

In Smithsonian Race Guidelines, Rational Thinking and Hard Work Are White Values

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By [Marina Watts](#)

Staff Writer

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The Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture recently [unveiled guidelines](#) for talking about race. A graphic displayed in the guidelines, entitled "Aspects and Assumptions of Whiteness in the United States," declares that rational thinking and hard work, among others, are white values.

In the section, Smithsonian declares that "objective, rational, linear thinking," "quantitative emphasis," "hard work before play," and various other values are aspects and assumptions of whiteness.

The Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture had no comment for *Newsweek*. They referred to the website's page titled "Whiteness" when asked for additional comment. The graphic was later removed from the page.

"White dominant culture, or whiteness, refers to the ways white people and their traditions, attitudes, and ways of life have been normalized over time and are now considered standard practices in the United States," the introduction to the section reads. "And since white people still hold most of the institutional power in America, we have all internalized some aspects of white culture— including people of color."

Another section says that white values include "steak and potatoes: 'bland is best'" and that white people have "no tolerance for deviation from a single god concept."



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Other subsections deal with "family structure," "rugged individualism," "Protestant work ethic" and "aesthetics."

ASPECTS & ASSUMPTIONS OF WHITENESS & WHITE CULTURE IN THE UNITED STATES



White dominant culture, or **whiteness**, refers to the ways white people and their traditions, attitudes and ways of life have been normalized over time and are now considered standard practices in the United States. And since white people still hold most of the institutional power in America, we have all internalized some aspects of white culture — including people of color.



Rugged Individualism

- The individual is the primary unit
- Self-reliance
- Independence & autonomy highly valued + rewarded
- Individuals assumed to be in control of their environment, "You get what you deserve"

Family Structure

- The nuclear family: father, mother, 2.3 children is the ideal social unit
- Husband is breadwinner and head of household
- Wife is homemaker and subordinate to the husband
- Children should have own rooms, be independent



Emphasis on Scientific Method

- Objective, rational linear thinking
- Cause and effect relationships
- Quantitative emphasis

History

- Based on Northern European immigrants' experience in the United States
- Heavy focus on the British Empire
- The primacy of Western (Greek, Roman) and Judeo-Christian tradition



Protestant Work Ethic

- Hard work is the key to success
- Work before play
- "If you didn't meet your goals, you didn't work hard enough"

Religion

- Christianity is the norm
- Anything other than Judeo – Christian tradition is foreign
- No tolerance for deviation from single god concept



Status, Power & Authority

- Wealth = worth
- Your job is who you are
- Respect authority
- Heavy value on ownership of goods, space, property

Future Orientation

- Plan for future
- Delayed gratification
- Progress is always best



Time

- Follow rigid time schedules
- Time viewed as a commodity

Aesthetics

- Based on European culture
- Steak and potatoes; “bland is best”
- Woman’s beauty based on blonde, thin – “Barbie”
- Man’s attractiveness based on economic status, power, intellect

Holidays

- Based on Christian religions
- Based on white history & male leaders



Justice

- Based on English common law
- Protect property & entitlements
- Intent counts

Competition

- Be #1
- Win at all costs
- Winner/loser dichotomy
- Action Orientation
- Master and control nature
- Must always “do something” about a situation
- Aggressiveness and Extroversion
- Decision-Making
- Majority rules (when Whites have power)



Communication

- “The King’s English” rules
- Written tradition
- Avoid conflict, intimacy
- Don’t show emotion



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Packing the Supreme Court

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Gaius

18 July, 2020

There are some very ill thought out stereotypes in the graphic. And there are some relatively accurate descriptions of Western Cultural values, for example the value of time, which is not the same in all cultures. But the presentation seems to have a negative bent, as opposed to pointing out that much of human progress is tied to many of those Western cultural values, such as the emphasis in rational thinking and scientific method. The entire notion of human rights is based in the values of Western culture. The problem is presenting the material in terms of race, not culture. *(Edited)*

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- JohnGWilliams

17 July, 2020

This is called providing negative reinforcement for what is on the whole, functional behavior. This is part of my definition of the Anti-Establishment. They also provide positive reinforcement for dysfunctional behavior.
The Establishment (which appears to be diminishing in America) provides positiv...**See more**

Reply · 52 5 · Share
- philo cleandes

17 July, 2020

That's an interesting take. Shapiro called the Woke 'disestablishmentarians' and that seems to agree with what you are saying. I never thought I'd see the day when a curious word whose antonym is one of the longest english words would come up in current events naturally (well I don't know how 'natu...**See more**

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- s

stingray

17 July, 2020

I don't like how this was presented as if these values were bad. If they are trying to make a point, I'm not sure what it is. Much of what is listed applies to all people.

