modern times, illustrating the changing ideas and definitions of whiteness throughout history.

Why is 'The History of White People' relevant in

contemporary discussions about race?

The book is relevant today as it provides context for understanding how concepts of race and whiteness have been historically constructed and used to maintain social privilege, helping readers critically examine ongoing racial inequalities and systemic racism.

What methodologies does Nell Irvin Painter use in her research for 'The History of White People'?

Painter employs interdisciplinary methods, combining history, anthropology, sociology, and critical race theory. She analyzes historical texts, art, literature, and legal documents to trace the evolving concept of whiteness across different cultures and time periods.

Additional Resources

****Nell Irvin Painter and The History of White People: Unveiling the Complexities of Race****

nell irvin painter the history of white people is a phrase that resonates deeply within academic and cultural discussions surrounding race, identity, and historical narratives. Nell Irvin Painter, a distinguished historian, has profoundly influenced contemporary understandings of race through her seminal work, **The History of White People**. This book challenges conventional perceptions of whiteness, interrogating the social constructs that have shaped racial categorizations over centuries. Painter's meticulous scholarship offers a critical lens through which readers can examine the evolution of whiteness—not as a static racial category but as a dynamic and contested concept embedded in power relations and historical contexts.

Understanding the Premise of **The History of White People**

At its core, Painter's **The History of White People** deconstructs the notion of whiteness, tracing its origins from antiquity to modern times. Unlike traditional histories that often center non-white experiences as deviations from a white norm, Painter turns the spotlight on whiteness itself, revealing it as a historically contingent identity. This approach disrupts the often-unquestioned association of whiteness with universality and normality, emphasizing instead its constructed and mutable nature.

Painter situates whiteness within the broader framework of racial theories, colonialism, and social hierarchies, demonstrating how definitions of who qualifies as "white" have shifted in response to geopolitical, economic, and cultural pressures. From ancient Greek and Roman times, where skin color

played a different role in social stratification, to the racial codifications of the Enlightenment and subsequent racial science, Painter meticulously maps the transformation of whiteness into a potent symbol of privilege and exclusion.

Historical Construction of Whiteness

One of the book's key strengths lies in its exploration of the fluidity of whiteness across different periods and regions. Painter highlights how whiteness was not always a fixed racial category but one that adapted to serve particular political and social functions. For example:

- **Ancient Civilizations:** In ancient Mediterranean societies, distinctions were more cultural and class-based rather than racial. Skin color was not the primary determinant of social status.
- **Medieval and Early Modern Europe:** Concepts of ethnicity and religion played a more significant role than skin color in defining group identities.
- **Colonial Era:** The rise of European imperialism necessitated clearer racial boundaries to justify slavery and subjugation, solidifying whiteness as a marker of superiority.

Such historical nuances underscore how race, particularly whiteness, is less about inherent biological differences and more about evolving power dynamics.

Race, Power, and the Social Implications of Whiteness

Painter's work goes beyond historical recounting to interrogate the social and political implications of whiteness as a racial identity. She argues that whiteness has often functioned as a mechanism of social control, maintaining hierarchies through exclusion and systemic advantage. This insight is particularly relevant in understanding contemporary racial issues in the United States and beyond.

The book also addresses how whiteness operates invisibly, often perceived as the default or norm against which other races are measured. This invisibility perpetuates privilege by obscuring the ways in which racial identities shape access to resources, rights, and representation. By making whiteness visible and subject to critical analysis, Painter encourages a more honest reckoning with race relations.

Critical Reception and Impact on Race Studies

Since its publication, *The History of White People* has been widely praised for its rigorous scholarship and accessible prose. Scholars and critics alike commend Painter for challenging entrenched racial paradigms and expanding the discourse on race beyond simplistic binaries. Her interdisciplinary approach—drawing from history, anthropology, and sociology—enriches the narrative, making it a vital resource for students, academics, and general readers interested in race and identity.

In the context of race studies, Painter's contribution is significant because it shifts the focus from marginalized groups to the dominant category. This inversion is crucial for understanding systemic racism, as it reveals how whiteness functions structurally rather than as an inherent racial trait.

