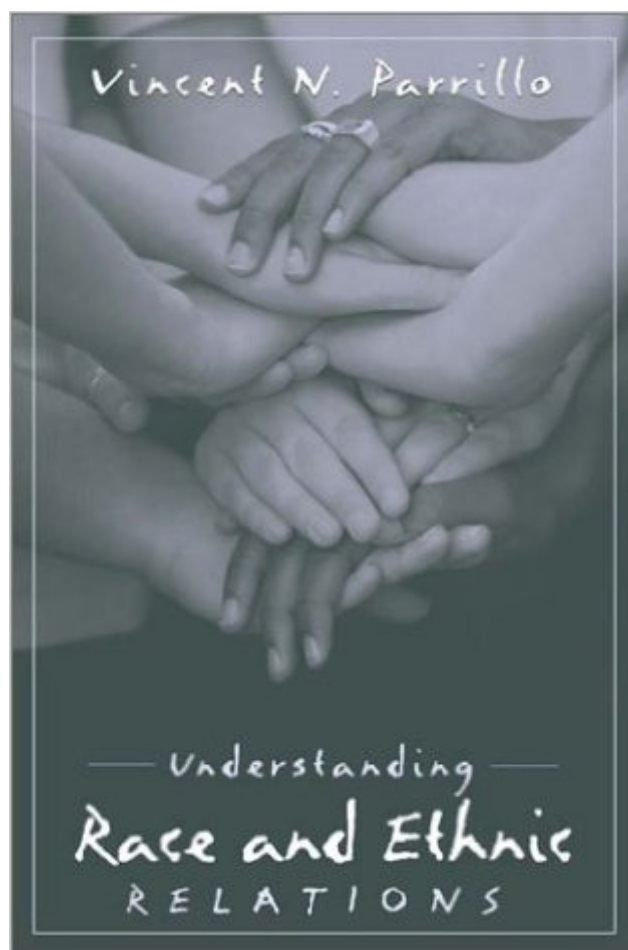


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# Understanding Race And Ethnic Relations



## Synopsis

6L-8 , Parillo, Vincent N., Understanding Race and Ethnic Relations /\* Provides the reader with a brief introduction to the core theories, concepts and issues concerning race and ethnic relations in the United States. The book discusses the changing face of ethnicity, and dominant-minority relationships. Examines the most current Census Bureau projections to speculate what U.S. race, religion, and ethnicity might be like in the mid-21st century. Coverage of minority groups, as well as racial and ethnic groups in today's American society is provided. Prejudice and discrimination, as well as ethnocentrism, and the dynamics of inter-group relations, are also discussed. "The Dillingham Flaw" and the importance of viewing the foreign-born presence in the U.S. within a larger context - from a sociological perspective - in order to avoid inaccurate historical comparisons, are explained. Anyone interested in an introductory look into the current state of race and ethnic relationships in America.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I strongly recommend this book to anyone who is teaching sociology or anthropology classes on racial and ethnic relations as one of the textbooks to use in class. This book introduces students to a wide variety of concepts and theoretical orientations that are or have been prominent in the sociology of racial inequality over the past 50 - 100 years, such as Park's race relations cycle, Gordon's assimilation theory, Hansen's three generation hypothesis, and Moynihan's "culture of poverty" paradigm. Unlike most other textbooks that deal with this subject matter, Parrillo does not

organize chapters around particular racial/ethnic groups. Instead, chapters are organized by thematic concepts, such as prejudice, discrimination, and the future of ethnicity in the United States. Parrillo incorporates a tremendous diversity of theoretical frameworks and sociological concepts throughout the text - the most important being the "Dillingham Flaw" (intentionally making a flawed comparison, based on past phenomena that no longer exist or have changed considerably). This book is perfect for teaching freshman-level race courses at universities. Students often enter these classes with averse, angry attitudes and hostile outlooks. In the first chapter, Parrillo actually discusses this problem, pointing out why intellectual conversations on race that aim for rational analysis of data and empiricism are difficult for students. Students often have trouble keeping their own emotions in check and have difficulty looking at things "outside the box" - a necessary endeavor for quality social science analysis. This is the only book I know of that speaks to and addresses the emotional reactions people usually get when discussing race.

I was in an interesting situation in my fall term of college classes. I ended up with three different courses which all, in one way or another, were looking into issues of race and ethnicity. One of them was explicitly on the topic of Race & Ethnicity, and that course chose this book as their textbook. This was a twelve week long course. My first impression when beginning the book was that it was VERY short. It's a small format paperback, with small pages, and there are only 185 pages of content. That includes all the end-of-chapter summaries too. Reading a chapter went by very quickly, and it felt as if the topic at hand was only skimmed. There was so much more that could have been investigated in each topic area. Much more detail could have been provided. Just as one example, illustrative situations could have been provided both from cultures currently in action and from historical situations. Maybe this is meant for a quick-read course that only lasts four weeks? Maybe it's meant as just one of many books to help broach the subject, and the student reads this first in a few weeks then goes on to more specialized books to get the real impact? I'm just not sure. I do know that compared with the other books I was reading at the same time for my other classes that this one felt quite light. Certainly it is not that I felt that the information contained in here was \*inaccurate\* or unhelpful in any way. The author does provide valid information. However, sometimes it borders on silly, with how basic it is. Did you know that people who have prejudicial feelings can either act on them or not act on them? Or that some people feel prejudice in certain situations, while others may not feel prejudice in those same situations?

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