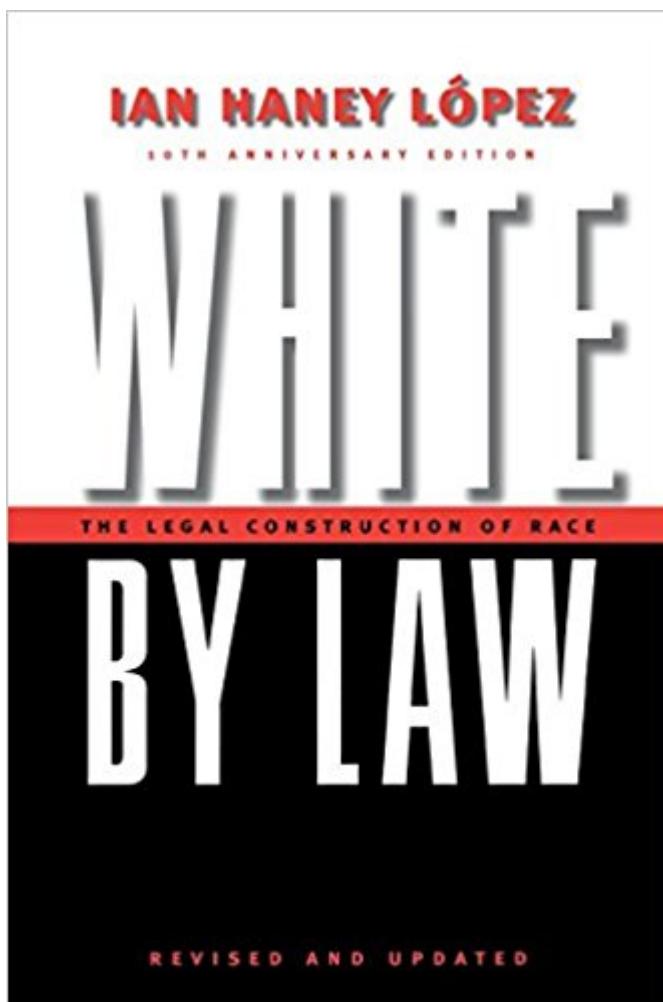


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# White By Law 10th Anniversary Edition: The Legal Construction Of Race (Critical America)



## Synopsis

White by Law was published in 1996 to immense critical acclaim, and established Ian Haney López as one of the most exciting and talented young minds in the legal academy. The first book to fully explore the social and specifically legal construction of race, White by Law inspired a generation of critical race theorists and others interested in the intersection of race and law in American society. Today, it is used and cited widely by not only legal scholars but many others interested in race, ethnicity, culture, politics, gender, and similar socially fabricated facets of American society. In the first edition of White by Law, Haney López traced the reasoning employed by the courts in their efforts to justify the whiteness of some and the non-whiteness of others, and revealed the criteria that were used, often arbitrarily, to determine whiteness, and thus citizenship: skin color, facial features, national origin, language, culture, ancestry, scientific opinion, and, most importantly, popular opinion. Ten years later, Haney López revisits the legal construction of race, and argues that current race law has spawned a troubling racial ideology that perpetuates inequality under a new guise: colorblind white dominance. In a new, original essay written specifically for the 10th anniversary edition, he explores this racial paradigm and explains how it contributes to a system of white racial privilege socially and legally defended by restrictive definitions of what counts as race and as racism, and what doesn't, in the eyes of the law. The book also includes a new preface, in which Haney Lopez considers how his own personal experiences with white racial privilege helped engender White by Law.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for the 10th Anniversary Edition  
"White by Law remains one of the most significant and generative entries in the crowded field of whiteness studies. Ian Haney Lopez has crafted a brilliant study, not merely of how race figures in the juridical logic of U.S. citizenship, but of the ways in which law fully participates in the wholesale manufacture of those naturalized groupings we know as 'races.' A terribly important work." - Matthew Frye Jacobson, author of *Roots Too: White Ethnic Revival in Post-Civil Rights America*  
"Ten years after its initial publication, *White by Law* remains the definitive treatment of the naturalization cases, and provides a compelling account of the role of law in constructing race. A wonderful combination of thematic development and historical excavation, one leaves this revised edition with a thoroughgoing understanding of the ways in which citizenship functioned not only to include and exclude but as a process through which people quite literally became white by law." - Devon W. Carbado, Professor of Law and Associate Dean, UCLA School of Law  
"White by Law remains the definitive work on how American law constructed a white race at the turn of the twentieth century. Haney Lopez has added a chapter to the new edition, a sobering analysis of how, in our own time, 'colorblind' law and policy threaten to perpetuate, not eliminate, racial inequality. A must-read." - Mae M. Ngai, author of *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*  
"Here is one work that proved challenging to review with a fresh eye, having been widely reviewed and discussed since its original publication more than 10 years ago. While one's first question upon picking up such a book could easily be 'why bother?' with the re-release of an older work, in this case, the strategy works. [T]he addition of the author's personal narrative in the Preface and his intriguing view into the future with the new conclusion will add to the book's pedagogical value. In sum, Haney Lopez has provided a piece of scholarship worthy of bringing out a curtain call on its 10th anniversary." - Law and Politics Review  
Praise for the 1st edition:  
"Haney Lopez performs a major service for anyone truly interested in understanding contemporary debates over racial and ethnic politics. . . . A sobering and crucial lesson for a society committed to equality and fairness." - Martha Minow, Harvard Law School

Ian Haney Lopez is Professor of Law at Boalt Hall and author of *White by Law* (NYU Press) and *Racism on Trial*.

Fascinating and a very important read. My only complaint is that his lawyer's writing style was a little

dry for me.

Actually a great read, very eye opening and totally worth every penny. The reason I knock one star down is because it has a black smudge on the top left and has the first couple pages bent at the top.

Excellent historical account of the creation and systems that keep structural racism in the United States.

Great read. Super important history!!!

Great reads and really puts a full perspective on the law and race.. great information

Very important read. Should be read in all schools

Great knowledge.

How is "white" defined in the U.S.? The definition varies tremendously. Lopez concerns himself mainly with immigration issues and how East Asians, South Asians, Latinos, Armenians, Arabs and others made legal efforts to prove themselves "white" in order to gain U.S. citizenship. Legal History of the Color Line: The Rise And Triumph of the One-drop Rule

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