Pros and Cons of Painter's Approach

While Painter's analysis is groundbreaking, it also invites debate and further inquiry:

- **Pros:**

- Comprehensive historical scope that spans centuries and continents.
- Clear dismantling of racial essentialism and biological determinism.
- Encourages critical thinking about power structures and privilege.

- **Cons:**

- Some critics argue the broad scope can lead to generalized conclusions that may overlook regional specificities.
- The focus on whiteness might be challenging for readers unfamiliar with racial theory due to its academic density.

Nevertheless, these critiques do not diminish the book's importance but rather highlight areas for ongoing research and dialogue.

The Relevance of **The History of White People** Today

In an era marked by heightened awareness of racial justice and equity, Nell Irvin Painter's **The History of White People** offers critical insights into understanding contemporary dynamics of race. Movements such as Black Lives Matter and debates over systemic racism in education, policing, and politics underscore the urgency of unpacking how whiteness operates as a social construct.

Painter's work equips readers with a historical framework to better comprehend why racial categories persist and how they can be challenged. By recognizing whiteness as a historically contingent identity rather than a natural given, society can begin to address the root causes of racial inequality.

Moreover, the book's exploration of whiteness has implications beyond the United States, resonating in post-colonial societies grappling with racial legacies. It encourages global conversations about identity, inclusion, and justice.

Who Should Read **The History of White People**?

- Students and scholars in history, sociology, and ethnic studies seeking a nuanced understanding of race.
- Activists and policymakers aiming to address systemic racism through informed perspectives.
- General readers interested in the social construction of race and its historical development.

By engaging with Painter's comprehensive research, readers gain a deeper appreciation of the complexities surrounding race and the enduring impact of whiteness on societal structures.

Nell Irvin Painter's **The History of White People** stands as a landmark work that challenges readers to rethink conventional narratives about race. Through exhaustive historical analysis and critical interrogation of racial identities, Painter reveals the mutable and constructed nature of whiteness, inviting ongoing reflection on its role in shaping history and contemporary society.

Nell Irvin Painter The History Of White People

nell irvin painter the history of white people: The History of White People Nell Irvin Painter, 2011-04-18 A New York Times Bestseller This terrific new book...[explores] the 'notion of whiteness,' an idea as dangerous as it is seductive. —Boston Globe Telling perhaps the most important forgotten story in American history, eminent historian Nell Irvin Painter guides us through more than two thousand years of Western civilization, illuminating not only the invention of race but also the frequent praise of "whiteness" for economic, scientific, and political ends. A story filled with towering historical figures, The History of White People closes a huge gap in literature that has long focused on the non-white and forcefully reminds us that the concept of "race" is an all-too-human invention whose meaning, importance, and reality have changed as it has been driven by a long and rich history of events.

nell irvin painter the history of white people: Das weiße Denken Lilian Thuram, 2022-03-14 Was bedeutet es, weiß zu sein? Der frühere französische Fußballstar Lilian Thuram engagiert sich seit langem in der antirassistischen Bildungsarbeit. Anschaulich beschreibt er, wie die europäischen Gesellschaften die Kategorien Schwarz und weiß erfunden haben, um Kolonialismus, Versklavung und Ausbeutung zu rechtfertigen. Bis heute zementiert das weiße Denken Herrschaftsverhältnisse und Ungleichheit in der ganzen Welt. In vielen Beispielen, auch aus seiner persönlichen Erfahrung, zeigt Thuram, wie diese Deutungsmuster funktionieren und wie sie allgemeingültig werden konnten. Thuram bezieht sich immer wieder auf postkoloniale Diskurse, auf Frantz Fanon und Aimé Césaire, James Baldwin und Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison und Achille Mbembe. Sein Buch ist ein zutiefst humanistischer Appell, eingeschliffene Denkstrukturen zu hinterfragen, um so das Fundament für neue Solidaritäten zu legen. Nur dann können wir einander endlich wieder als Menschen begegnen – und die Krisen der Gegenwart gemeinsam bewältigen.

