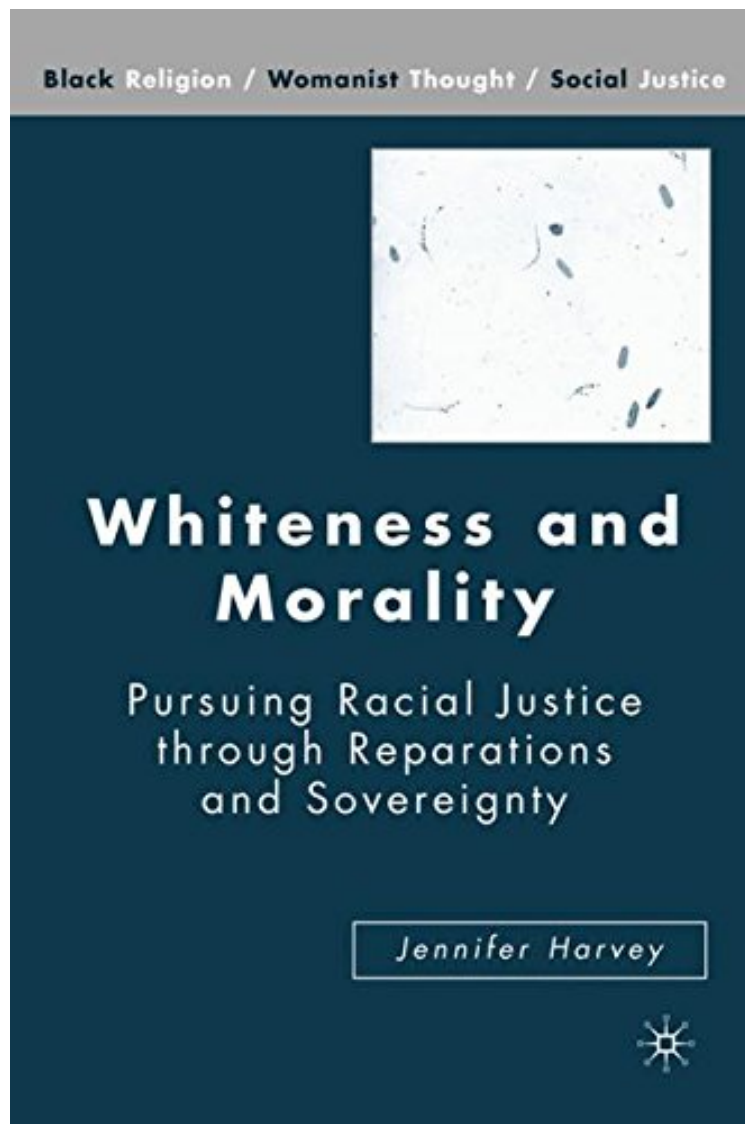


[FREE] Whiteness and Morality: Pursuing Racial Justice Through Reparations and Sovereignty (Black Religion/Womanist Thought/Social Justice)

## Whiteness and Morality: Pursuing Racial Justice Through Reparations and Sovereignty (Black Religion/Womanist Thought/Social Justice)

*J. Harvey*

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**J. Harvey : Whiteness and Morality: Pursuing Racial Justice Through Reparations and Sovereignty (Black Religion/Womanist Thought/Social Justice)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Whiteness and Morality: Pursuing Racial Justice Through Reparations and Sovereignty

(Black Religion/Womanist Thought/Social Justice):

6 of 9 people found the following review helpful. a challenging, thought provoking readBy Elevate DifferenceWith its heavy subject matter and dense academese, Jennifer Harvey's *Whiteness and Morality* is anything but an easy beach read. Despite the inaccessibility of some of the prose, Harvey does manage to make a startlingly compelling argument: that white Americans are caught in the midst of a moral crisis because they unfairly benefit from the white supremacist infrastructure of America. She also argues that white people of America can only atone for their "sins" (and those of their ancestors) by paying out reparations to Native and African Americans. Harvey, an Assistant Professor of Religion at Drake University, does give a brief history of the horrors of slavery, genocide, displacement and colonialization that blacks and indigenous nations suffered at the hands of whites. However, she focuses primarily on how racism and white supremacy hurt white people, delineating the ethical quandaries that white people confront when they (actively or passively) collude with racism. She even goes so far as to say that white people are "peoples whose humanity and moral self-hood have been deeply and fundamentally marred by whiteness" and questions whether or not the United States should even be allowed to exist because of its history of bloody oppression. Harvey points out the fallacy in arguments for establishing a "color-blind" society because race does not have a biological basis; she writes, "this response is unacceptable because it evades the challenge of justice. To understand race as socially constructed neither makes white supremacy evaporate, nor causes my white skin to cease having real meaning in my social worlds." The book is a little short on information about the current reparations movement and practical advice on what non-racist whites can do to ameliorate current race relations. However, there are many other books on the market that can fill in the gaps. If you want a challenging, thought provoking read, break out your dictionary and your yellow highlighter pen and curl up with *Whiteness and Morality*.

