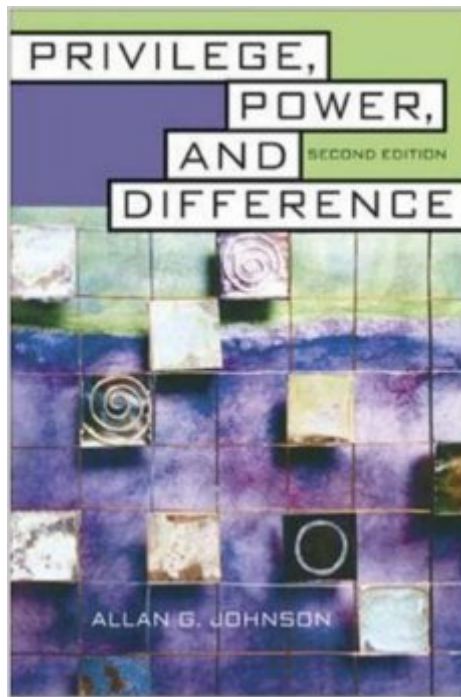


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# Privilege, Power, And Difference



## Synopsis

This brief book is a groundbreaking tool for students and non-students alike to examine systems of privilege and difference in our society. Written in an accessible, conversational style, Johnson links theory with engaging examples in ways that enable readers to see the underlying nature and consequences of privilege and their connection to it. This extraordinarily successful book has been used across the country, both inside and outside the classroom, to shed light on issues of power and privilege.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When I first saw the title for this book, I thought it was going to be another of those books that make you feel sick and worthless once you get to the end. This couldn't have been further from the truth. Allen's book was engaging, gentle, but powerful. It was thorough in describing the impact of power and privilege in a way that can be felt and understood even by those who are not familiar with (or generally interested in) critical studies and sociology. I found this to be a text that I could engage with, but also one that I could share with those who had a hard time seeing the lines of power and how they impact all of our relationships in many different ways. I highly recommend this book both to those who have worked with the material of oppression for a long time as well as for those who are struggling to understand what it's all about. The book is powerful and gentle at the same time - something that is very important when dealing with issues of oppression and equity.

I adopted this very readable book as one of several required books for my Multicultural Psychology

class and it has had a tremendous impact on my students. Johnson explains the concept of privilege, as it applies to race, gender and sexual orientation, in ways that allow my White students and other students with privilege to hear and understand without getting defensive. He describes why change is difficult but not impossible, what we can all do to stop supporting "the system" and why we should. I recommend it highly for both college and high school students and the general adult population.

As an instructor working in the Humanities, finding non-threatening ways to talk about privilege, whiteness, and/or racism is very challenging. As I read the negative reviews, I am even more aware of how difficult it is to get these ideas across without being accused of self-hatred, etc. In an effort to encourage positive self reflection on these complex issues, I have read many of the foundation works Dr. Johnson mentions. His recapitulation of these ideas is indeed gentle. One of the best things he does is make it possible for individuals to recognize that, while they may have unearned entitlements in one area, they may not have them in another. In this way, it is possible for practically everyone to recognize the feeling of being an outsider and this can lead to a compassion and understanding that has NOTHING TO DO with guilt. This work can create a bridge. As an instructor in the area of cultural studies, I often must challenge individuals who believe feeling guilty is all they can do. It isn't. Dr. Johnson gives us actions that we as individuals can actually engage. BTW the chapter on Capitalism is elegant dynamite. If you are open to the possibility that things can get better through a personal self-reflective understanding of our socio-economic location, read this book. If not, don't waste your time.

I read this book filled with skepticism about what could be done about the problems of prejudice and injustice in our society. Johnson answered my every question and even pointed out ways that I fall short. He writes in a witty, conversational style, using many personal examples. I would recommend this book for absolutely anyone to read. Teachers: use this book in your classes. Mine did, and it has made a huge difference in my life.

This was a required book for my philosophy class. Privilege, Power, and Difference is one of my favorite books, I loved it. The book has been very inspiring to me, I am a college student and also a journalist on the side, it has inspired me to speak out even more. This book challenges political correctness and forces the reader to deal with ideologies that are crippling our culture. The book was ahead of its time in regards to the Occupy Wall Street movement as well. Everyone should be

reading this book right now, it speaks right to the movement and to the current events that are unfolding. Highly Recommended and honest.

In this book, the author describes how the world works. It can all be summed up by this sentence in his book: "The trouble that surrounds difference is really about privilege and power - the existence of privilege and the lopsided distribution of power that keeps it going." Differences include, class, race, gender, sexual orientation, disability...and the list goes on. If you like to educate yourself; if you crave an understanding of the way things work; if you love to read, get this book. You won't regret it. It's written beautifully; in a colloquial tone. I was going to take a nap, and as I lay in bed and started reading this, I couldn't fall asleep because I didn't want to stop reading. So go out there and get this book! I know you'll love it. I'm falling in love with this amazing sociologist. He's easily becoming a favorite. This book is changing my life already, and I guarantee it will change yours.

This is the book that really opened my eyes to systemic and institutional oppression. Before reading this book I didn't really have a framework for understanding what systemic oppression meant, but this spelled it out in simple terms. Excellent introduction to the subject and should be required reading for all students. My only big complaint is that the author is coming from a place of a lot of privilege- he's a white, straight, cisgender, nondisabled man. That puts him in a good position to explain privilege, but since he doesn't have personal experience with being oppressed it leaves his narrative of oppression kind of flat. I think this is a good starting point but if you really want to delve into the subject you'll need to read more books from the point of view of oppressed people.

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