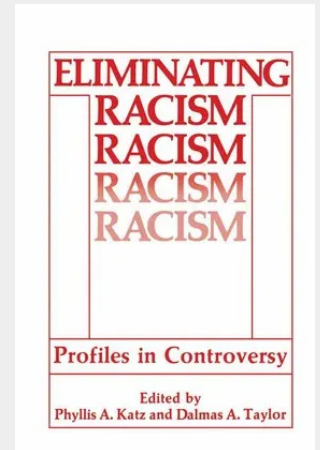


Eliminating Racism

Profiles in Controversy

The chapters presented here provide the reader with an awareness of the divergent views of what constitutes racism and frameworks for reducing it. This book points out that the dialogue and research on this subject since the mid-1970s have yielded increased controversy over the theories, foundation, and continued existence of racism. Ironically, what we viewed in the 1954 Brown decision and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as the beginning of the end of racism turned out to be the beginning of confusion over the course of action to ensure societal acceptance of political mandates. Hence, the title of this book captures the essence of the emotional core of any forum for examining racism, past and present. One of the most controversial forums has been that of education, beginning with the U.S. Supreme Court's 1954 ruling in Brown v. Board of Education. Behind every event that has spawned controversy is a profile in courage. It was not a simple decision for the players in the scenario of the Brown v. Board of Education case to step forward and present themselves as evidence of discrimination. Black parents supported by black organizations viewed this legal action as a chance for equal opportunity. Yet, the 1950s were a time when black communities were pained by the thought that bigotry and institutional racism would forever stand in the way of their achieving equality.

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