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WHITE TRASH

RACE AND CLASS IN AMERICA

EDITORS

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From Routledge : White Trash: Race and Class in America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised White Trash: Race and Class in America:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. More like a trailer court
By C. Wagner
This is an eclectic anthology of various experiences involving poverty. When I was young, we were the poor, and then there were other variations and now the variations seem to have multiplied. The Gary, Indiana nightmare, for example, wiped out the steel mills and adequately paying jobs due to the One World Economy. Most whites fled in search of jobs and most of the balance fled as the neighborhoods "changed," causing the middle class minorities to flee also. Now, the lower middle class neighborhoods are toxic. "The whole country looks more like a trailer park every day."

(P. 38.). This chapter attributes the situation to a worsened economy, temporary jobs, unstable neighborhoods, etc. The chapter on Detroit testifies the residents' conception of the difference between people and trash. The Matt Wray chapter on White Trash Religions was fascinating, pushing The End even more so than do more "middle class" protestant sects. The creepy control religion holds on their lives was both insightful and frightening. If you are old enough and not privileged with a highly paid job placing you in communities such as Plainfield, Indiana, you may have seen the evidence of white trashing. When I moved to the small town of Peru, Indiana, it was a hustling, if not booming, community. Young middle class residents were moving in weekly. Small homes were being renovated and flipped. This was before the folks at the Rotary millionaires' table decided a one world economy would cause their factories to work twenty-four hours a day to sell product to China. (I am not making this up.) Now, forty years later, the brightest young people move somewhere else with greater opportunities. Roofs are not being repaired. Many houses appear to be abandoned. Others are in various states of deterioration. Paying full time jobs are few and far between. This, with the exception of mysterious upper middle class and beyond enclaves, appears to be the economic norm throughout the state, perhaps even the entire U.S. The book was published in 1997 and the authors have not seen anything yet.

27 of 28 people found the following review helpful. Excellent. Just Excellent

By Hyperkind

I read this book from an academic viewpoint, as I was a brand new professor (in 2009) and I wanted to get some background in teaching about poor Whites (in my Introduction to Sociology class). This book was a great eye opener. Not only was it informative, with excellent pieces of information and perspectives, but it was also rather engaging, and not at all a difficult read. Now that I teach the Sociology of Race, Class, and Gender, I have been thinking about adding this book to the reading list for my students (using it as one of the texts). Honestly? The only turn-off is the price; I really don't like asking students to pay \$40 for a book that is not truly a text but more of an anthology. However, I have to say, if you really want to spend \$40 on a book that you would find interesting and could most assuredly be dinner party conversation, this is the one.

11 of 14 people found the following review helpful. As an undergraduate I was required to take a "Black ...

By Paul Hanrahan

As an undergraduate I was required to take a "Black Studies" course. I thought a book that focused on "White Studies" as it were would be worth reading. This book was very much worth the time and effort.

First published in 1997. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor Francis, an informa company.

.com This collection of essays suffers somewhat from occasional appearances in its pages of the plodding and pretentious prose of academia, but despite that fault, these essays on poor white Americans are, in general, quite interesting. To be honest, when the scholars trip over their jargon while explaining why Bubba and Jolene constitute a "debased other," it can be more fun than a free Pabst beer at the monster truck pull. Some essays stand out. Writer Michael Berube's memoir of life in a 1950s trailer park in Bayonne, New Jersey, is well-written and touching; and University of Southern California film professor Constance Penley's disquisition on white trash pornography, entitled "Crackers and Whackers" is bound to raise eyebrows. And Gael Sweeney provides the fitting finale, an essay entitled "The King of White Trash Culture: Elvis Presley and the Aesthetics of Excess." "[T]he essays in Matt Wray and Annalee Newitz's "White Trash: Race and Class in America forcefully peel away many common assumptions about the relations between race and privilege. The essays in "White Trash interweave the personal and the "objective" to demonstrate the interdependence of experience and knowledge necessary to understand as false what has to date been assumed as normative in our cultural identity: that "white" is both classless and privileged. "White Trash offers a slash-and-burn approach that others will appreciate, targeting the intersection of race and class in white culture as the invisible site of contradiction that allows whiteness to be understood as raceless and classless." - "Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society "White Trash...contribute(s) some important new voices to the current culture wars." - "Boston of Books ..a new collection of stunningly didactic essays in cultural criticism...Welcome to the newest fad in academia: white studies. From the Back Cover

Poor or marginal whites occupy an uncharted space in recent identity studies, particularly because they do not easily fit the model of whiteness-as-power proposed by many multiculturalist or minority discourses. Associated in mainstream culture with "trashy" kitsch or dangerous pathologies rather than with the material realities of economic life, poor whites are treated as degraded caricatures rather than as real people living in conditions of poverty and disempowerment. White Trash situates the study of poor whites within the context of several academic disciplines, public-policy analysis, and popular or mass-media representations. Arguing that white racism is directed not only against people of color but also against certain groups of whites, the contributors to this volume explore the ways in which race and class in America are often talked about and represented in hidden, coded, or half-realized ways. In so doing, they demonstrate why the term white trash itself embodies yet another way in which some whites generate a debased "other" through pejorative naming practices.