

Kanowitz provides a 23 page appendix, an 8 page postscript, and 37 pages of notes to the essays to augment his essays. The notes are detailed and illuminating.

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Thomas Kochman. *Black and White Styles in Conflict*. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1981) vi, 177 pp., \$12.95

Race, class and culture are the ingredients of black-white relations in America. Thomas Kochman's book attempts to separate out the cultural component of this mix and to examine it because he believes that it is both ignored and the source of much interracial conflict. The author is Professor of Communications and Theatre at the University of Illinois and has taught and researched in the area of black language and behavior. His background has clearly made him sensitive to aspects of black culture, a sensitivity he exploits in his book.

The thesis of the study is reminiscent of G.B. Shaw's observation that the problems in Anglo-American relations stem from the mistaken notion that we share a common language. Kochman's assertion is that blacks and whites make a similarly erroneous assumption about culture. "Both whites and blacks" he says "interpret each others' behavior in accordance with the meaning and value that behavior has within their own culture." The result is misperception and confusion.

The author sets out to illustrate this thesis by describing behavior, drawing generalizations with respect to cultural values for blacks and whites and then examining black and white responses to their respective behaviors. He attempts to assess what is happening and to indicate the sources of the problems.

For the most part, this turns out to be a thought-provoking and pragmatic exercise although there are some difficulties. For instance, while Kochman claims to separate class-related issues from cultural issues, throughout he compares "blacks" to "middle class whites." If we allow that the black middle class tends to be more acculturated and proportionally smaller than its white counterpart, can we assume therefore that what he calls black "community" people, i.e., urban

blacks, are more authentically black and if so, where do poor whites or rural blacks stand on the cultural continuum? The book also comes perilously close to subscribing to the stereotypical dichotomy that blacks tend to be culturally uninhibited and whites inhibited.

Kochman makes no attempt to determine the sources of the behavior he reports and some of his categories and generalizations tend to be distressingly simplistic. Blacks reading it will recognize some of the behavior described as more or less generally typical and some as peculiar to a class or social setting. Kochman does not make these distinctions.

On the other hand, he has pulled together the observations of a number of sociologists and ethnologists and presented both an argument and illustrations which should facilitate understanding the practical business of interracial interacting, especially in urban America. What the reader must remember is that this work is descriptive not prescriptive; in no sense is it a comprehensive treatment of white or black culture. It will prove helpful in understanding what blacks or whites do when they do it. It will not necessarily be an effective predictor of performance, especially for blacks.

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Lance Liebman, ed. *Ethnic Relations in America*. (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1982) vii, 179 pp., \$5.95.

This small volume contains six background papers prepared under the editorship of Lance Liebman, professor of law at Harvard, for a 1981 meeting on ethnic relations convened by the American Assembly, a well-known policy institution affiliated with Columbia University.

The papers in this collection vary in their quality. An article by Charles Keely presents a detailed, evenhanded, and current review of specific issues related to immigration policy within the broader context of their implications for pluralism. Liebman contributes an insightful examination of how the use of the legal system by ethnic groups affects the law and whether this, in turn, has consequences for all social groupings, possibly by according them too much significance. A selection by Robert Weaver on ethnicity and urban America covers a number of important subjects such as poverty and politics but