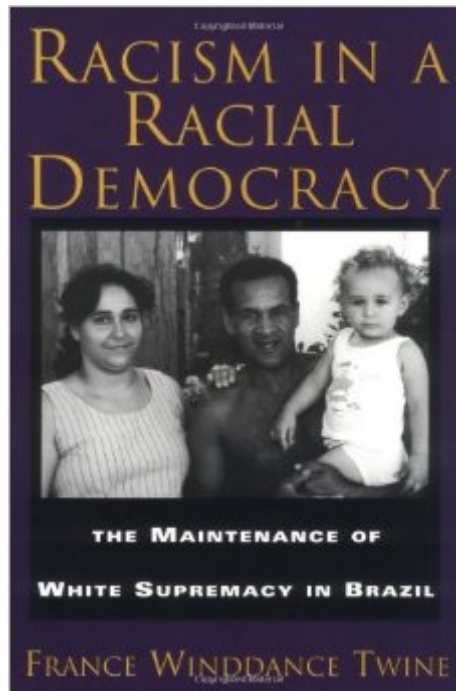


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Racism In A Racial Democracy: The Maintenance Of White Supremacy In Brazil



Synopsis

In *Racism in a Racial Democracy*, France Winddance Twine asks why Brazilians, particularly Afro-Brazilians, continue to have faith in Brazil's "racial democracy" in the face of pervasive racism in all spheres of Brazilian life. Through a detailed ethnography, Twine provides a cultural analysis of the everyday discursive and material practices that sustain and naturalize white supremacy. This is the first ethnographic study of racism in southeastern Brazil to place the practices of upwardly mobile Afro-Brazilians at the center of analysis. Based on extensive field research and more than fifty life histories with Afro- and Euro-Brazilians, this book analyzes how Brazilians conceptualize and respond to racial disparities. Twine illuminates the obstacles Brazilian activists face when attempting to generate grassroots support for an antiracist movement among the majority of working class Brazilians. Anyone interested in racism and antiracism in Latin America will find this book compelling.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

With an established reputation as the most racially mixed country in the world, any number of books have touted Brazil's "Racial Democracy" as being the very paragon of the modern multicultural nation state (I have reviewed a couple of those books here on .com myself). Unlike the U.S., the Caribbean and much of the rest of South America, Brazil, alone has survived with its reputation as a non-racist nation remaining virtually untarnished. The fact that it has been able to do so, given that it is indeed a white supremacist run nation that has a predominately Mulatto population, seems on its

face, convincing evidence of Brazil's unique ability to deal successfully with the complex racial realities of its slave-based past and its mixed-race present. Thus, given its racial makeup, its avowedly white supremacist power arrangements, and its unsullied reputation, one can understand why this author sought as her thesis to answer the question: How did Brazil succeed in dodging the bullet of racial strife while others like the U.S., the Caribbean, and much of the rest of South America and South Africa, did not? The answer, according to this carefully researched PhD thesis (turned into a full-length book), is that Brazil's "Racial Democracy" is little more than a carefully groomed national myth, a neatly woven together mental charade that hides a great deal more than it reveals about Brazilian society. That is to say, it hides from view many painful and unflattering deeper truths about how Brazil became a "stealth white supremacist nation" at the same time that it also became a predominantly Mulatto nation.

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