

Definitions of Race

Race (n) a division of mankind possessing traits that are transmissible by descent and sufficient to characterize it as a distinct human type

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary

Race - Identifying markers rationalizing a subdivision of a species. Some anthropologists classify the races in these five categories: African/Black, Oceanic/Brown, American/Red, Asiatic/Yellow, European/White. Other anthropologists use these terms: Ethiopian/Black, Malayan/Brown, American/Red, Mongolian/Yellow and Caucasian/White. Webster's dictionary defines race as any of the three divisions of mankind distinguished by skin color or a class of individuals from a common stock. Although an argument could be made for four or five divisions of mankind, Webster only recognizes three. Others claim there are as many as 36 races. Others claim there is only one race - the human race. The concept of race was established by Eurocentric cultures/peoples so that they could dehumanize, disenfranchise and/or destroy non-White peoples.

Phavia Kujichagulia

Recognizing and Resolving Racism: A Resource and Guide for Humane Beings

Race

it is NOT based on biology; it is a CREATED category with historical root used to classify groups of people.

historically it was not determined by skin color but by class inequalities (for example, the English defined the Irish as a "lower" race.)

during colonial expansion by European nations, race was defined in terms of skin color where non-white people were considered "lower" races.

today, relationships between differently raced people are still determined by this moment in history and remain unequal, where white people have the most power and privilege and are considered the norm (ie. non-raced.)

it is important to understand that white is also a created racial category.

it is also important to understand that though racial categories derived from oppressive contexts, they can also be reclaimed and used as

forms of resistance by communities of colour.

Anti-Racism Media Education (ARMEd)

Race - A category of the human species sharing more or less distinctive physical traits transmitted in descent; a concept that has little scientific validity but continues to have a meaning in particular social contexts.

Enid Lee, Deborah Menkart and Margo Okazawa-Rey (eds.)

See, my bottom line is race is a human invention. Humans created it and they created it for particular uses, and it's been used in its various ways since its invention. We created it, we have used it in ways that have been in many, many respects quite negative and quite harmful. And we can think ourselves out of it. Race is a group that is *socially* defined but on the basis of *physical* criteria.

-Evelyn Hammond

Just as I am a story and you are a story and countries tell stories about themselves, race is a story, too.

Whether you're black like me, or Asian, Hispanic, or white, each race has a story about itself. And that story is almost always the same:

"MY RACE IS BETTER THAN YOUR RACE."

Some stories are true. Some are not.

Those who say "MY RACE IS BETTER THAN YOUR RACE" are telling a story that is not true.

-Julius Lester