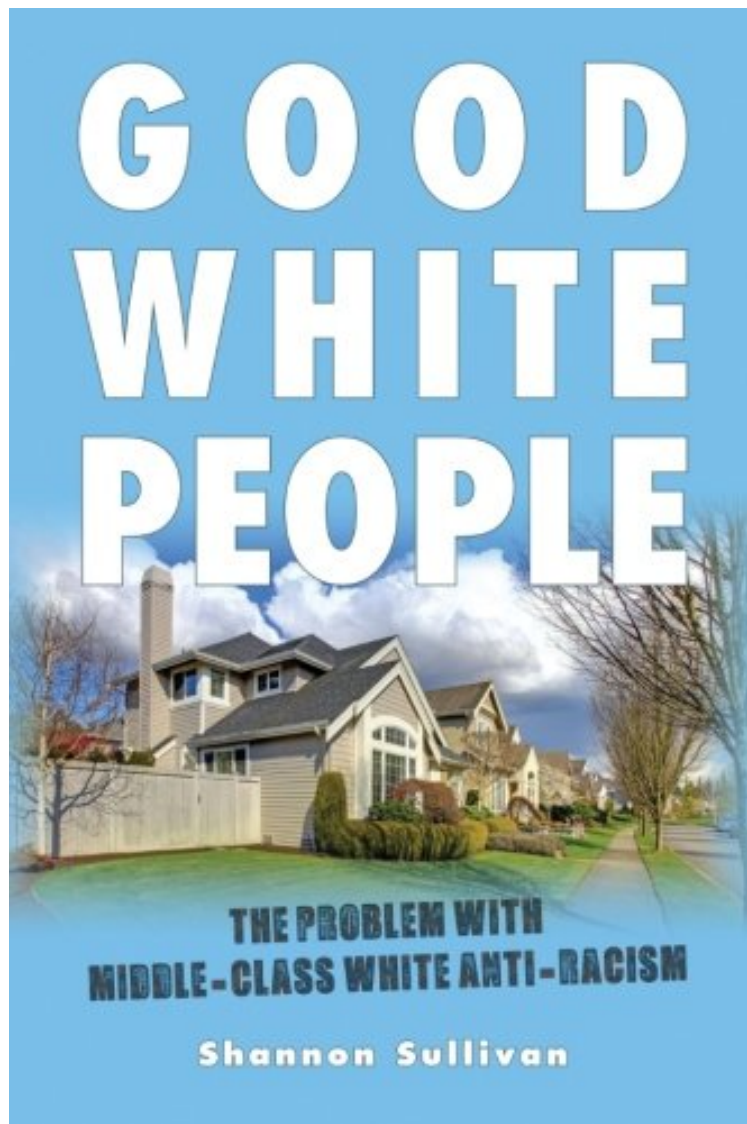


[FREE] Good White People: The Problem with Middle-Class White Anti-Racism (SUNY series, Philosophy and Race)

Good White People: The Problem with Middle-Class White Anti-Racism (SUNY series, Philosophy and Race)

Shannon Sullivan

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Shannon Sullivan : Good White People: The Problem with Middle-Class White Anti-Racism (SUNY series, Philosophy and Race) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Good White People: The Problem with Middle-Class White Anti-Racism (SUNY series, Philosophy and Race):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Rare InsightsBy British5This is an excellent analysis of

modern (post-modern) middle-class liberal thought processes. As Shannon Sullivan points out, these four major categories of distancing oneself from toxic portions of American history are unconscious. More importantly, making these items conscious such that we can cast light on the darkness of "colorblind" approaches demands that we face the issues so as to grow (hopefully) towards a less racist society. Ms. Sullivan's candor and precise--sometimes cutting--observances are admirably displayed with humility. I am thrilled to discover such an esoteric and intellectual writer who is simultaneously contributing to a field (critical race theory) which has the potential to make such tangible differences in our lives.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Catherine BurnedetteThis is a necessary but not always a comfortable read. The peeling of the onion is never easy.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Marian Dornellvery pleasead

Argues for the necessity of a new ethos for middle-class white anti-racism. Building on her book *Revealing Whiteness*, Shannon Sullivan identifies a constellation of attitudes common among well-meaning white liberals that she sums up as white middle-class goodness, an orientation she critiques for being more concerned with establishing anti-racist bona fides than with confronting systematic racism and privilege. Sullivan untangles the complex relationships between class and race in contemporary white identity and outlines four ways this orientation is expressed, each serving to establish one's lack of racism: the denigration of lower-class white people as responsible for ongoing white racism, the demonization of antebellum slaveholders, an emphasis on colorblindness especially in the context of white childrearing and the cultivation of attitudes of white guilt, shame, and betrayal. To move beyond these distancing strategies, Sullivan argues, white people need a new ethos that acknowledges and transforms their whiteness in the pursuit of racial justice rather than seeking a self-righteous distance from it. Sullivan posits that it is white liberals' own anti-racism that actually perpetuates racism by shutting down frank or nuanced discussions not only of race, but of white privilege, which created racial problems and still sustains them. In advising white liberals how to honestly live their whiteness, rather than disown it or pretend it doesn't exist, Sullivan expertly deconstructs the familiar defenses. Like W.E.B. DuBois and James Baldwin before her, Sullivan sees white domination as a spiritual problem that afflicts one group in particular but that touches us all. Ms. Magazine

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About the Author Shannon Sullivan is Head of the Philosophy Department and Professor of Philosophy, Womens Studies, and African American Studies at Penn State University. She is the author and editor of many books, including Race and Epistemologies of Ignorance (coedited with Nancy Tuana), also published by SUNY Press.