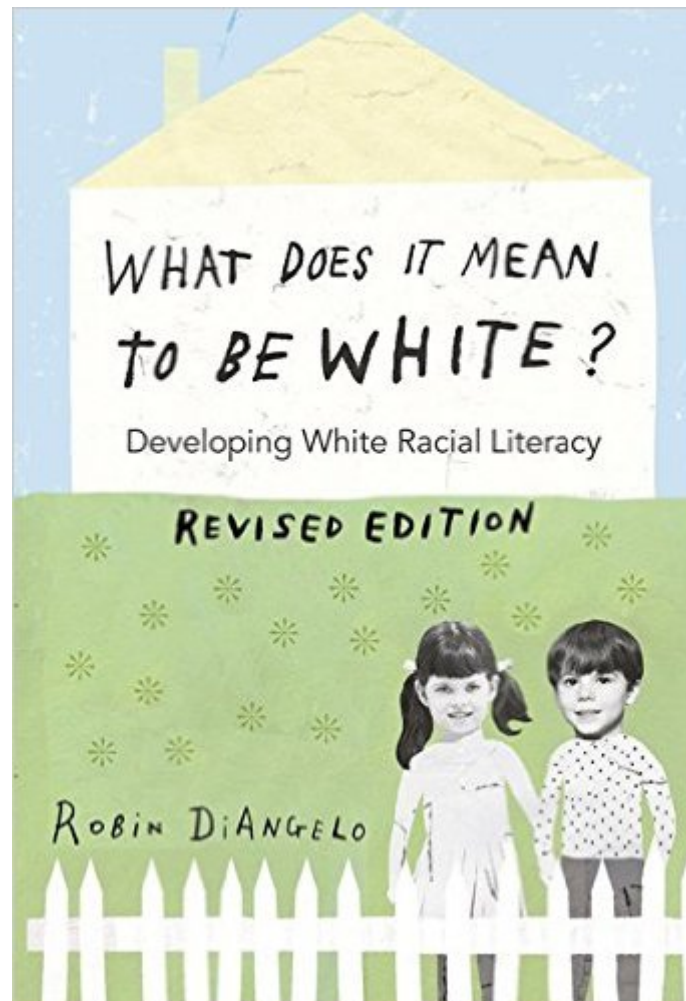


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# What Does It Mean To Be White?: Developing White Racial Literacy -- Revised Edition (Counterpoints)



## Synopsis

What does it mean to be white in a society that proclaims race meaningless, yet is deeply divided by race? In the face of pervasive racial inequality and segregation, most white people cannot answer that question. In the 2nd edition of this seminal text, Dr. DiAngelo reveals the factors that make this question so difficult: mis-education about what racism is; ideologies such as individualism and colorblindness; segregation; and the belief that to be complicit in racism is to be an immoral person. These factors contribute to what she terms white racial illiteracy. Speaking as a white person to other white people, DiAngelo clearly and compellingly takes readers through an analysis of white socialization. Weaving research, analysis, stories, images, and familiar examples, she provides the framework needed to develop white racial literacy. She describes how race shapes the lives of white people, explains what makes racism so hard to see, identifies common white racial patterns, and speaks back to popular narratives that work to deny racism. Written as an accessible overview on white identity from an anti-racist framework, *What Does It Mean to Be White?* is an invaluable resource for members of diversity and anti-racism programs and study groups, and students of sociology, psychology, education, and other disciplines. Now, the revised edition features two new chapters, including one on Dr. DiAngelo's influential concept of white fragility. Written to be accessible both within and without academia, this revised edition also features discussion questions, an index and glossary.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

One of the most important books on societal racial integration and segregation that I have read in about 20 years. Wonderfully insight and essential for those who wish to understand why there is still racism and division between different cultures.

I have been studying and reading about race and racism for about 5 years now, but Dr. DiAngelo's book was a profound read. It "connects the dots" between all the concepts I had been learning and helped me see how they fit together. Dr. DiAngelo builds a foundation of understanding from the bottom up and really helps the reader to build a framework for racial literacy. Some of the great contributions in the book are: 1) the idea of a racial binary (racist=bad/non-racist=good) which prevents white people from approaching and grappling with the issues of race. 2) The clear and deep analysis of the role of socialization in our mostly subconscious attitudes about race. 3) The difference between individual racial prejudice and systemic racism. 4) The unfortunate outcomes of white socialization which include: a) internalized racial superiority in white people and internalized racial inferiority in people of color, b) White Racial Frames or ways of seeing the world and c) White Fragility, or the inability of white people to tolerate conversations about racism. 5) The analysis of how prevalent ideologies such as individualism and colorblindness deny social inequities and deny the identities of people of color. Dr. DiAngelo has given a great gift to white people who want to begin or continue to overcome their racist socialization in order to break white silence on this topic.

I highly recommend this book to well-intentioned white people wanting to think critically about race. It illuminates the ways we get things wrong (and will continue to do so) ALL THE TIME and shows that it's most helpful to maintain humility, take accountability, and correct our actions and apologize. DiAngelo breaks down the racist=bad/not-racist=good binary, emphasizing that all white people inherently participate in and benefit from racism. It is our choice whether or not to be complicit. It is our responsibility to educate ourselves and fight racism because we collectively hold a position of institutional power. The book helped me see mistakes that I still make or have made in the past unawares. It also helped build my confidence to speak up about racism rather than stay silent and collude with white solidarity.

I highly recommend this book to anyone doing Social Justice education work, and to any white person who wants to do more thinking about their racial identity, the impact it has, and ways to work toward being anti-racist. (It also has great information for folks of color â " but itâ™s written by a

white woman, speaking in particular to a white audience). I got this book for a Christmas present this year, and just finished reading it cover to cover. As someone who has been working in Social Justice Education for the past decade, I have read a number of books about race and whiteness, both for my personal growth, and for my teaching and curriculum design for race dialogues and courses, and I was incredibly impressed with this work. I got a great deal out of all of it, and I particularly loved how the book started with examples of identities other than race when presenting definitions and conceptual foundations to help increase understanding. I also thought the “Remember” boxes placed throughout the chapters were just brilliant. They always seemed to be perfectly placed at the point where I would anticipate confusion or defensiveness from students. I also loved the way DiAngelo defined terms throughout the chapters, as well as the thread of the student narratives at the beginning of each chapter, and how they were brought together at the end. I am really grateful that I had the chance to read this great work, and it gave me a lot to grapple with, both with my own personal work as I strive to be antiracist, my professional work teaching students about this topic, and for my analysis for dissertation. I plan on recommending it to everyone I know – both personally and professionally.

The author that I reviewed who wrote the book "Faith-based Guide to Ending Racism and Racial Tension" available on Kindle needs to read this book. Then apologize for writing a chapter on being color-blind as a good thing. I would suggest watching Robin DiAngelo on Youtube, talk a little about this book first before you buy, she is a good speaker.

I recommend this book for everyone. It's a look at race and racism as most people have probably never understood it before. Certainly not myself prior to this. I didn't have to get very far into this book to realize the impact of it was going to be immeasurable. Buy it, read it and then read it again. There is so much valuable information in here.

A must read for anyone brought up in the United States. Systemic racism is everywhere but if you identify as white, you probably almost never think about it. This book will increase your awareness and understanding of white privilege in America and how it's oppressing our fellow humans.

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