nell irvin painter the history of white people: A White Catholic's Guide to Racism and Privilege Horan, Daniel P., 2025-03-05

nell irvin painter the history of white people: The Religion of Whiteness Michael O. Emerson, Glenn E. Bracey II, 2024 Michael O. Emerson and Glenn E. Bracey II argue that most white Christians in America are believers in a Religion of Whiteness that raises the perpetuation of racial inequality to a spiritual commitment and shapes their faith, their politics, and more. Using national survey data, in-depth interviews, and focus group results gathered over several years, Emerson and Bracey show how the Religion of Whiteness shapes the practice of Christianity for millions of Americans--and what can be done to confront it.

nell irvin painter the history of white people: Die koloniale Karibik Gesine Müller, 2012-05-29 Werden nicht in der Karibik des 19. Jahrhunderts Phänomene und Prozesse vorweg-genommen, die heute erst ins Bewusstsein gelangen? Der Blick auf die kaleidoskopartige Welt der Karibik über literarische und kulturelle Transprozesse in jener Epoche erlaubt völlig neue Einsichten in die frühen Prozesse der kulturellen Globalisierung. Rassistische Diskurse, etablierte Modelle „weißer“ Abolitionisten, Erinnerungspolitiken und die bisher kaum wahrgenommene Rolle der haitianischen Revolution verbinden sich zu einem Amalgam, das unser gängiges Konzept einer genuin westlichen Moderne in Frage stellt. Migration, Zirkulation und Vernetzung zwischen verschiedensten geographischen Räumen, aber auch Orientierungs- und Heimatlosigkeit gelten als charakteristisch für unsere heutigen Gesellschaften. Diese Phänomene der Deterritorialisierung lassen sich in der karibischen Inselwelt schon für das 19. Jahrhundert beobachten, wo Piraten und Sklavenhändler zwischen Imperien und Kontinenten hin- und hersegeln, Schriftsteller von einem Exil ins nächste fliehen, oder auch analphabetische Kleinkrämerinnen als Nachrichtenüberbringer zwischen den Welten fungieren. Ein faszinierender Ausgangspunkt für die Untersuchung der Bruchstellen kolonialer Systeme.

nell irvin painter the history of white people: Geschichtsvermittlung postkolonial Philipp Bernhard, 2024-06-17 Postkoloniale Theorie polarisiert: Den einen gilt sie als »Supertheorie« für das

Zeitalter der Globalisierung, anderen dagegen als elitärer Diskurs, der zu konfliktfördernder Identitätspolitik führt. Doch welche Rolle kann sie für die geschichtsdidaktische Theorie und den Geschichtsunterricht spielen? Philipp Bernhard prüft diese Frage anhand einer systematischen geschichtsdidaktischen Analyse »postkolonialer« Lehr-Lernmaterialien. Er leitet daraus vier Grundüberlegungen (»Claims«) für eine Umsetzung postkolonialer Theorieansätze in der Geschichtsvermittlung ab. Dabei zeigt sich: Die Geschichtsdidaktik muss die Postkoloniale Theorie kritisch reflektieren, kann aber auf deren Impulse für die Weiterentwicklung von Theorie und (Unterrichts-)Praxis nicht verzichten.

nell irvin painter the history of white people: Aufsässige Leben, schöne Experimente Saidiya Hartman, 2022-03-31 Eine unbekannte Geschichte weiblicher Selbstermächtigung und kultureller Revolution Im frühen 20. Jahrhundert erprobten junge afroamerikanische Frauen in großstädtischen Slums neue, subversive Formen der Liebe und der Solidarität außerhalb von Konvention und Gesetz: nichteheliche Partnerschaften und flüchtige Ehen, queere Identitäten und alleinerziehende Mutterschaft. Ihren Lebensentwürfe waren revolutionär, doch sie selbst sind vergessen. In ihrem bahnbrechenden, berührend schönen Buch erweitert Saidiya Hartman unsere Vorstellung von Geschichtsschreibung radikal. Sie belebt das historische Archiv mit literarischer Imagination und rekonstruiert die experimentellen Welten und rebellischen Begehren dieser Vorreiterinnen.

