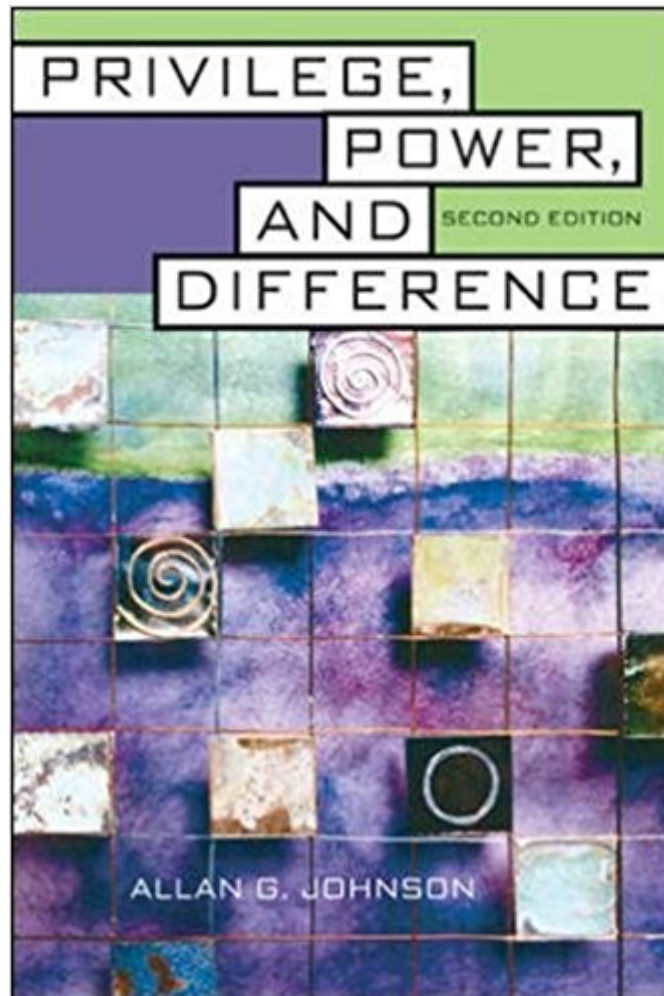




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Privilege, Power, And Difference



Synopsis

This brief book is a groundbreaking tool for students and non-students alike to examine systems of privilege and difference in our society. Written in an accessible, conversational style, Johnson links theory with engaging examples in ways that enable readers to see the underlying nature and consequences of privilege and their connection to it. This extraordinarily successful book has been used across the country, both inside and outside the classroom, to shed light on issues of power and privilege.

Book Information

Paperback: 184 pages

Publisher: McGraw-Hill; 2nd edition (February 11, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0072874899

ISBN-13: 978-0072874891

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 116 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,653 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Class](#) #21 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Race Relations > Discrimination & Racism](#) #35 in [Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Sociology](#)

Customer Reviews

"It is one of the best texts I have read for introducing the concepts of privilege, power, and difference. . . It is an excellent work covering critically important ideas in an easily accessible style." -- Amber E. Kinser -- Feminist Teacher
Privilege, Power, and Difference is an outstanding discussion of how social systems work to perpetuate privilege, how individuals choose to interact with those systems, and how we can create positive change." Charles Dickey -- Leftunder Books

"Allan Johnson really understands how interlocking systems of oppression work and knows how to share his understanding in a way that will be immediately accessible to students at all levels. Privilege, Power, and Difference should serve as an invaluable tool for teaching about privilege and oppression." -- Paula Rothenberg, author of Race, Class, and Gender
"In Privilege, Power, and Difference, Allan Johnson teaches us how to think critically about inequality and oppression without

getting mired in guilt or despair. He gently but firmly removes the blinders that keep us from seeing our own privileges and how those privileges harm others. Then he shows us how to walk the talk and turn our beliefs in justice and equality into practice. This is a book that will change lives."~ Michael Schwalbe, author of *Unlocking the Iron Cage: The Men's Movement, Gender Politics, and American Culture*. "I adopted this very readable book and it has had a tremendous impact on my students."~ Johnson explains the concept of privilege in ways that allow my students with privilege to hear and understand without getting defensive."~ I recommend it highly for both college and high school students and the general adult population."~ Jane Connor, SUNY

