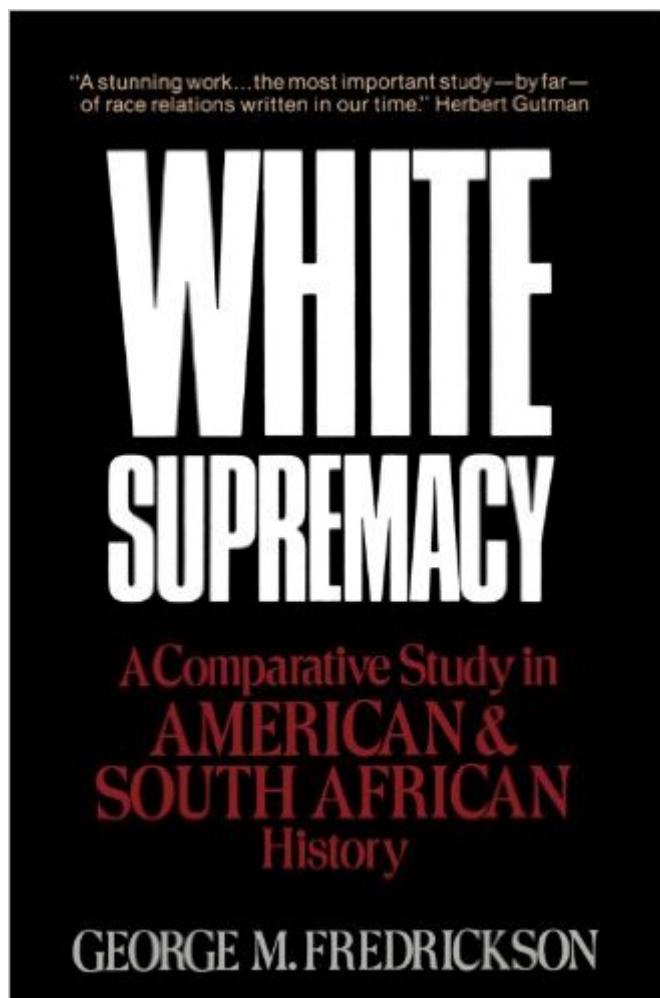


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# White Supremacy: A Comparative Study Of American And South African History



## Synopsis

The history of race relations on two continents is enormously enriched by this comparative study

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

To label this work "comparative history," as does the author, is to underestimate the matter considerably. The book is a careful, scholarly comparative analysis of all the important questions (most of which you've never thought of!) related to the origins, nature, and development of white supremacy in the US and SA. Remarkably, it is superbly well written--clear as glass, with no jargon, aiming only to express, never to impress. As a side note, I can't get over this one little fact: the book was written before database software. What does that mean? HE USED PAPER NOTES--they must have filed multiple file cabinets. Yet, his the organization of the sources, his commentary on them, their relevance and conciseness are all stunning. The author mastered two immense literatures, one in Afrikaans, and evaluates them judiciously and carefully, never scoring cheap points or parading his own work--he strictly presents (and often modifies) the best social-scientific hypotheses of the last 100-or-so years. I just can't get over how impressive this book is. Consider reading with Roll, Jordan, Roll: The World the Slaves Made.

"White Supremacy" is a classic essay on race relations in South Africa and the U.S., from colonial times to the mid-20th century. In theory, the book is a "comparative history" (whatever that means). In reality, it reads more like two parallel histories, with much jumping back and forth, and some of

the comparisons of South African and American experiences are strained (such as the treatment of industrialization). Nevertheless, just about every page is packed with ideas that illuminate fundamental issues in U.S. and South African history. It's great. I took off one star for two reasons: First, the analysis is drawn from secondary sources and presented at a high level of abstraction, like sociology rather than history. History fans looking for human color or telling details will be disappointed. Second, the author devotes as much attention to South Africa's relatively small mixed-race "Coloured" community as he does to the much larger black African population. He may have done so because of the difficulty in making meaningful comparisons between the experiences of traditional rural Africans and those of American blacks who were closely linked to whites from the first days of slavery. In contrast, 20th century Coloureds in Western Cape had much in common with American blacks struggling against Jim Crow and disenfranchisement. But while comparisons between blacks and Coloureds are meaningful, they leave out a big chunk of South African history.

This is a seminal study which compares the development of white supremacy in Southern Africa and North America. It is well researched and provides the reader with an insightful analysis into race relations in these two regions. Although the book was published in 1982, the analysis continues to be current and essential to those readers who wish to understand the historic context of this important subject.

White supremacy has evolved quite a bit over the past few centuries, but the end result is always the same (whites benefit, non-whites suffer). This book is a very detailed and informative look into the gradual development of white supremacy through its various stages (religious, scientific, biological) and the links American's insipid past with South Africa and even makes the connection between what the British did to the Irish (before racism) and how it was kind of a precursor to what Europeans did to the American Indians. From how white dealt with indigenes of countries they colonized to race mixing to segregation and labor, this book hits I didn't have much knowledge about South African history (prior to Nelson Mandela), so this book really opened my eyes to all the similar methods whites have used worldwide to maintain dominance over non-whites. I didn't even know slavery existed in South Africa and that they shipped in slaves from East Asia. The book explores how whites used interracial sex and half breeds in South Africa to control the other slaves and how whites allowed them to assimilate into their white culture (a warning to all you who promote interracial sex today). I really seek works that help me understand better how whites people think and reading something like this and picking up on all the patterns of behavior by whites and their

constant rationalization of their evils (til this day), this book is invaluable as a reminder that I am a victim of white supremacy and their global white empire is an umbrella hanging over my head everyday of my life. It's not comforting, but it's true and knowing that is the first step in improving my health as a victim.

This book shows the global similarities of the establishment, maintenance, practice, and refinement of White oppression in two of the world's best examples, South Africa and The United States of America

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