



# The History of White People

*Nell Irvin Painter*

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

# The History of White People

*Nell Irvin Painter*

## **The History of White People** Nell Irvin Painter

A mind-expanding and myth-destroying exploration of notions of white race-not merely a skin color but also a signal of power, prestige, and beauty to be withheld and granted selectively. Ever since the Enlightenment, race theory and its inevitable partner, racism, have followed a crooked road, constructed by dominant peoples to justify their domination of others. Filling a huge gap in historical literature that long focused on the non-white, eminent historian Nell Irvin Painter guides us through more than two thousand years of Western civilization, tracing not only the invention of the idea of race but also the frequent worship of "whiteness" for economic, social, scientific, and political ends.

Our story begins in Greek and Roman antiquity, where the concept of race did not exist, only geography and the opportunity to conquer and enslave others. Not until the eighteenth century did an obsession with whiteness flourish, with the German invention of the notion of Caucasian beauty. This theory made northern Europeans into "Saxons," "Anglo-Saxons," and "Teutons," envisioned as uniquely handsome natural rulers. Here was a worldview congenial to northern Europeans bent on empire. There followed an explosion of theories of race, now focusing on racial temperament as well as skin color. Spread by such intellectuals as Madame de Stael and Thomas Carlyle, white race theory soon reached North America with a vengeance.

Its chief spokesman, Ralph Waldo Emerson, did the most to label Anglo-Saxons-icons of beauty and virtue-as the only true Americans. It was an ideal that excluded not only blacks but also all ethnic groups not of Protestant, northern European background. The Irish and Native Americans were out and, later, so were the Chinese, Jews, Italians, Slavs, and Greeks-all deemed racially alien. Did immigrations threaten the very existence of America? Americans were assumed to be white, but who among poor immigrants could become truly American?

A tortured and convoluted series of scientific explorations developed-theories intended to keep Anglo-Saxons at the top: the ever-popular measurement of skulls, the powerful eugenics movement, and highly biased intelligence tests-all designed to keep working people out and down. As Painter reveals, power-supported by economics, science, and politics-continued to drive exclusionary notions of whiteness until, deep into the twentieth century, political realities enlarged the category of truly American.

A story filled with towering historical figures, *The History of White People* forcefully reminds us that the concept of one white race is a recent invention. The meaning, importance, and reality of this all-too-human thesis of race have buckled under the weight of a long and rich unfolding of events.

 [Download The History of White People ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The History of White People ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online The History of White People Nell Irvin Painter**



## Download and Read Free Online The History of White People Nell Irvin Painter

---

### From reader reviews:

#### **Gail Brasfield:**

Information is provisions for individuals to get better life, information presently can get by anyone from everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even restricted. What people must be consider while those information which is from the former life are challenging be find than now is taking seriously which one would work to believe or which one the resource are convinced. If you get the unstable resource then you get it as your main information there will be huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen in you if you take The History of White People as your daily resource information.

#### **Conrad Degregorio:**

Reading a book can be one of a lot of pastime that everyone in the world adores. Do you like reading book therefore. There are a lot of reasons why people fantastic. First reading a book will give you a lot of new info. When you read a guide you will get new information mainly because book is one of a number of ways to share the information or maybe their idea. Second, examining a book will make you more imaginative. When you examining a book especially tale fantasy book the author will bring one to imagine the story how the personas do it anything. Third, it is possible to share your knowledge to other folks. When you read this The History of White People, you may tells your family, friends and also soon about yours guide. Your knowledge can inspire the others, make them reading a reserve.

#### **Kimberly Towe:**

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or all their friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book might be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the publication untitled The History of White People can be fine book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

#### **Sharon Baker:**

Within this era which is the greater particular person or who has ability in doing something more are more precious than other. Do you want to become one among it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you should do is just spending your time not very much but quite enough to have a look at some books. One of several books in the top checklist in your reading list will be The History of White People. This book which is qualified as The Hungry Hillside can get you closer in becoming precious person. By looking upwards and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

**Download and Read Online The History of White People Nell Irvin  
Painter #T051KHQ3CBO**

## **Read The History of White People by Nell Irvin Painter for online ebook**

The History of White People by Nell Irvin Painter Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The History of White People by Nell Irvin Painter books to read online.

### **Online The History of White People by Nell Irvin Painter ebook PDF download**

**The History of White People by Nell Irvin Painter Doc**

**The History of White People by Nell Irvin Painter Mobipocket**

**The History of White People by Nell Irvin Painter EPub**