nell irvin painter the history of white people: The Crisis, 2010 The Crisis, founded by W.E.B. Du Bois as the official publication of the NAACP, is a journal of civil rights, history, politics, and culture and seeks to educate and challenge its readers about issues that continue to plague African Americans and other communities of color. For nearly 100 years, The Crisis has been the magazine of opinion and thought leaders, decision makers, peacemakers and justice seekers. It has chronicled, informed, educated, entertained and, in many instances, set the economic, political and social agenda for our nation and its multi-ethnic citizens.

nell irvin painter the history of white people: Sonic Identity at the Margins Joanna Love, Jessie Fillerup, 2022-01-13 Sonic Identity at the Margins convenes the interdisciplinary work of 17 academics, composers, and performers to examine sonic identity from the 19th century to the present. Recognizing the myriad aspects of identity formation, the authors in this volume adopt methodological approaches that range from personal accounts and embodied expression to archival research and hermeneutic interpretation. They examine real and imagined spaces-from video games and monument sites to films and depictions of outer space-by focusing on sonic creation, performance, and reception. Drawing broadly from artistic and performance disciplines, the authors reimagine the roles played by music and sound in constructing notions of identity in a broad array of musical experiences, from anti-slavery songsters to Indigenous tunes and soundscapes, noise and multimedia to popular music and symphonic works. Exploring relationships between sound and various markers of identity-including race, gender, ability, and nationality-the authors explore challenging, timely topics, including the legacies of slavery, indigeneity, immigration, and colonial expansion. In heeding recent calls to decolonize music studies and confront its hegemonic methods, the authors interrogate privileged perspectives embedded in creating, performing, and listening to sound, as well as the approaches used to analyze these experiences.

nell irvin painter the history of white people: The Columbian Covenant: Race and the Writing of American History James Carson, 2014-12-18 This provocative analysis of American historiography argues that when scholars use modern racial language to articulate past histories of race and society, they collapse different historical signs of skin color into a transhistorical and essentialist notion of race that implicates their work in the very racial categories they seek to transcend.

nell irvin painter the history of white people: Wages of Whiteness & Racist Symbolic Capital Wulf D. Hund, Jeremy Krikler, David R. Roediger, 2010 This book's contents include: Accounting for the Wages of Whiteness: U.S Marxism and the Critical History of Race * Racist Symbolic Capital: A Bourdieuan Approach to the Analysis of Racism * Negative Societalisation:

Racism and the Constitution of Race * A Paroxysm of Whiteness: White Labor, White Nation and White Sugar in Australia * Re-thinking Race and Class in South Africa: Some Ways Forward * A White Man's Country? The Chinese Labor Controversy in the Transvaal * Racializing Transnationalism: The Ford Motor Company and White Supremacy from Detroit to South Africa (Series: Racism Analysis - Series B: Yearbooks - Vol. 1)

nell irvin painter the history of white people: The Prophetic Lens Phil Allen Jr., 2022-09-13 Martin Luther King used news cameras as a means of exposing anti-Black violence by white mobs in the 1950s and 60s. Darnella Frazier used her phone to record and post the murder of George Floyd by Derek Chauvin in May 2020. These are just two of many people who have captured images of injustice for the world to see. The Prophetic Lens takes an important look at the use of the video camera as an indispensable prophetic tool for the security of Black lives and greater possibility for racial justice. Phil Allen shows how the camera can be a catalyst for cultural change, using Walter Brueggemann's Prophetic Imagination as a framework for understanding the concept of prophetic. Chronicling the use of the camera, particularly in film from J.D. Griffiths' Birth of a Nation to Spike Lee's Do the Right Thing, Allen's historical approach reveals how effective this technology has been in achieving the goals of its respective storytellers. The book highlights both the prophetic potential of the camera and the context of Blackness as a liminal existence amid a context dominated by whiteness.

