




### Special Edition on Racism in America

The Special Edition on Racism in America provides scholarly information on the insidious nature of racism and offers solutions in an effort to eliminate it from society.

## Book Review of *Hate in the Homeland: The New Global Far Right* by Cynthia Miller-Idriss

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On January 6, 2021, supporters of Donald Trump protested during the Electoral College vote count certification at the United States Capitol building. Violence and insurrection ensued. Video recordings and social media posts revealed the presence and participation of far-right militia groups like the Proud Boys, the Oath Keepers, and the Three Percenters. Cynthia Miller-Idriss' *Hate in the Homeland* provides a timely explanation for the organization and mainstreaming of groups and beliefs that, until recently, were seen in the United States as fringe groups.

By Professor Miller-Idriss' own account, this book was written expediently and published before the events that led to Donald Trump's second impeachment. It is, however, in no way light reading or dated material. Rather, the book offers a rich recent history and alarming examples from popular culture that can provide a lens for understanding and perhaps preventing continued radicalization and white supremacist extremism globally.

The robust 28-page introduction proposes going beyond questions of why and how to look at the where and when of recruitment and radicalization. There is a compelling complexity in the spaces and places of radicalization from a global perspective with virtual and physical geographies and times. This book addresses those complexities and some alarming specificities of space, place, and time. The focus on youth culture and the mainstreaming of radical right ideology provides enough answers to allow educators, parents, and policymakers to ask more questions.

The book introduces the concept of homelands and heartlands. Thinking in terms of territories or locale can be based on physical geographies or heartfelt identities. While some individuals embrace a culture of mobility, those who are threatened by globalization and find identity in a region or locale and its history (real or imagined) are introduced in the first chapter. Words and actions to claim or protect homelands align with ethnocentricity and are perpetuated by a deficit mindset and resistance to change. Miller-Idriss links allegiance to the preservation of homeland to exclusionary tactics, violent terroristic acts, and a desire for race separation and white supremacy.

Language, culture, and media are examined for their parts in normalizing and neutralizing extremism. Miller-Idriss points to specific ways populist politics (with a brief far-left reference), antiglobalization movements, conspiracy theories, and youth culture manipulate language and ideas to propagate hate by instilling fear and distrust of immigrants or anyone representing the other. Online spaces are presented as venues for placement of symbols, memes, and neutralizing messages. The Internet and its myriad tools are used in conjunction with physical spaces as a communication channel, organizing tool, and source for funding to bring far-right ideals into the mainstream.

The author provides a glimpse into the way youth culture and other affinity groups (based on food, music, or clothing) infuse radical beliefs, creating an entry-point for extremism. Media literacy, awareness of symbolism, and identification of the language of hate are necessary to combat normalization and expansion of far-right ideology through cooking shows, music festivals, mainstream clothing brands, and social media memes. References are specific enough to demonstrate to the reader how the far-right agenda is infused in big and very small ways in everyday spaces. Examples are limited but provide the reader with enough information to raise awareness.

Fight clubs and mixed martial arts (MMA) have been a source for growth in far-right people and financial power. More than a show of masculinity and aggressiveness, some modern far-right groups emphasize strong bodies and minds achieved through training, alternative lifestyle choices, and healthy living. Building power and a warrior mentality can be channeled to protect one's homeland or prepare for war. Professor Miller-Idriss was careful to note that not all MMA leaders and organizations support a far-right agenda; however, efforts to bring awareness and address this with coaches or gym owners lag radicalization and recruitment efforts.

The far-right movement has infiltrated spaces and places for mainstream education and research to challenge and commandeer evidence and understanding. Whether through violent incidents or insidious teaching, a hate-filled agenda has made its way into physical college campuses and learning spaces more generally. Examples presented beg the call for training for teachers on antiracism and "counterargumentation with right-wing extremist youth in classrooms."

The introduction and six chapters are a fast read. Slightly fewer than half the book's pages are notes, bibliography, and index pages. While some readers will appreciate the notes and supplements, laypersons are presented with a compelling explanation of the where and when of far-right building of financial, physical, intellectual, and human capital. Any discomfort with the central theme of hate stirs awareness of the extremist beliefs and ways of being that stimulate hatred. The knowledge and awareness of the tactics presented in the book may provide a parent or teacher with the information necessary to get involved differently and ask questions more directly about the purchases, clothing, or music of their youth.



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