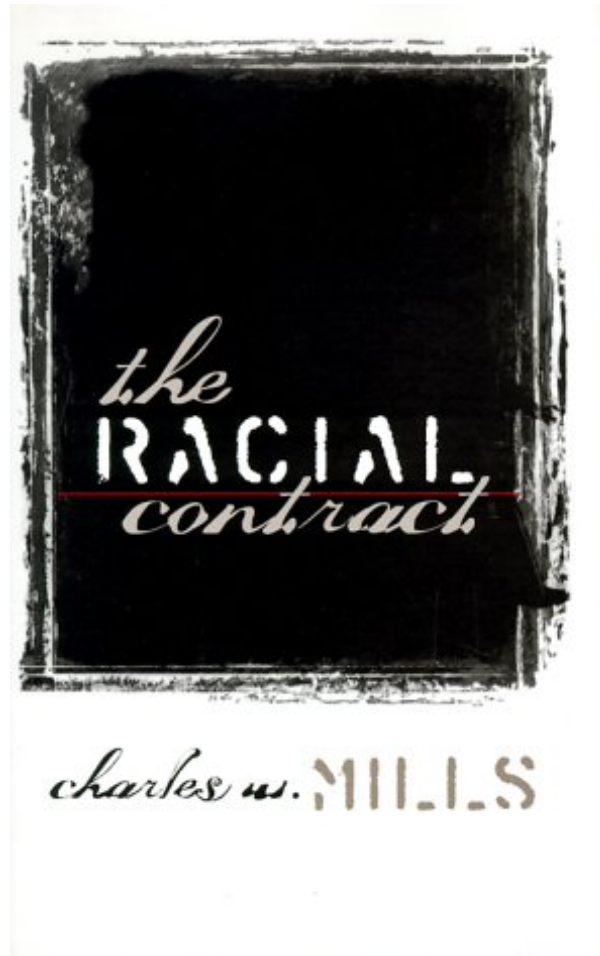
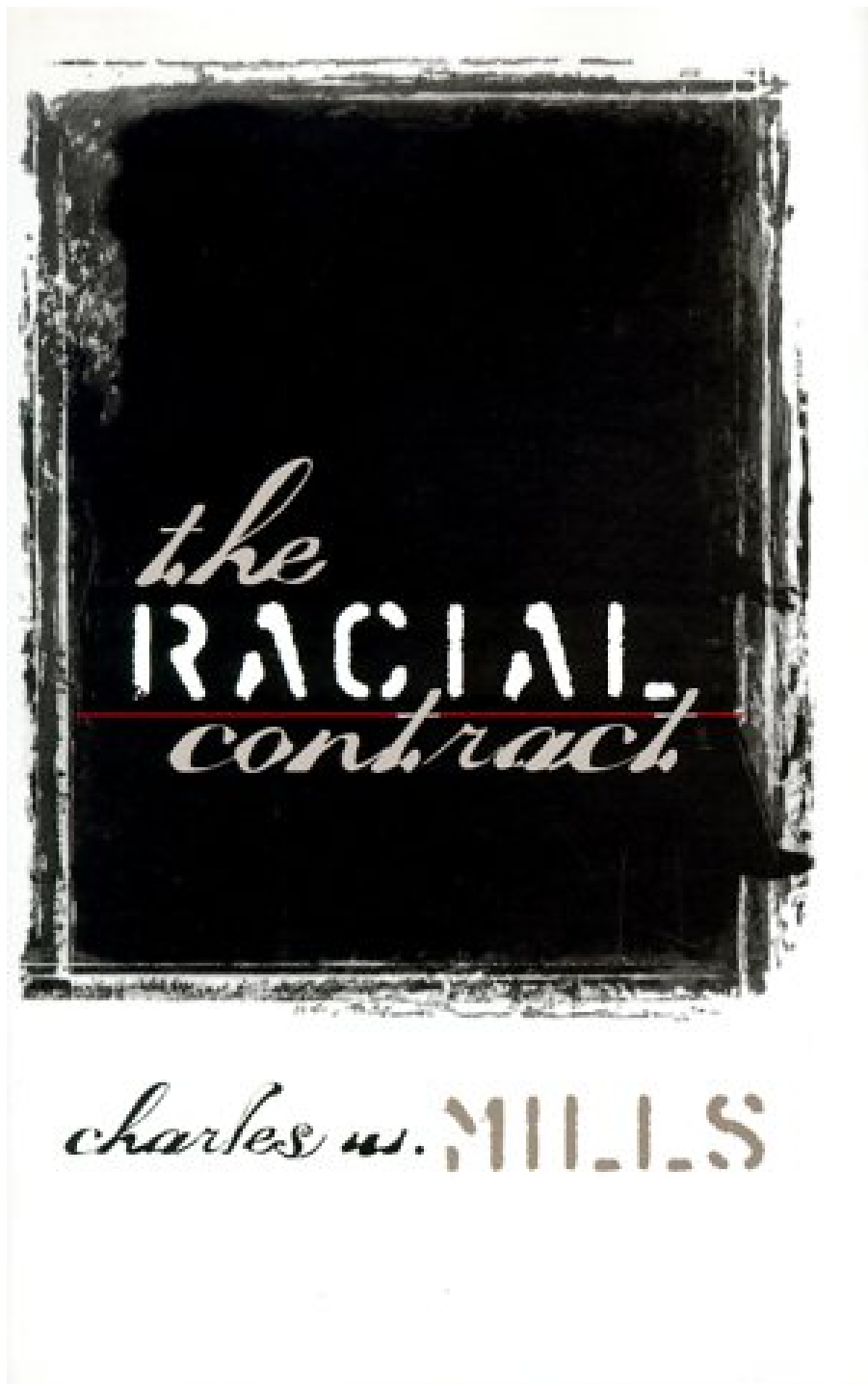


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The Racial Contract puts classic Western social contract theory, deadpan, to extraordinary radical use. With a sweeping look at the European expansionism and racism of the last five hundred years, Charles W. Mills demonstrates how this peculiar and unacknowledged "contract" has shaped a system of global European domination: how it brings into existence "whites" and "non-whites," full persons and sub-persons, how it influences white moral theory and moral psychology; and how this system is imposed on non-whites through ideological conditioning and violence. The Racial Contract argues that the society we live in is a continuing white supremacist state.

