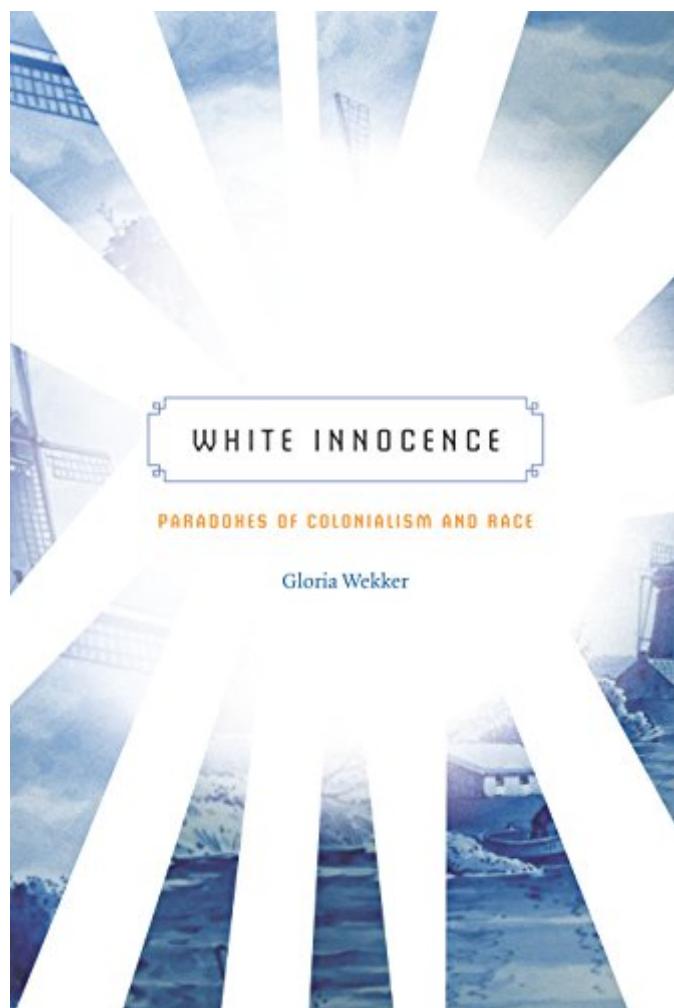


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White Innocence: Paradoxes Of Colonialism And Race



Synopsis

In *White Innocence* Gloria Wekker explores a central paradox of Dutch culture: the passionate denial of racial discrimination and colonial violence coexisting alongside aggressive racism and xenophobia. Accessing a cultural archive built over 400 years of Dutch colonial rule, Wekker fundamentally challenges Dutch racial exceptionalism by undermining the dominant narrative of the Netherlands as a "gentle" and "ethical" nation. Wekker analyzes the Dutch media's portrayal of black women and men, the failure to grasp race in the Dutch academy, contemporary conservative politics (including gay politicians espousing anti-immigrant rhetoric), and the controversy surrounding the folkloric character Black Pete, showing how the denial of racism and the expression of innocence safeguards white privilege. Wekker uncovers the postcolonial legacy of race and its role in shaping the white Dutch self, presenting the contested, persistent legacy of racism in the country.

Book Information

File Size: 1518 KB

Print Length: 240 pages

Publisher: Duke University Press Books (April 29, 2016)

Publication Date: April 29, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01DRW0HZA

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #279,047 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #46 in Books > History > Europe > Netherlands #93 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Europe > Western #106 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Special Groups > Minority Studies

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