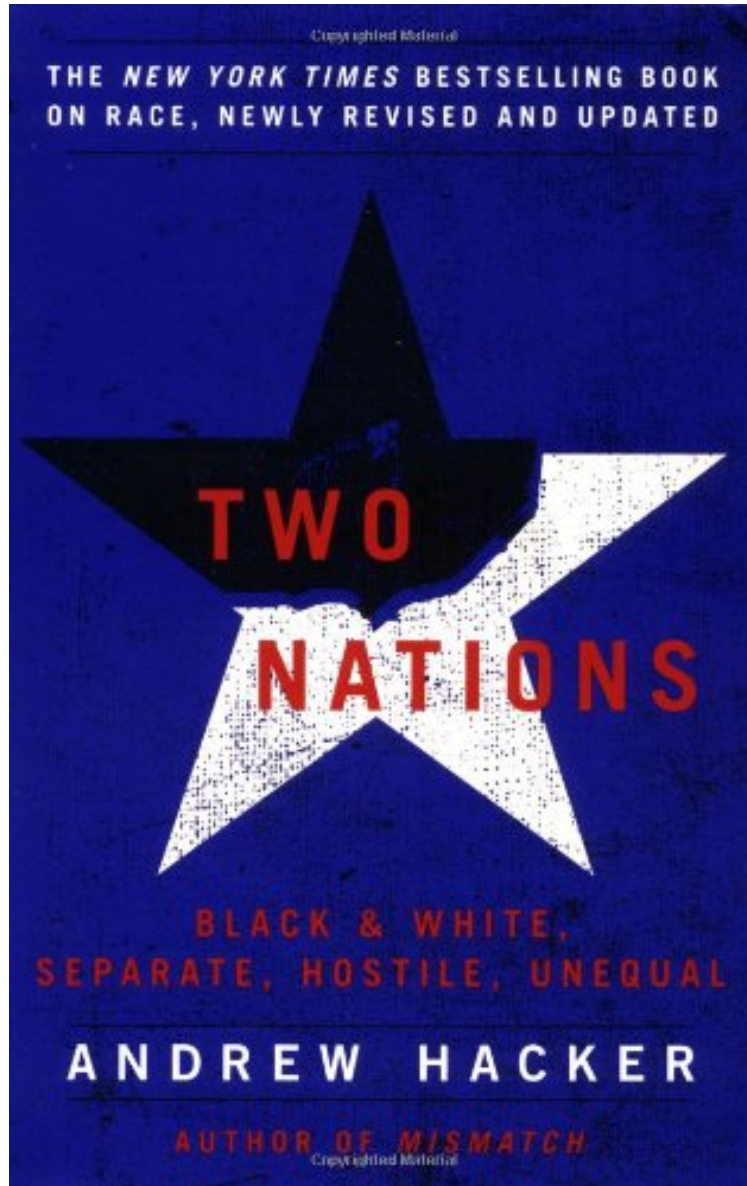


[PDF] Two Nations: Black and White, Separate, Hostile, Unequal

Two Nations: Black and White, Separate, Hostile, Unequal

Andrew Hacker

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Andrew Hacker : Two Nations: Black and White, Separate, Hostile, Unequal before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Two Nations: Black and White, Separate, Hostile, Unequal:

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Why, despite continued efforts to increase understanding and expand opportunities, do black and white Americans still lead separate lives, continually marked by tension and hostility? In his much-lauded classic, newly updated to reflect the changing realities of race in our nation, Andrew Hacker explains the origins and meaning of racism and clarifies the conflicting theories of equality and inferiority. He paints a stark picture of racial inequality in America - focusing on family life, education, income, and employment - and explores the current controversies over politics, crime, and the causes of the gap between the races. Illuminating and oftentimes startling, *Two Nations* demonstrates how race has defined America's history and will continue to shape its future.

From Publishers WeeklyThe author, a political science professor at Queens College in New York City, contends that whites' deep-rooted, pervasive racism against blacks has created "America's version of apartheid." Many white Americans, especially political conservatives, still harbor the prejudice that blacks are genetically inferior, he states. In an important, powerfully argued, dispassionate report that makes liberal use of tables and statistics, Hacker (*The End of the American Era*) documents racist attitudes and practices in the business sector, reveals the low percentage of blacks enrolled in colleges and exposes white racism in politics, employment practices and education and the public's perception of crime and welfare. Turning to blacks' "self-inflicted genocide" through drugs and street violence, he argues that white America shares a large measure of responsibility for this situation because it has fostered a racial chasm--a divide that seems likely to persist unless drastic steps are taken. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalHacker, who teaches political science at Queens College, is author of many essays and book reviews on race and class. Here he expounds on the thesis that "America's two principal races"--blacks and whites--are as separate and unequal as ever. Using pointed anecdotes and statistics, Hacker takes the reader through the stigma blacks feel in this country, examining the subtext of everyday acts of bias on the part of whites toward blacks. He then compares sexuality, childbirth and family, income, employment, educational equity and performance, segregated schooling, and crime between the two groups, compellingly arguing that racism does underlie much of the lag that blacks experience in this society. Hacker's research covers history, philosophical writings, and census and other statistics. His discussion of other ethnic groups, however, is less successful (e.g., grouping Asians together in terms of educational performance). Nevertheless, this is necessary reading, recommended for all public and academic libraries. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 11/15/91; see also Stud Terkel's *Race: How Blacks and Whites Think and Feel About the American Obsession* , reviewed on p. 115.--Ed.-Christina Carter, California State Univ. Lib., FresnoCopyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Kirkus s`Our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white, separate and unequal," concluded the Kerner Commission on civil disorders in 1968. Relying heavily on demographic data, Hacker (Political Science/Queens College; ed., U/S, 1982; *The New Yorkers*, 1975, etc.) demonstrates the myriad ways in which the races remain at uneasy removes from each other. Although this great divide is amply documented here, Hacker's contention that white society bears the overwhelming responsibility for its continued existence may strike some as simplistic. It does not really answer Shelby Steele's *The Content of Our Character* or William Julius Wilson's economic explanations for the disparities between black and white. Hacker's strength lies in his use of data to provide surprising sidelights on oft-discussed topics, such as family, education, crime, and the economy; he notes, for instance, that the explosion in black illegitimacy rates merely mirrors that for society as a whole. When he forsakes his data and ventures into the murky realm of psychology, however, his conclusions are suspect (e.g., he implies that academic ``tracking" is a form of segregation). Yet despite--sometimes even because of--these forays outside the traditional sphere of academic analysis, Hacker argues his points with cool elegance and conviction. In one instance, after his description of the humiliation that a black male feels after being bypassed by a white bus-driver, it seems pointless to dispute his belief that ``to be black is to be consigned to the margins of American life." Hacker's blurring of the distinctions between white ethnic groups and newer nonwhite immigrants is unfortunate, and his refusal to offer a way out of what Gunnar Myrdal called ``the American dilemma" leaves the reader dispirited. But his insights into the racial wounds that refuse to close are searing, and urgently need to be addressed. -- Copyright ©1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.