nell irvin painter the history of white people: The Rhetoric of Manipulation Robert Harvey, 2025-03-20 A provocative and timely look at how language is used to manipulate the truth, how our gullibility leaves us susceptible to manipulation, and what we can do to reverse these trends. The Rhetoric of Manipulation looks behind the curtain of political and social communications in the age of "fake news" and the "post-truth" to show how the perversely engineered semantics at work today shapes culture and undermines reality. While language has always been manipulated to direct or anesthetize thought, today's semantic perversions orient opinion and subdue political action to an alarming degree. Under such conditions, we are particularly susceptible to demagoguery. Arguing that too many of us have let our critical faculties wither, Robert Harvey opens our ears and eyes to an insidious impediment to free thinking by unflinchingly examining five realms of semantic perversion: the contemporary vocabulary of war; the recently evolved language tool known as scare quotes; the terms used to peddle white supremacy; the phenomenon of so-called cancel culture; and the jargon deployed in the corporatization of higher education. The wager of The Rhetoric of Manipulation is that a frank exposé of bad faith discursive practices and our accompanying gullibility can contribute to reversing the trend, remedying the current situation in view of a far more ethical immediate future, and remediating some of the damage already done.

nell irvin painter the history of white people: Interwar Symphonies and the Imagination Emily MacGregor, 2023-01-26 Reveals how in the culturally volatile 1930s the symphony, long associated with ideas of selfhood, was a flourishing transnational phenomenon.

nell irvin painter the history of white people: Religious and Ethical Perspectives on Global Migration Elizabeth W. Collier, Charles R. Strain, 2014-06-05 Religious and Ethical Perspectives on Global Migration examines the complicated social ethics of migration in today's world. Editors Elizabeth W. Collier and Charles R. Strain bring the perspectives of an international group of scholars toward a theory of justice and ethical understanding for the nearly two hundred million migrants who have left their homes seeking asylum from political persecution, greater freedom and safety, economic opportunity, or reunion with family members. Migrants move out of fear, desperation, hope, love for their families, or a myriad of other complex motivations. Faced with both the needs and flows of people and the walls that impede them, what actions ought we, both individually and collectively, take? What is the moral responsibility of those of us, in particular, who reside comfortably in our native lands? There is no univocal response to these questions. Instead multiple perspectives on migration must be examined. This book begins by looking at different geographic regions around the world and highlighting particular issues within each. Finding that religious traditions represent the strongest countervailing sources of values to the homogenizing

tendencies of economic globalization, the study then offers a plurality of religious perspectives. The final chapters examine the salient issues and the proposed solutions that have emerged specifically within the U.S. context. These studies range from militarization of the U.S. border with Mexico to the impact of migrants on native-born low-skilled workers. Encompassing a wide range of cultural and scholarly voices, *Religious and Ethical Perspectives on Global Migration* provides insight for ethics, moral philosophy, social and political philosophy, religious studies, social justice, globalization, and identity formation.

nell irvin painter the history of white people: The souls of white folk Brett Shadle, 2015-05-01 Kenya's white settlers have been alternately celebrated and condemned, painted as romantic pioneers or hedonistic bed-hoppers or crude racists. *The souls of white folk* examines settlers not as caricatures, but as people inhabiting a unique historical moment. It takes seriously – though not uncritically – what settlers said, how they viewed themselves and their world. It argues that the settler soul was composed of a series of interlaced ideas: settlers equated civilisation with a (hard to define) whiteness; they were emotionally enriched through claims to paternalism and trusteeship over Africans; they felt themselves constantly threatened by Africans, by the state, and by the moral failures of other settlers; and they daily enacted their claims to supremacy through rituals of prestige, deference, humiliation and violence. *The souls of white folk* will appeal to those interested in the histories of Africa, colonialism, and race, and can be appreciated by scholars and students alike.