This book considers how white U.S.-Americans may participate in racial justice-making, and shows how 'white' identities embody problematic moral realities, arguing that reparations for people of African descent and sovereignty for Native peoples are critical for racial justice and transformation of what it means to be white in the United States.

'That great unspoken among White people - racial justice - has found its voice in Jennifer Harvey. I have learned more from her work about what is due and how to think about it than from any other White American. Above all, the moral crisis of being White and American is probed more profoundly here than elsewhere, and negotiated more fruitfully for what is needed - repentance and repair.' - Larry L. Rasmussen, Reinhold Niebuhr Professor Emeritus of Social Ethics, Union Theological Seminary 'Drawing on recent interdisciplinary research and ancient moral imperatives, Harvey courageously probes deep truths of U.S. foundations in genocide and slavery. If Christian ethicists are serious about social justice, she avers, they must aggressively generate moral crises for self-named 'whites' who have maintained a nation created in extreme racial oppressions. Such disruptions encompass nation-shaking apologies and massive material reparations - the only ways those racialized as white can become fully human. Harvey thereby suggests tough answers to an ultimate question: Is the United States actually an illegal and morally illegitimate nation?' - Joe R. Feagin, Ella C. McFadden Professor of Liberal Arts, Texas AM University, author of *Systemic Racism* "This deeply historical inquiry into the moral crises attending white supremacy reminds us that rigor and passion coexist in the most profound studies of race. This a wonderful book to give to someone beginning to think about how race is made and how humanity is unmade. This is also full of insights for experts in the several fields brought together in Harvey's challenging work." - David Roediger, Babcock Professor of History and African American Studies, University of Illinois, author of *Working Toward Whiteness* "Whiteness and Morality is one of the clearest books ever written on how white supremacy is tightly sewn into the social fabric of the United States. She proves that no worthwhile discussion of racial justice can take place unless this fact is presented and understood by those who claim to want honest racial dialogue. Her discussion on the role faith communities play in nurturing racism is nothing short of brilliant and while this may disturb some, it will liberate others into understanding that no true 'racial reconciliation' can take place in these communities unless they see reparations for the TransAtlantic Slave Trade as a precondition for true racial justice. This book is extraordinarily important in understanding the history of racism in the West and what can be done about it. Don't miss it!" - Ray Winbush, editor/author of *Should America Pay?* "Weaving together the importance of white identity and justice and the necessity of reparations, Jennifer Harvey offers us the opportunity to look, with clarity and precision, at the ways in which racial justice is trumped by arrogant white supremacy. She neither romanticizes nor overstates. Rather she offers all of us a vibrant hope that in acknowledging our racial and national is-ness with the fullness of our ability to build or devastate, white U.S. Americans can, through grace, begin to build a better society with darker skinned Americans and in that process be molded into moral beings who can now step into the fullness of their humanity." - Emilie M. Townes, Andrew W. Mellon Professor of African American Religion and Theology, Yale Divinity School 'Jennifer Harvey not only makes a significant contribution to advancing the discussion of white racism in Christian social ethics, she also contributes a must-read text to several other scholarly conversations ranging from Christian missions to critical race theory. This text offers a brilliant, unflinching analysis

of the 'moral crisis of being white' by examining the process of racialization in United States history, specifically in the colonization of Native Americans and the enslavement of African peoples. Harvey provides a sophisticated, nuanced treatment of the development of white racial identity that refuses to offer excuses for the behavior of whites in this history. She insists on creating race theory with an understanding of white people as the problem but also with the capacity to participate in concrete, macro-level reparations. It's an amazing book!' - Traci C. West, author of *Disruptive Christian Ethics: When Racism and Women's Lives Matter* 'Jennifer Harvey has written a powerful volume tracing the creation of whiteness, and hence White people, as a racial category in North America. As a continuation of critical race theory and especially in the critical study of whiteness, this book will become a mile-marker. It moves us decidedly down the highway of self-understanding and social transformation. Harvey's concluding argument for reparations is not just a moral statement. Rather, it is essentially a clear and coherent argument for the real healing of the White American soul.' - Tink Tinker (Osage, wazhazhe Nation), Elders' Council, American Indian Movement of Colorado; Professor of American Indian Cultures and Religious Traditions, Iliff School of Theology

About the Author Jennifer Drake is an associate professor of Religion, Drake University