Reply · 40 2 · Share
- OJ

Old Jaeger

17 July, 2020

So I'm confused. According to trans activists, transgender is not gender dysphoria, but a inherent immutable characteristic backed by science. If I say trans women are not really women, I'm a trans-phobe and antisience. But if I accept the "science" of the trans movement (or anything determined...**See more**

Reply · 64 6 · Share
- philo cleandes

17 July, 2020

Beautiful illustration of the logical inconsistency of intersectionality and Wokeness. There are so many logical contradictions that it's a wonder their heads don't explode from the cognitive dissonance. That's the nature of cults though; they have escape valves and Kafka Traps that curtail thought...**See more**

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- B

BS

18 July, 2020

This is why there are people in the SJW movement want to ban the hard sciences from schools and collages cause the science is hard to counter for them.

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1 reply

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- P

Peach

17 July, 2020

wives are subordinate to their husbands, children should have their own rooms and that white peo...**See more**

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D **Danno**

17 July, 2020

Not to mention Ms. Katz' implication that non-whites are incapable of hard work, future planning, and rational thought.

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👉 1 reply

Shu Maduc

18 July, 2020

Completely racist against white people for suggesting there is even such a thing a single monolithic white culture. It is racist to think all white people think the same, have the same experience and have the same cultural background.

Completely racist against non-White people. Only white people "p...**See more**

Reply · 🍌 81 🗨 2 · Share

J **joke**

17 July, 2020

They can't even put the flag in the correct direction despite being government funded. One piece showing the intellectual laziness and lack of understanding of people in charge of these organizations.

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philo cleandes

17 July, 2020

I wouldn't worry about the flag when a national museum is preaching anti-whiteness and logic and reason as symbols of "white supremacy". Our institutions have been overrun by commie-Woke zombies and they aren't even hiding it anymore.

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P **Pryotra**

19 July, 2020

Can someone tell me how this isn't a blatant display of white supremacy? Just as an example, if it's considered "white" to be on time and maintain a schedule, how are other races supposed to succeed? Another example, if objective, rational thinking is considered "white", how should "non-white" peop...**See more**

Reply · 🍌 27 🗨 · Share

N **Nushooz**

17 July, 2020

I'm sorry, the scientific method, literally one of strongest tools to remove your own biases, racial biases included, is a tool of white dominance? Are you kidding me...

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D **Dinkei**

20 July, 2020

Yes. Who ever wrote the contents of that poster is racist as any. Things like work ethic or following schedules have nothing especially white about them.

Every farmer everywhere, or even hunter gatherers has been aware the schedules of nature in thousands of years and have acted accordingly, or hav...**See more**

Reply · 🍌 27 🗨 · Share

G **Greg**

25 July, 2020

They should also add - walking on 2 legs, using language and tools, ability to make fire, wearing clothes and not eating other humans :)

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D **Danno**

17 July, 2020

These are Americans' shared values, not just "white" values. They are the values which Marxists seek to overthrow.

If I were non-white, I would consider this a racial insult of the first order.

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B **bluebottle**

17 July, 2020

Radical organizations like BLM push neo-Marxist ideology and use racial constructs to justify replacing US economic system with socialist revolution . *Attacking: ethics; values; laws*. Reverse order and:

first move is devalue, then defund law enforcement. Second move, simultaneously attack the indiv...**See more** *(Edited)*

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17 July, 2020

I think it also goes to show how little the Woke think of minorities and people in general. To spread this kind of bra1nless, obviously logically self-contradictory g@rbage propaganda you have to think that your intended audience is composed of complete id1ots. So the bigotry of low expectations is...**See more**

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S **SmithsonianJoke**

17 July, 2020

This is the most racist literature since mein kamfp. David Duke would agree with everything stated in this document. People of colour also respect these values contrary to what the ultra mega extremist racists at the Smithsonian think. The thought of people wanting to abolish "whiteness" makes me s...**See more**

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B **bluebottle**

17 July, 2020

Except, "ultra mega extremists" are not representative of the Smithsonian Institution as a whole. The document was presented under one museum within the entire Institution:

The Museum of African American History and Culture is on its own. Frame it as such. The leadership of the museum parrots these...**See more**

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D **Ddd**

10 August, 2020

This is messed up on so many levels. First of all, absolutely racist intent. Should be taken down, banned, and the person who wrote it, fired. Second, a lot of things here are true of many cultures. Many of these things do not "belong" to white people. Third, a number of things here are not even tr...**See more**

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O **OldGlory**

18 July, 2020

Note the American flag at the top of the graphic is displayed backwards, either deliberately or out of ignorance. The "canton" or "union" part of the flag (blue section with the stars) should be on the left when the American flag is displayed vertically like this. The flag is also disproportionat...**See more**

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B **blub**

12 November, 2020

This is problematically feeding into the race-reductionist narrative currently peddled by the imperial class to disarm resistance.

