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*Color, Culture, Civilization: Race and Minority Issues in American Society.* Stanford M. Lyman.

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Sybil M. Lassiter, *Multicultural Clients: A Professional Handbook for Health Care Providers and Social Workers*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1995. \$65.00 hardcover.

The book's author, who is a professor of nursing, notes that there are more than 100 different ethnic groups in the United States today. By the middle of the next century, citizens of European descent will be in a minority. She points out that, as a result of the 'browning of America', it is imperative that health care personnel and social workers have a sound knowledge of the different cultures and religions that comprise the country's increasingly diverse multicultural population.

The book is intended to serve as guide to these cultures. Apart from a general introduction, it contains fifteen chapters dealing with a wide range of ethnic groups. These include Americans of African, Arab, Haitian, Latin-American and Asian descent as well as as European groups such as German, Italian and Irish Americans. A chapter on Jewish Americans is also provided. However, there is no chapter on Native Americans.

Each chapter follows a generally standardized format and contains sections dealing with the demographics of each ethnic group, language, family patterns, child rearing, socialization and religious beliefs. Because the book has been written primarily for health care professionals, each chapter also contains information on disease patterns, dietary habits, folk medicine and other culturally based health beliefs and practices.

This is not a sophisticated book about multiculturalism in the United States but, as a practical guide, it will be of use to health care and human service workers who come into daily contact with the nation's many ethnic minorities. It is easy to read and presented in a straightforward way.

Stanford M. Lyman, *Color, Culture, Civilization: Race and Minority Issues in American Society*. Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1994. \$44.95 hardcover.

Stanford Lyman is widely respected for his incisive sociological analyses of race relations in the United States today. Utilizing a sociological perspective, he has interpreted many aspects of color and culture in the country. He has also analyzed the writings of other social scientists who have written on race and ethnic issues

and he has masterfully excavated the assumptions and ideologies which underly their work.

This book is a collection of previously published articles by Lyman dealing with a diverse range of topics. In the book's introduction, the author attempts to explicate a unifying theme for the material by focusing on the ongoing debate between assimilationists and pluralists who view ethnic relations policy from very different perspectives. While much of the material touches on this issue, the individual chapters are self-sufficient and suggest that other themes are equally important in understanding the author's contribution.

One of these is slavery. Indeed, Lyman's analyses of contemporary ethnic issues reveals the extent to which the legacy of slavery still influences popular thinking as well as social policy in the United States. As the author reveals, the legitimization of slavery required the institutionalization of erroneous beliefs about those who were enslaved. These beliefs continue to have a powerful impact on ethnic relations today.

For example, the idea that Africans are by nature slothful is still widespread and permeates popular beliefs about race, work, poverty and welfare. This idea was originally used to justify the enslavement of Africans. In slave society, slavery was not regarded as oppression but as a means of offering salvation from the sin of sloth. By forcing slaves to work, it was believed that slave owners were inculcating their slaves with virtuous qualities and redeeming them from degeneracy. Lyman shows how this belief continues to hold currency today. For example, he notes how the writing of Lawrence Mead on poverty and income support recapitulates this idea. The popularity of Mead's writing with those who believe that coerced labor offers a useful mechanism for welfare reform is directly derived from archaic beliefs about sloth and slavery.

Similarly profound ideas permeate the other chapters of this excellent collection. It should be read not only by academics but by all who work in the field of race relations today.

Thomas Sowell, *Race and Culture: A World View*. New York: Basic Books, 1994. \$24 hardcover.

The declared intention of this book is to demolish what the author describes as the many 'myths' about race and ethnic issues