



Dear White America: Letter to a New Minority (City Lights Open Media)

By Tim Wise



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White Americans have long been comfortable in the assumption that they are the cultural norm. Now that notion is being challenged, as white people wrestle with what it means to be part of a fast-changing, truly multicultural nation. Facing chronic economic insecurity, a popular culture that reflects the nation's diverse cultural reality, a future in which they will no longer constitute the majority of the population, and with a black president in the White House, whites are growing anxious.

This anxiety has helped to create the Tea Party movement, with its call to "take our country back." By means of a racialized nostalgia for a mythological past, the Right is enlisting fearful whites into its campaign for reactionary social and economic policies.

In urgent response, Tim Wise has penned his most pointed and provocative work to date. Employing the form of direct personal address, he points a finger at whites' race-based self-delusion, explaining how such an agenda will only do harm to the nation's people, including most whites. In no uncertain terms, he argues that the hope for survival of American democracy lies in the embrace of our multicultural past, present and future.

"Sparing neither family nor self...he considers how the deck has always been stacked in his and other white people's favor...His candor is invigorating."—*Publishers Weekly*

"One of the most brilliant, articulate and courageous critics of white privilege in the nation."—Michael Eric Dyson

"Tim Wise has written another blockbuster! His new book, *Dear White America: Letter to a New Minority*, is a cogent analysis of the problems of race and inequality as well as a plea for those who harbor views about race and racism to modify and indeed eliminate them. While the book's title addresses white people, this is really a book for anyone who is concerned about eliminating the issue of racial disparity in our society. This is must read and a good read."—Charles J. Ogletree, Jr., the Jesse Climenko Professor of Law at Harvard Law School and

the Executive Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice. He is the author of a number of books, including *The Presumption of Guilt: The Arrest of Henry Louis Gates, Jr.* and *Race, Class and Crime in America*

"Tim Wise is an American hero in the truest sense of the term—he tells the truth, no matter how inconvenient that truth might be. *Dear White America* is a desperately needed response to the insidious mythology that pretends whites are oppressed and people of color unduly privileged. In the process, it exposes how new forms of racism have been deliberately embedded into our supposedly 'color blind' culture. Read this book—but rest assured, it's not for the faint of heart."—David Sirota, syndicated columnist, radio host, author of *Back to Our Future: How the 1980s Explain the World We Live In Now*

"The foremost white analyst of racism in America never fails to provide fresh takes as he punctures myths and defenses."—*World Wide Work*

Tim Wise is one of the most prominent antiracist essayists, educators, and activists in the United States. He is regularly interviewed by A-list media, including CNN, C-SPAN, *The Tavis Smiley Show*, *The Tom Joyner Morning Show*, Michael Eric Dyson's radio program, and many more. His most recent books include *Colorblind* and *Between Barack and a Hard Place*.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Wise, an educator and racial justice advocate, presents an analysis of race relations and ideology in the contemporary US, as a letter addressed to its 200 million white citizens. As demographic trends portend a more colorful United States, and as its first black president begins a second term, Wise confronts the white fear of losing cultural hegemony, on the one hand, and the politics of resentment that has been both a real and contrived source of right-wing power in national politics. The book is aimed at a reasonable audience who may describe themselves as 'not a racist,' but whose assumptions about race and social power make them underestimate or misrecognize racism's persistence in the US. There are notes and citations in the end, but no index."—*Book News*

"The leading white anti-racist commentator in the United States, Wise has long been renowned in academic and activist circles for his nuanced yet pointed indictments of white supremacy's grip on our nation. In this pithy, almost-pocket-sized book, the popular notion that Barack Obama's election as president is evidence of a 'post-racial' United States is dissected and disrupted. In fact—as Wise points out many months in advance of the November election—an increasingly multiracial country that may have led many whites to have 'discovered our inner libertarian, and decided that government intervention was bad' was evidence of both a diversifying electorate and one in which race is still a critical indicator."—*Fellowship Magazine*

"In his latest, he cuts to the core of white fears, using his white authority and white privilege to tell other whites that yes, it's time for you to deal with yourselves and the new American reality you now inhabit."—*Drums in the Global Village*

About the Author

Constantly on tour, Tim Wise is one of the most prominent anti-racist essayists, educators and activists in the US. He is regularly interviewed by CNN, Tavis Smiley, Tom Joyner and Michael Eric Dyson. His essays are published on Alternet, Counterpunch, Z-net, Black Commentator, the Black Agenda Report and the Daily Kos. His blog is widely followed at www.timwise.org

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Julian Eaton:

The knowledge that you get from Dear White America: Letter to a New Minority (City Lights Open Media) will be the more deep you excavating the information that hide inside the words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to understand but Dear White America: Letter to a New Minority (City Lights Open Media) giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The article author conveys their point in certain way that can be understood by means of anyone who read this because the author of this guide is well-known enough. That book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. Therefore it is easy to understand then can go with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We

recommend you for having this particular Dear White America: Letter to a New Minority (City Lights Open Media) instantly.

Christopher Hartwick:

Dear White America: Letter to a New Minority (City Lights Open Media) can be one of your starter books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort to put every word into delight arrangement in writing Dear White America: Letter to a New Minority (City Lights Open Media) but doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource data that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information can certainly drawn you into brand new stage of crucial considering.

Vivian Stafford:

This Dear White America: Letter to a New Minority (City Lights Open Media) is great book for you because the content that is certainly full of information for you who else always deal with world and still have to make decision every minute. This kind of book reveal it facts accurately using great manage word or we can declare no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read the idea hurriedly you can have whole details in it. Doesn't mean it only offers you straight forward sentences but hard core information with attractive delivering sentences. Having Dear White America: Letter to a New Minority (City Lights Open Media) in your hand like obtaining the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous 1. We can say that no guide that offer you world throughout ten or fifteen moment right but this e-book already do that. So , this is certainly good reading book. Hey there Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt that will?

Joyce Shryock:

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