Holding up a mirror to mainstream philosophy, this provocative book explains the evolving outline of the racial contract from the time of the New World conquest and subsequent colonialism to the written slavery contract, to the "separate but equal" system of segregation in the twentieth-century United States. According to Mills, the contract has provided the theoretical architecture justifying an entire history of European atrocity against non-whites, from David Hume's and Immanuel Kant's claims that blacks had inferior cognitive power, to the Holocaust, to the kind of imperialism in Asia that was demonstrated by the Vietnam War.

Mills suggests that the ghettoization of philosophical work on race is no accident. This work challenges the assumption that mainstream theory is itself raceless. Just as feminist theory has revealed orthodox political philosophy's invisible white male bias, Mills's explication of the racial contract exposes its racial underpinnings.

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Superb and revelatory book but recommend further reading

By Viktor Volk

As a white guy formerly unaware/in denial of the structural racism that's still going strong in society, this book really helped me to understand both this and the other inequalities of society. Other reviewers have definitely done the book justice, but I will also recommend that one reads after this *Racism without Racists* by Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, because as much as Mills does an excellent job of communicating the gist of white supremacy and racist ideology, one might still subscribe to elements of the racial ideology if they are not aware of what it constitutes. *Racism without Racists* fills in the blanks that this book necessarily leaves in order to achieve its "punchy" nature and widespread reading.

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

The Philosophy That Rules Them All

By M. Rasheed

I'm a big fan of a few authors whose great work involves making sense of the massive stockpile of collected historical data by spotlighting the logic thread that connects chunks of it into potent influential viewpoints. *The Racial Contract* by Charles Mills is the one that rules them all, with the author revealing the foundational support structure upon which all Western philosophy and formal moral ethics theory is based. Pointedly, Mills reminds us that Immanuel Kant thought I was a subhuman, and he is the most important moral theorist in all of western thought. If you can imagine the movie *The Matrix*, this book functions like a "what the Matrix is, how it functions the way it does, and how we can free ourselves from it" bible. It's intended to be the long missing component of Western Philosophy, a topic which can never be fully understood without seeing it properly through the lens of 'whites-exploiting-nonwhites' that it was created from in the first place.

The world is the way it is today directly because of the global domination of the Europeans conquering, colonializing, and enslavement of non-Europeans under a White Supremacist banner (originally Christian, but it quickly morphed away from that, since the exploited could always just convert their way out of exploitation, losing the conqueror potential revenue, and we can't have THAT). This "White Peril" savagely plagued every nation on earth and took two forms:

- 1) the initial physical assault of the European war machine designed to break, "season," and smash the nonwhites into a submissive state ripe for exploitation

- 2) the ideological indoctrination of that submissive state on the mental level.

For the former, Mills was kind enough to coldly, clinically, chillingly, remind us of certain devastating examples, and even pull others from the deep dark of centuries past. In the latter – the era we are currently in – he deftly points out the many, many examples of how the breaking has become fully part of our cultural identity, as the conqueror so wished. But the effects of chattel enslavement, jim crow, and institutional disenfranchisement upon the exploited classes are well known to students of Western history from that distressed viewpoint.

What was far more interesting to me was how these diabolical practices affected the oppressor himself. One of the perks of being the signatory of the Racial Contract is a deliberately imposed veil of ignorance,

enabling one to pretend that the vast atrocities that make up the skeletal structure of Western Civilization never happened, with the gross societal imbalances being natural or genetic in origin as the official stance supported by all influential Eurocentric institutions. This personally went a LONG way towards understanding certain behaviors, like why they get mad whenever their historical wrongs are brought up and act as if it is somehow unfair, why they think the weird term “playing the race card” is a legitimate tool of argument, why they get instantly defensive whenever they hear members of the exploited classes celebrating and affirming their own skills, talents & worth, and even why they feel that the current state of a broken exploited people is the way they’ve always been.

Most of all, The Racial Contract showed how we will never finally overcome racism while the proposed solution from the conqueror class is for the exploited to simply shut up talking about it and accept the state its members find themselves in, as lesser persons requiring the conqueror’s merciful, legitimizing gaze to allow them into the ‘club’ of favor. Of course to continue in this state is unacceptable, but the only way it can be reversed is for that side to willingly set aside its ill-gotten artificial privileges and, as J.A. Rogers would say, transform “from superman to man.” In order to do this he must confront himself, recognize who he is, what he has done, and want to self-correct. He will have to go through pain to purge himself of the mantle of “Whiteness,” the political ideology of White Supremacy that he built this Eurocentric Society upon. And realistically why would he do that? He's oft demonstrated that he would much rather create a fantasyland Whitopia and live there, reinforcing his supremacist self-indoctrination with like minds, than deal with the truth of the reality he created. Mills’ book shows us how truly difficult curing our society of its Greatest Disease will truly be.

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Engaging study that affirms my sense of the situation. ...

By Jeffrey D.

Engaging study that affirms my sense of the situation.Still in process of reading the book. An important book for understanding race and changing the atrocious habits that have come with white supremacist ideologies.

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