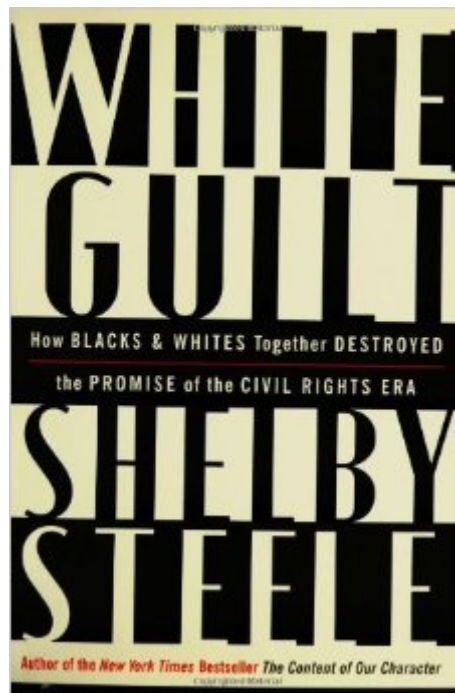


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# White Guilt: How Blacks And Whites Together Destroyed The Promise Of The Civil Rights Era



## Synopsis

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## Book Information

Hardcover: 192 pages

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Best Sellers Rank: #655,399 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Race Relations > General](#) #396 in [Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Political Science > Civil Rights](#) #1533 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Civil Rights & Liberties](#)

## Customer Reviews

This book attracted my interest because I've experienced first hand some of the "white guilt" motivated attempts to fix racial inequality. I attended a middle school during the 1970's right at the start of forced bussing to achieve racial desegregation. Some brilliant social engineers thought that if they bussed black children many miles from home whether they wanted to be bussed or not, dumped them at schools in white neighborhoods, and then eliminated grades and went lax on discipline, then that would solve some problem of inequality between black and white students. Well, what it accomplished for me was a shock when I arrived at high-school and discovered that not only were letter grades the norm (I hadn't seen them for three years) but they accumulated into this dreadful number called a "GPA" which had a profound impact on this concept known as your "future"! In other words, baby sitting was over and now I actually had to work or face the consequences! But enough about me. I enjoyed this book and gave my rating for the following reasons: 1. It's short and to the point. The author tells us what we need to know and skillfully encapsulates pivotal events that occurred during a short period of time and which lead us into the reality we face today. I love books like that. 2. The author establishes his credibility by weaving a narrative of his life with the development of his thesis. This isn't a book that was written by a person who just read a lot of books in order to write a book. 3. Accessable writing style. It's like the author is

sitting across the table having coffee with you and telling you a story. Shelby Steele comes across as a man of unusual wisdom. It would be great to see him in person some day.<sup>4</sup>

Shelby Steele, in his new book, *White Guilt: How Blacks and Whites Together Destroyed the Promise of the Civil Rights Era*, expounds upon the mindset of both groups while exploring our nation's obsession with race. He outlines the interplay between white guilt and black power along with the pernicious effects this dynamic has upon both populations. The author grew up in a time when discrimination was not a shadowy thing. He witnessed it firsthand at baseball practice, and in his father's having to deal with the customs of the southern towns they'd visit. Throughout the text, Steele combines remembrance with observation as a means to elucidate interracial relations. He defines white guilt as being a complete vacuum of moral authority wherein a stigma is cast upon an entire group of people regardless of what they do or say. In the 1960s, it flourished in whites due to the very real historical wrongs of segregation and slavery. By the end of that decade, due to the growing passivity of whites, the black leadership no longer echoed Dr. King. They became radicalized, and there was no shortage of white politicians, intellectuals, and glitterati (recall Leonard Bernstein) ready to sprawl before their collective feet and regain their moral goodness. For many Caucasians, irrational hate for your own race and your ancestors has now become a mechanism for self-esteem and purity. When aggression meets submission the result is slaughter, and that's exactly what has happened to the pride of white America over the course of the last four decades. Rage has become the preferred weapon for obtaining concessions from white politicians, and shame prevents rational minds from protesting these tactics.

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