This book is excellent. Allan Johnson's writing is smooth and easy to digest, rather than being heavy academic material. This is a book I would recommend for anyone who is interested in learning about privilege without having to go through the bumps and bruises that happen when you're learning purely through interaction. There's no shaming or guilt, you're not asked to apologize, etc. Those are the biggest hurdles to get over when learning about these concepts. It's definitely a book that is higher priced, but that's probably due to its use in academia. Buy it used! I think this would be a wonderful tool for the average person if it were a bit more affordable. Definitely something I will keep on my book shelf for easy access.

Everyone on the planet should read this book and then add to it.

wow! awesome book-good read! makes you ponder life's privileges that one has--recommended to readers.

I found this book to balance well the heaviness of the subject matter with the need to refrain from making the reader feel depressed and hopeless after reading it. It treats the subject matter gently and without feeling the need to make it seem irreversible or like it is trying to organize a mob. I found the information to be relevant, well-cited, and divulged in a way that both a student of the field as well as the casual reader can find engaging.

A must read especially with this current president in office.

This book was assigned to me during a diversity class for a student affairs graduate program. Like many, I was not sure what to expect. The context of the book delivers great truth that goes unsaid

here in the United States. Dr. Johnson is able to articulate about feminism, sexism, racism, and homosexuality, without condemning the readers about the social issues. He offers courageous solutions and wisdom that opens up some tough dialogue between the readers and the book. It's a must read and if you are going into any type of education, humanities, social justice, or global studies field- you won't be disappointed. All points are applicable.

This book is merely a collection of unverifiable assertions and palpable nonsense. According to the author, white male heterosexuals have privileges and power resulting in the oppression of everyone not in these categories. The proof? Well, he states in the introduction that we all know it! It all stems from capitalism. You see, capitalism is defined as using money to make money. With that tremendous insight it only follows that capitalists invented racism to keep labor costs low. They invented misogyny to keep women as unpaid labor. He states that capitalist send their capital to poor countries for cheaper labor. For some reason he neglects to say that they also support open borders to IMPORT cheap labor for the same reason. At least we now have a President who is trying to address both problems. What does he cite as evidence of oppression? Well, if you don't smile at a person when he/she enters the room you are imposing "social death" upon them. It is the same as if you wish a person "Merry Christmas", not knowing if they are Christian. The author also supposes the worst of everybody. Consider this quote from page 99: "When women gather together, even just for a lunch, men may suspect them of "being up to something"----planning some subversive use of power that needs to be monitored and contained." He also states that when a woman walks into a classroom, male students may challenge her credibility, or mutter "bitch". How does he know this??? What magical insight does he have into the minds and motivations of other people!? He qualifies this assertion with a "may" which makes his whole point non-sensible. After all, they "may not" have these reactions. Opening a door for a woman shows "dominance" and is an oppressive gesture. What does the author say has to be done to correct this oppressive system? He advocates that we "make noise, be seen". We should "interrupt the flow of business as usual". "Make people feel uncomfortable", To get attention "take to the streets in large numbers". The only thing he left out are breaking store windows, shouting down speakers you disagree with, or hitting them over the head with bicycle locks. After reading this book, I realized that in addition to our President draining the swamp in Washington, we need to drain the swamp and disinfect academia.

Had to read this for class and wasn't looking forward to it...this book is absolutely FANTASTIC. It gives a great perspective on the "isms" and how we all play a part in the system. This went from just

a textbook to a book that I recommend for pleasure reading.

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