

Marcel L. Goldschmid.
**BLACK AMERICANS AND
WHITE RACISM.**
New York: Holt, Rinehart &
Winston, 1970.
434 pp.

*We shall overcome. ...This will
be a great day. This will not
be the day of the white man,
it will not be the day of the
black man, it will be the day
of man as man.*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

There is an old saying that the best thing about spring is that it comes when it is most needed. The same can be said of Professor Goldschmid's book. In the United States there has been a phenomenal, almost epidemic, appearance of Black Studies programs, courses, seminars, symposia, and other collegiate rites paralleling the growth of civic and political concern over racism; yet, relatively few books have appeared of a breadth and quality that can intellectually satisfy both teacher and student. *Black Americans and White Racism* is one of these.

I must admit that I have always looked askance at books of readings, both because I felt envious of a colleague who could collect royalties out of the process of transferring "intellectual bones" from one graveyard to another, and because the serious student ought to experience the discipline and satisfaction of reading important papers in their original source. This book has done much to change my position.

In this excellent collection of 30 readings, Professor Goldschmid presents to the reader a variety of selections: there is an address by

Martin Luther King, three textbook selections, five from government documents, and 21 articles from psychological and sociological journals. The emphasis then is on the scholarly and the academic, a quite appropriate emphasis, but one that may lead the more acerbic critic to wonder whether a more balanced menu might not have been achieved with more selections from magazines such as *Saturday Review*.

The emphasis is also on the recent. Of the 21 selections taken from psychological and sociological journals, all are from 1964 to 1968 issues, with the largest numbers coming from 1966 (eight) and 1967 (seven). One is thus torn between recency and primacy, between emphasizing current trends and thinking, or the masters and classic papers. Professor Goldschmid chose recency; certainly an appropriate decision, but one that might have been tempered by an occasional selection from the "earlier" writings of Deutsch, Merton, Pasamanick, or others.

The 30 selections are distributed into seven chapters, an introductory chapter, and one each on personality, child development, intelligence, achievement, racism, and violence. Most authors of books of readings are content to write superficial introductions to each topical area; I am delighted to note that Professor Goldschmid has deviated from this lamentably common tradition. In fact, the most outstanding feature of this collection is the introductions written by Professor Goldschmid. Each not only introduces the subsequent readings, but gives a concise and insightful resume of major points, theories, and findings, plus numerous, well chosen references that comprise an excellent reading list. If for no other reason, *Black Americans and White Racism* is worth purchasing and reading for these introductions.

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