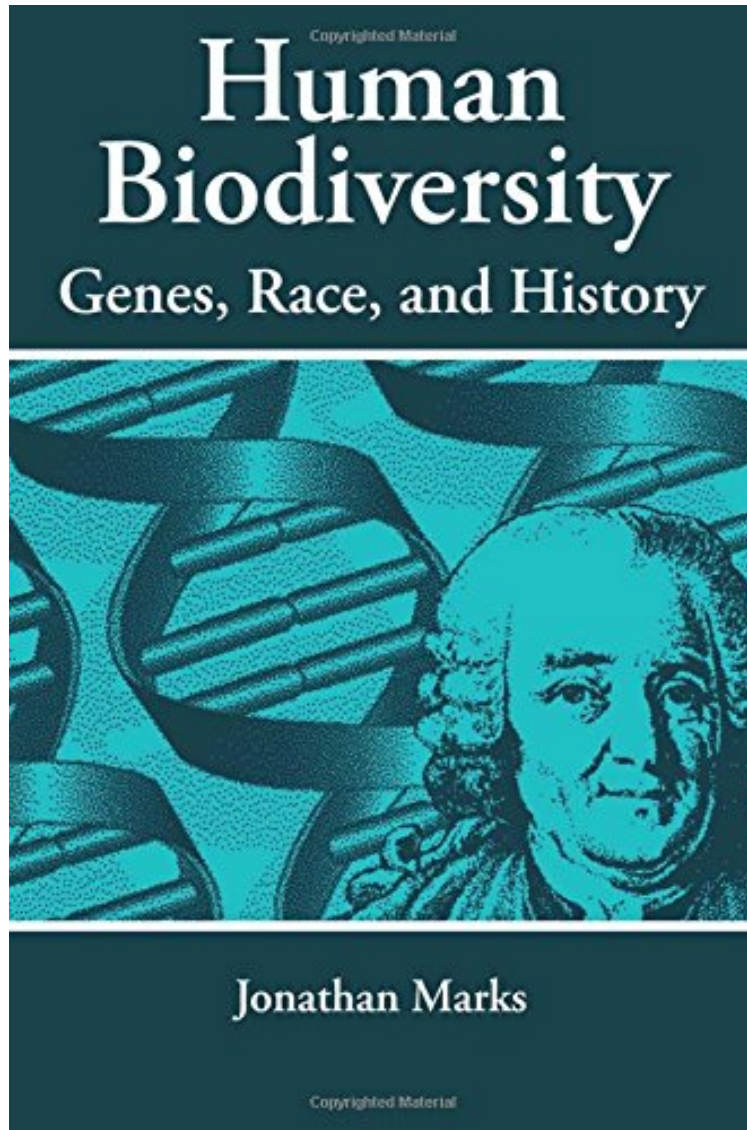


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Human Biodiversity: Genes, Race, and History (Foundations of Human Behavior)

Jonathan Marks

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Jonathan Marks : Human Biodiversity: Genes, Race, and History (Foundations of Human Behavior) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Human Biodiversity: Genes, Race, and History (Foundations of Human Behavior):

Are humans unique? This simple question, at the very heart of the hybrid field of biological anthropology, poses one of the false dichotomies with a stereotypical humanist answering in the affirmative and a stereotypical scientist answering in the negative. The study of human biology is different from the study of the biology of other species. In the simplest terms, people's lives and welfare may depend upon it, in a sense that they may not depend on the study of other scientific subjects. Where science is used to validate ideas, four out of five scientists preferring a brand of cigarettes or toothpaste, there is a tendency to accept the judgment as authoritative without asking the kinds of questions we might ask of other citizens' pronouncements. In *Human Biodiversity*, Marks has attempted to distill from a centuries-long debate what has been learned and remains to be learned about the biological differences within and among human groups. This is the first such attempt by an anthropologist in years, for genetics has undermined the fundamental assumptions of racial taxonomy. The history of those assumptions from Linnaeus to the recent past, the history of other, more useful assumptions that derive from Buffon and have reemerged to account for genetic variation, are the poles of Marks's exploration.