nell irvin painter the history of white people: The Great Gatsby F. Scott Fitzgerald, 2025-04-08 For the centennial of its publication, a new edition of one of the most iconic of American novels, including four of F. Scott Fitzgerald's short stories about wealth and class from his collection *All the Sad Young Men* and an introduction by Min Jin Lee, the New York Times bestselling author of *Pachinko*. One of The Atlantic's Great American Novels of the Past 100 Years A Penguin Classic Young, handsome, and fabulously rich, Jay Gatsby seems to have everything. But at his mansion east of New York City, where the party never seems to end, one thing will always be out of reach: the married Daisy Buchanan, whose house is visible from Gatsby's just across the bay. A brilliant evocation of the Roaring Twenties and a satire of a postwar America obsessed with wealth and status, *The Great Gatsby* is a novel whose power remains undiminished after a century. This centennial edition, based on scholarship dating back to the novel's first publication in 1925, restores Fitzgerald's masterpiece to the original American classic he envisioned, and includes an introduction addressing how gender, race, class, and sexuality complicate the pursuit of the American Dream; four beloved stories from Fitzgerald's 1926 collection, *All the Sad Young Men*—"Winter Dreams," "The Rich Boy," "The Sensible Thing," and "Absolution"; and suggestions of a wide variety of multimedia resources for exploring the novel's themes.

nell irvin painter the history of white people: Serial Revolutions 1848 Clare Pettitt, 2022 Shows how a series of revolutions that erupted across Europe in the mid to late 1840s were crucial to the creation of modern ideas of constitutional democracy, citizenship, and human rights.

nell irvin painter the history of white people: Making the White Man's West Jason E. Pierce, 2016-01-15 The West, especially the Intermountain states, ranks among the whitest places in America, but this fact obscures the more complicated history of racial diversity in the region. In *Making the White Man's West*, author Jason E. Pierce argues that since the time of the Louisiana Purchase, the American West has been a racially contested space. Using a nuanced theory of historical "whiteness," he examines why and how Anglo-Americans dominated the region for a 120-year period. In the early nineteenth century, critics like Zebulon Pike and Washington Irving viewed the West as a "dumping ground" for free blacks and Native Americans, a place where they could be segregated from the white communities east of the Mississippi River. But as immigrant populations and industrialization took hold in the East, white Americans began to view the West as a "refuge for real whites." The West had the most diverse population in the nation with substantial numbers of American Indians, Hispanics, and Asians, but Anglo-Americans could control these mostly disenfranchised peoples and enjoy the privileges of power while celebrating their presence as

providing a unique regional character. From this came the belief in a White Man's West, a place ideally suited for "real" Americans in the face of changing world. The first comprehensive study to examine the construction of white racial identity in the West, *Making the White Man's West* shows how these two visions of the West—as a racially diverse holding cell and a white refuge—shaped the history of the region and influenced a variety of contemporary social issues in the West today.

nell irvin painter the history of white people: Ghost Work Mary L. Gray, Siddharth Suri, 2019 A startling exposé of the invisible human workforce that powers the web--and how to bring it out of the shadows. Hidden beneath the surface of the internet, a new, stark reality is looming--one that cuts to the very heart of our endless debates about the impact of AI. Anthropologist Mary L. Gray and computer scientist Siddharth Suri unveil how the services we use from companies like Amazon, Google, Microsoft, and Uber can only function smoothly thanks to the judgment and experience of a vast human labor force that is kept deliberately concealed. The people who do 'ghost work' make the internet seem smart. They perform high-tech, on-demand piecework: flagging X-rated content, proofreading, transcribing audio, confirming identities, captioning video, and much more. The shameful truth is that no labor laws protect them or even acknowledge their existence. They often earn less than legal minimums for traditional work, they have no health benefits, and they can be fired at any time for any reason, or for no reason at all. An estimated 8 percent of Americans have worked in this 'ghost economy,' and that number is growing every day. In this unprecedented investigation, Gray and Suri make the case that robots will never completely eliminate 'ghost work' and the unchecked quest for artificial intelligence could spark catastrophic work conditions if not stopped in its tracks. Ultimately, they show how this essential type of work can create opportunity--rather than misery--for those who do it.--Dust jacket.

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