The cultural patterns described by the Smithsonian are deeply embedded into Western imperial society, and they are used as instruments of control over the population. Bu...**See more**

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Shu Maduc

18 July, 2020

I love the low end racial insult "bland is best"

Yeah, there is no white culture that has produced tasty food. All the same and all bland. Sounds racist to me.

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2 replies

AM **American Male**

12 July, 2021

They obviously made a few mistakes (there should have been a section on compassion, and the competition section is exaggerated), and overall it is really only addressing white males, but it does make me proud to be white. It shows the qualities that made this country so successful.

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B **Bob**

20 July, 2020

As a brown man, this is infuriating to read. This graphic is white supremacy under the veil of fighting against white supremacy. It's ridiculous and racist. Whoever created this nonsense should have to answer for their views espoused by the graphic.

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G **God**

18 July, 2020

Blm are Marxist

Reply · 16 · Share

D **Dave**

offending millions of americans. There is only one race, the human race, this incites division, not unity.

Reply · 14 · Share

N

non

17 July, 2020

get ready for 4 more years of trump. people peddling this kind of crap are not our liberal allies

Reply · 31 · 3 · Share

philo cleandes

17 July, 2020

I'm so tired of having to play defense by voting against candidates. I voted against Trump (a vote I'm starting to think was wrong in some ways), and now I'm almost forced to vote against Biden (the man is obviously demented and it looks like he will choose a demented Woke running mate).

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1 reply

JM

Jeff Mason

22 September, 2020

You can live your life however you like but when you see you neighbor has a nicer house, more successful children and a comfortable retirement because they adhered to those evil Western values, it doesn't mean you get to steal his/her stuff in the name of 'fairness.'

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1 reply

L

linear_thinker

28 July, 2020

According to the graphic, non-whites are are incapable of "self-reliance", "plan[ning] for the future", "self reliance", "avoiding conflict", "be[ing] polite", "respect[ing] authority", a "nuclear family", and many other virtues.

Thank you for the laugh, Smithsonian. Shine on you crazy, patronizing...[See more](#)

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FT

Fool me twice

17 July, 2020

More ignorance and racism from the left.

Reply · 16 · Share

This comment violated our policy.

J

John

19 July, 2020

Someone who thought it was a deep and insightful set of examples of how pervasive 'white culture' is in American life I think.

I hate to think what alternatives they might think are better though.

Reply · 4 · Share

KK

Karla K

9 August, 2020

Are you kidding me? Who wrote this list? As a person of color, I am so offended by this list. It's the most racist thing I've ever seen.

Reply · 13 · Share

A

Alex

14 May, 2022

I agree. To say that these are solely white values and that people of color don't value responsibility, hard work and wholesome principles is obscene. How is this a progressive stance?

Reply · 1 · Share

O

original_cyn

2 August, 2020

And yet, James Madison wanted to make slavery unconstitutional, and George Washington wanted to abolish slavery after the Revolution. Both inherited slaves from their fathers and freed them, Madison sooner than Washington.

Reply · 3 · Share

Z

Zolley

3 December, 2021

Did they make a similar chart for other races?

Reply · 3 · Share

Anyone know who the author is and the approval process for displaying it??

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cc

Carmen Christie

13 November, 2020

...

I agree with the poster who said their are some accurate cultural descriptions e.g. the way we perceive of time generally in Western nations. However, these snippets of fact are then manipulated into a piece of propaganda.

First off, painting a wide variety of people who happen to share the same sk...[See more](#)

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w

WTF

17 July, 2020

...

THIS IS TO BREED RACISM. "Smithsonian Race Guidelines, Rational Thinking and Hard Work Are White Values" THEY ARE BOTH REQUIRED TO SURVIVE. FOR THOSE EATING TIDE PODS. Capitalism works by **encouraging competition in a fair and open market**. SO RATIONAL THINKING SAYS IF YOU DON'T WORK HARD YOU DON'T...[See more](#)

Reply • 7 • 1 • Share

J

John

19 July, 2020

...

Wondering, is this a sick joke or the product of a deranged mind?

No, don't answer that, but answer me whether whoever came up with this garbage enjoys the benefits of the 'white culture' they so obviously despise?

Reply • 9 • Share

c

Colin

4 February, 2024

...

In Africa where I live, we live more in the "now" and are way less future oriented. We operate more as a collective and play down individualism and you may have heard of Ubuntu, "I am, because we are". I am defined by my tribe and not as an individual. People work hard, but there is much more to li...

[See more](#) *(Edited)*

Reply • • Share

J

Julie

18 July, 2020

...

This is a pathetic poster!! This is demeaning to black people and minorities since many of these things are not "bad" and are also embarrassed by people of color. What a horrendous poster! This is giving racist white people an excuse to be racist against black people. This is causing racism!!

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ML

Madison Lady

17 July, 2020

...

The most racist piece of junk I have seen in a long time. Was this written by Louis louis farrakhan?

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