

Regarding the impact of Chicano youth on the health and welfare of the white populace, a California educator observed in 1920:

One of the demands made from a community in which there is a large Mexican population is for separate schools. The reason for this demand is based on the theory that the Mexican is a menace to the health and morals of the rest of the community.²

Clearly, these values, beliefs, and attitudes remain operative in contemporary America.

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¹The repatriation policy was a presidentially-advocated program in which Mexican Americans who did not volunteer to return to their country of ancestry were deported—forced to return to Mexico regardless of citizenship status.

²Albert Camarillo, *A History of Mexican Americans in California: Chicanos in California*, (San Francisco: Boyd and Frasser Publishing Company, 1984) 44.

Joe R. Feagin and Clairece Booher Feagin. *Discrimination American Style; Institution Racism and Sexism*. 2nd edition. (Malabar, FL: Robert E. Krieger Publishing Company, 1986) xiii, 246 pp., \$7.95 paper.

Discrimination American Style seeks to answer two basic questions: “Why do women, blacks, and other minorities experience discrimination in the United States?” and “What types of discriminatory behaviors continue in practice today?” Feagin and Feagin attempt to integrate existing research on issues of racism and sexism which focuses on the overall theme of institutional discrimination. They examine similarities and differences between racist and sexist behaviors and practices in order to determine whether or not discrimination exists, and if so, to what degree. They reject the popular belief that prejudice and bigotry are causes of discrimination and argue that practices which often appear to be “neutral” may in fact be evidence of indirect or subtle institutional discrimination.

The book, originally published in 1978, provides an overview of race and sex discrimination. It places a heavy emphasis on several legal-administration issues. The senior author was a scholar-in-residence with the United States Civil Rights Commission during 1974-75. Several chapters address topics such as employment, housing, education, social services, politics, and the court system with respect to discrimination as

of the mid-1970s time period. The concluding chapter is “new” and attempts to bring the research on these issues with respect to discrimination up to date. Feagin and Feagin conclude that racism and sexism continue to be massive problems in our society in the mid-1980s despite efforts to reduce discrimination in practice and policy. They reject the belief that discrimination is a result of the characteristics of a minority group itself.

In some detail Feagin and Feagin attempt to refute five existing misconceptions concerning efforts to remedy past discrimination actions. These misconceptions include beliefs that (1) affirmative action is reverse discrimination; (2) affirmative action efforts have been effective while white male resistance has been inconsequential; (3) affirmative action efforts have not benefited white males; (4) affirmative action plans are no longer needed because the real problems are problems of the “lower class” and not those of race; and (5) blacks today are like white immigrants of the past. They note that recent changes in governmental policies and practices are limiting additional gains in reducing racist and sexist practices in the United States and its institutions.

Overall, the volume is a social science textbook. It presents an excellent discussion and understanding of racism, but the discussion of sexism is inadequate. At times it appears that information concerning discrimination against women was added as an afterthought. The book would be valuable for instructors using a case study approach when teaching about these issues.

Rather than reprinting the first seven chapters, it would have been more useful to the reader if the data in each chapter had been updated within that chapter. For example, to include the disposition of various court decisions on cases which were pending at the time of the original writing would have been helpful and provided greater coherence. One has to look for the small print to realize that the first 183 pages have been reprinted with updated information (as of the mid-1980s) included only in the final chapter. The bibliography offers an excellent beginning for serious scholars researching minority relations and discrimination.

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