

WHO IS BLACK?

One Nation's Definition

F. James Davis

"Nothing has been more fateful for the history of race in American than our peculiar decision to categorize as "black" every person known or believed to have any degree of African ancestry. Now Professor Davis has provided us with a much needed, richly informative study of the 'one-drop rule' and its consequences. An important, provocative contribution."

—Bob Blauner, author of *Black Lives, White Lives*

"Who is Black is a major contribution to our understanding of how 'race' is defined in American society. Unlike most other countries in the world, the United States still adheres to the 'one-drop rule,' but only for American Blacks. The rule doesn't apply to other racial groups. How and why this rule developed, efforts to change it, and the impact it has had are discussed in clear, non-technical language. Davis has written an important book for social scientists and the public at large."

—Rita J. Simon, American University

Who is Black? provides both a history and analysis of miscegenation in the United States, showing how a black person is defined, how this definition emerged from the slave South to become the nation's definition with the backing of state and federal courts, how the definition works in everyday life, and what the consequences of the definition are. Davis discusses the dilemmas of racial identity experienced by well-known public figures, including Lena Horne, Adam Clayton Powell, and Walter White of the NAACP. Conflicts over color in the black community are also discussed, along with such further problems as collective anxieties, the racial identity of trans-racially adopted children, different modes of adjustment to ambiguities about racial identity, and personal traumas. Finally, the question of potential changes in the one-drop rule is considered in order to demonstrate how entrenched the rule now is in the black community as well as the white, and why.

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Edward Keynes

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Simon Schwartzman

"No book exists in English that deals with this material in such depth, especially for the more modern period . . . an interesting contribution to the institutional and sociological analysis of science outside of the 'mainstream' countries."

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A Space for Science is a new version of *Formação da Comunidade Científica no Brasil* (published only in Portuguese in 1979 and now out of print), which became a standard reference for studies of the development of scientific traditions and competence in Brazil and, by extension, for other developing countries. Based on dozens of interviews with several generations of Brazilian scientists, it offers a wealth of information and insight about the motivations, attitudes, values, and perceptions of the scientists who, working in this kind of environment, face challenges and endure frustrations not known to their colleagues in wealthier industrialized countries. The book focuses on the development of natural sciences in Brazil since the nineteenth century, with emphasis on the cultural, institutional, and social contexts that facilitated or hindered their growth and institutionalization, and offers an analysis of their current predicaments. It also provides an account of the importance to Brazil of foreign-trained scientists and foreign models of research and higher education.

This new English version contains background information on Brazilian society and politics, a new introduction, and two new chapters that bring it up to 1988. These changes, along with substantial revisions to the text, make this a new book even for the Brazilian reader

Simon Schwartzman is Professor of Political Science at the Universidade de São Paulo and Scientific Director of Núcleo de Pesquisas sobre Ensino Superior (NUPES).

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The Revenge of History

Marxism and the East European Revolutions

Alex Callinicos

"Can the collapse of the Soviet-type systems in Eastern Europe be hailed as the bankruptcy of socialism and the triumph of capitalism? The author's answer is a categorical 'no.' One can use arguments to the same effect that are different from his, and disagree with him on many points, but he questions very aptly some influential fallacies of our times and forces the reader to think and think again."

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Callinicos seeks to vindicate the classical Marxist tradition against the two versions of socialism that have been dominant for most of this century, Stalinism and social democracy. For Marx and Engels themselves, and for Lenin and Trotsky, socialism could only come from below, through the self-activity of the working class. From this perspective, Stalinism represented a counter-revolution, the destruction of the radically democratic version of socialism based on workers' councils briefly achieved in October 1917.

Callinicos develops his case through an analysis of the Russian Revolution and its fate, tracing the evolution of what he regards as state capitalism in the USSR from its construction after 1928 through to the final crisis of the Stalinist order at the end of the 1980s. This interpretation of Stalinism is integrated into a broader analysis of the world economy, whose transition from nationally organized to globally integrated capitalism forms the context of the implosion of the Eastern bloc.

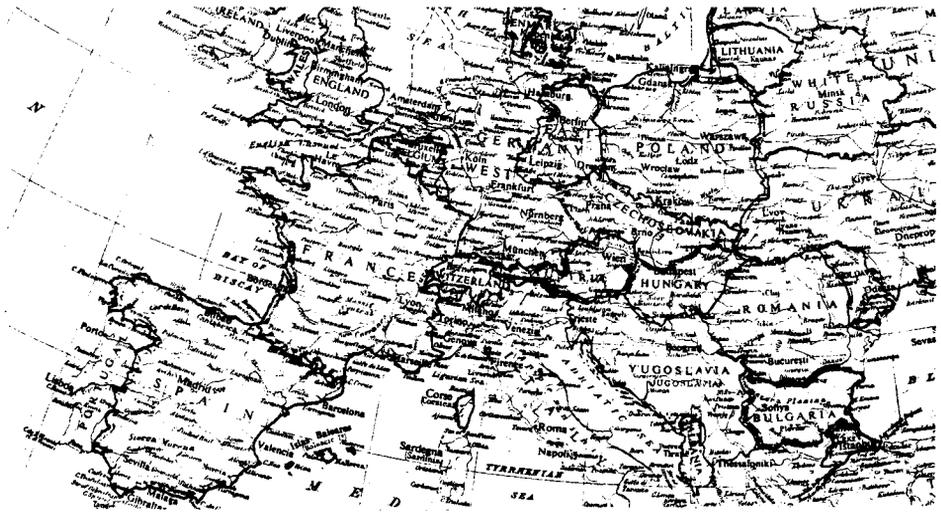
Callinicos argues that the world order is likely to experience greater instability as a result of the collapse of Stalinism, as competition between the major Western powers (the U.S., Germany, and Japan) is exacerbated. Capitalism, he contends, still suffers from all the flaws diagnosed by Marx—in-equality, liability to slumps, endemic poverty, and an increased tendency today toward environmental destruction. Socialism is therefore still an urgent necessity—provided it is understood in Marx's sense. Callinicos defends Marx's goal of a classless communist society, seeking to show that such a society would be both profoundly democratic and practically feasible. The collapse of Stalinism, he concludes, should be the moment less to abandon socialism than to resume unfinished business.

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Martin Jänicke

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"*State Failure* is provocative, well-argued, and likely to make a big impact on debates in the areas of theories of the state, comparative political economy, innovation, alternative politics, and environmental policy. At a time when Americans are realizing that simply deregulating everything may produce a large amount of dysfunction, *State Failure* offers a welcome corrective to the lack of discourse in this area."

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Martin Jänicke is Professor of Comparative Political Science at the Free University, Berlin.

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Bob Jessop is Professor of Sociology at the University of Lancaster and author of *The Capitalist State* (Martin Robertson, 1982), *Nicos Poulantzas* (St. Martin’s Press, 1985), and *Regulation Theory and the Transition to Post-Fordism* (Polity Press, 1990).

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