

WHITE SUPREMACY

White supremacy is an historically-based, institutionally-perpetuated system of exploitation and oppression of continents, nations and peoples of color by white peoples and nations of the European continent; for the purpose of establishing, maintaining and defending a system of wealth, power and privilege.

~ Mickey Ellinger & Sharon Martinas

RACE

Race is an arbitrary socio-biological category created by Europeans (white men) in the 15th century and used to assign human worth and social status with themselves as the model of humanity, with the purpose of establishing white skin access to sources of power.

~ Maulana Karenga

POWER

1. **Power** is the legitimate control of, or access to, those institutions sanctioned by the state.

~ Barbara Major; People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, New Orleans

2. **Power** is the ability to define reality and to convince other people that it is their definition.

~ Dr. Wade Nobles

3. **Power** is the capacity to act.

RACISM

Racism is racial prejudice plus power.”

PEOPLE OF COLOR

The term **people of color** was adopted to refer in a positive way to all people who are not considered "white" by "white people." In American "racial" terms, it refers to any one who claims other than European ancestry on either side of their family. It is a proud heritage representing 80% of the world population (but only 20% of the American population).

WHITE

The term "white," referring to people, was created by Virginia slave owners and colonial rulers in the 17th century. It distinguished European colonists from Africans and indigenous peoples. European colonial powers established "white" as a legal concept after Bacon's Rebellion in 1676 to separate the indentured servants of European and African heritage who united against the colonial elite...The creation of "white" meant giving privileges to some, while denying them to others with the justification of biological and social inferiority.

~ Margo Adair and Sharon Powell, *The Subjective Side of Politics* San Francisco: 1988. p 17

WHITE PRIVILEGE

A **privilege** is a right, favor, advantage, immunity, specially granted to one individual or group, and withheld from another.

~ Webster

White Privilege is:

1. Preferential prejudice and preferential treatment of whites based solely on their skin color and/or ancestral origin from Europe.
2. Absence of oppression based on skin color and ancestral origin from Africa, Asia and the Americas. "White peoples were exempt from slavery, land grab and genocide, the first forms of white privilege [in the future U.S]."

~ Virginia Harris and Trinity Ordoña. "Developing Unity Among Women of Color: Crossing the Barriers of Internalized Racism and Cross Racial Hostility," in *Making Face, Making Soul* . Edited by Gloria Anzaldua. San Francisco: Aunt Lute Press, 1990, p 31