



Paved With Good Intentions: The Failure of Race Relations in Contemporary America

By Jared Taylor



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This is the book that established Jared Taylor as an expert and commentator on race relations. The publishers of American Renaissance have reprinted this classic with a new preface for the 2004 edition by Jared Taylor.

Race is the great American dilemma. This has always been so, and is likely to remain so. Race has marred our past and clouds our future. It is a particularly agonizing and even shameful dilemma because, in so many other ways, the United States has been a blessing to its people and a model for the world.

The very discovery by Europeans of a continent inhabited by Indians was an enormous crisis in race relations—a crisis that led to catastrophe and dispossession for the Indians. The arrival of the first black slaves to Virginia in 1619 set in motion a series of crises that persist to the present. Indirectly, it brought about the bloodiest war America has ever fought, Reconstruction, segregation, the civil rights movement, and the seemingly intractable problems of today's underclass.

Despite enormous effort, especially in the latter half of this century, those two ancient crises remain unresolved. Neither Indians nor blacks are full participants in America; in many ways they lead lives that lie apart from the mainstream.

After 1965, the United States began to add two more racial groups to the uneasy mix that, in the heady days of civil rights successes, seemed finally on the road to harmony. In that year, Congress passed a new immigration law that cut the flow of immigrants from Europe and dramatically increased the flow from Latin America and Asia. Now 90 percent of all legal immigrants are nonwhite, and Asians and Hispanics have joined the American mix in large numbers. The United States has embarked on a policy of multiracial nation-building that is without precedent in the history of the world.

Race is therefore a prominent fact of national life, and if our immigration policies remain unchanged, it will become an increasingly central fact. Race, in ever more complex combinations, will continue to be the great American dilemma.

Nevertheless, even as the nation becomes a mix of many races, the quintessential racial divide in America—the subject of this book—is between black and white. Blacks have been present in large numbers and have played an important part in

American history ever since the nation began. Unlike recent immigrants, who are concentrated in Florida, California, New York, and the Southwest, blacks live in almost all parts of the country. Many of our major cities are now largely populated and even governed by blacks. Finally, for a host of reasons, black/white frictions are more obtrusive and damaging than any other racial cleavage in America.

In our multiracial society, race lurks just below the surface of much that is not explicitly racial. Newspaper stories about other things—housing patterns, local elections, crime, antipoverty programs, law-school admissions, mortgage lending, employment rates—are also, sometimes only by implication, about race. When race is not in the foreground of American life, it does not usually take much searching to find it in the background.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Arguing that white racism is more an excuse for black failure than an explanation, Taylor (*Shadows of the Rising Sun: A Critical View of the Japanese Miracle*) challenges racial orthodoxies, but with very limited success. Ranging through studies and press accounts, Taylor effectively catalogues numerous black excesses in the name of solidarity (such as jurors' defenses of former D.C. mayor Marion Barry, ultimately convicted of one charge--possession of cocaine--of 14 brought against him); he notes that blacks commit far more interracial violent crimes than whites do; he criticizes "race-norming" in employment tests; and he dissects studies concluding that police are more likely to shoot blacks (instances of shootings, he argues, are in fact proportionate to arrests for violent crime). But Taylor, who is white, too easily dismisses the notion of institutional racism; he simplistically argues that Asian achievements prove that American racism is not so great an obstacle to success; and he can't understand the role of black-only organizations. Arguing that the problem of the underclass is mainly a moral one, Taylor disregards economics. Instead, he calls for get-tough police practices, favors mandatory, no-appeal death sentences for drug dealers and suggests that to combat "reckless procreation" the government should require female welfare recipients to use the contraceptive Norplant. His blurred distinctions between the "underclass" and blacks reveal his biases.

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About the Author

Jared Taylor born in Japan, where he lived until age sixteen. He received a BA in Philosophy from Yale University in 1973 and an MA in international economics from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris in 1978. He is the editor of *American Renaissance* and the author of the following books:

Shadows of the Rising Sun: A Critical View of the Japanese Miracle (William Morrow & Co., 1983, 336 pp.)

The Tyranny of the New and Other Essays (Kinseido Publishing, Tokyo, 1992, 89pp.)

The Real American Dilemma, Editor (New Century Books, 1998, 144 pp.)

A Race Against Time: Racial Heresies for the 21st Century (New Century Books, 2003, 347 pp.)

Users Review

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Michael Ogden:

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