

ANALYZING White Privilege IN SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVEMENTS

“The Strategy of the Slave Owners:” Some History

Some excellent overviews of racism/white privilege in social justice movements prior to the 1960's that have influenced the analysis of the cws workshops , in particular the 'Becoming an Anti-Racist Activist and Organizer' series , are:

*** Robert Allen, Reluctant Reformers: Racism and Social Reform Movements in the U.S. Washington, DC: Howard University Press, 1983.

*** Theodore William Allen, 'Class Struggle and the Origin of Racial Slavery: The Invention of the White Race.' (New Jersey: 1975. For expanded analysis, see The Invention of the White Race. NY: Verso Books, 1994 & 1997.)

*** Robert Blauner, Racial Oppression in America. NY: Harper Row, 1972.

*** Angela Davis, Women, Race and Class. New York: Vintage Books., 1983.

*** W.E.B. Du Bois, Black Reconstruction in America: 1860-1880. NY: Atheneum, 1975.

*** Paula Giddings, When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America. New York: Bantam Books, 1984.

*** A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. In the Matter of Color: Race & the American Legal Process: The Colonial Period. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1980.

*** David Roediger, The Wages of Whiteness: Race and the Making of the American Working Class. NY: Verso Books, 1991.

*** Alexander Saxton, The Indispensable Enemy: Labor and the Anti-Chinese Movement in California. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1971, 1989.

*** SDS (Students for a Democratic Society) 1968-69 debates on white privilege and its role in social justice movements, especially in class struggles.

***SNCC (Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee) 1964-1965 debates on the roles of white activists in the Southern Black Freedom movement.

***Sojourner Truth Collective's miscellaneous theoretical writings on the relationship of white privilege, class struggle and U.S. imperialism, 1974-1975.

The articles below are just a sample of analyses of white privilege political practice in some social justice movements that have attracted thousands of mostly white activists since the 1960's. The movements highlighted are those of women, lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender or LGBT, environmental, global justice and anti-war.