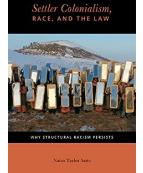
## Why Structural Racism Persists: Citizenship And Migration In The Americas

In today's world, where globalization has interconnected societies like never before, the issues of citizenship and migration have become increasingly important. The Americas, comprising North, Central, and South America, have long been a region of immense diversity. However, this diversity has also given rise to a complex web of structural racism that hinders social progress and perpetuates systemic inequalities. This article will delve into the historical roots and contemporary manifestations of structural racism in the Americas, exploring the reasons why it persists despite efforts to dismantle it.

#### **Understanding Structural Racism**

Structural racism refers to the ways in which societal systems and institutions perpetuate racial inequalities, either consciously or unconsciously. It operates beyond individual prejudices and biases, deeply embedded in policies, laws, and practices. This form of racism reinforces advantages for certain racial groups while systematically disadvantaging others.

When examining the Americas, it becomes clear that structural racism has been deeply embedded in the foundation of societies since the arrival of Europeans. The era of colonization marked the beginning of a system that favored white settlers and subjugated indigenous populations and African slaves. While significant progress has been made since then, the legacy of colonialism and slavery still impacts the social, economic, and political structures of the Americas, perpetuating racial disparities.



#### Settler Colonialism, Race, and the Law: Why Structural Racism Persists (Citizenship and Migration in the Americas Book 2)

by Natsu Taylor Saito (Kindle Edition)

🚖 🚖 🚖 🚖 5 out of 5	
Language	: English
File size	: 1244 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled	
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 381 pages



#### The Link Between Citizenship and Structural Racism

Citizenship, the legal status conferring rights and privileges within a country, plays a significant role in determining an individual's access to resources, opportunities, and social protections. However, structural racism affects citizenship practices in the Americas, creating multiple barriers for marginalized racial groups.

In many countries, indigenous peoples have faced historical discrimination resulting in their exclusion from citizenship rights. Their lands were dispossessed, cultures were suppressed, and their very existence was denied. Even today, indigenous communities struggle to gain legal recognition and are often treated as second-class citizens within their own countries.

A similar situation can be observed with Afro-descendants, who continue to face discrimination and exclusion in various countries across the Americas. The legacy of slavery and its subsequent impact on social hierarchies has led to the marginalization of Afro-descendant communities. Limited access to education,

healthcare, and employment opportunities further perpetuates their disadvantaged position within society.

#### The Role of Migration in Perpetuating Structural Racism

The issue of migration is closely intertwined with structural racism in the Americas. Racial and ethnic minorities often face obstacles and discriminatory practices when attempting to migrate or seeking refuge in other countries. Antiimmigrant sentiment can be traced back to long-standing prejudices and fears rooted in structural racism.

For example, within the United States, migration from Latin America has been met with hostility and policies that target primarily Hispanic communities. The construction of physical barriers such as the border wall and the implementation of restrictive immigration policies reflects a systemic bias against people of Latin American descent. This is just one example of how structural racism manifests in migration practices within the Americas.

#### **Breaking the Cycle**

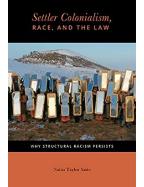
Addressing the persistence of structural racism requires a multi-dimensional approach that encompasses legal reforms, policy changes, and societal awareness. Governments in the Americas need to enact legislation that safeguards the rights of racial minorities and actively combats discriminatory practices.

Education also plays a crucial role in challenging and dismantling structural racism. By incorporating inclusive curriculums that celebrate diversity and teach the historical contributions of marginalized groups, societies can promote greater understanding and empathy. It is essential to create spaces where individuals can learn about and engage in difficult conversations about race, ultimately fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.

#### The Path Forward

Breaking the cycle of structural racism in the Americas is no easy task. It requires collective action, political will, and a recognition of how deeply entrenched these systems are. However, with concerted efforts, meaningful progress can be achieved.

By acknowledging the existence of structural racism, engaging in open dialogue, and implementing targeted policies, the Americas can work towards a future where citizenship and migration are truly inclusive and equitable for all individuals, regardless of their racial background. Only then can we begin to dismantle the systemic barriers that perpetuate inequality and create a society where everyone has an equal chance to thrive.



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How taking Indigenous sovereignty seriously can help dismantle the structural racism encountered by other people of color in the United States

Settler Colonialism, Race, and the Law provides a timely analysis of structural racism at the intersection of law and colonialism. Noting the grim racial realities still confronting communities of color, and how they have not been alleviated by constitutional guarantees of equal protection, this book suggests that settler colonial theory provides a more coherent understanding of what causes and what can help remediate racial disparities.

Natsu Taylor Saito attributes the origins and persistence of racialized inequities in the United States to the prerogatives asserted by its predominantly Angloamerican colonizers to appropriate Indigenous lands and resources, to profit from the labor of voluntary and involuntary migrants, and to ensure that all people of color remain "in their place."

By providing a functional analysis that links disparate forms of oppression, this book makes the case for the oft-cited proposition that racial justice is indivisible, focusing particularly on the importance of acknowledging and contesting the continued colonization of Indigenous peoples and lands. Settler Colonialism, Race, and the Law concludes that rather than relying on promises of formal equality, we will more effectively dismantle structural racism in America by envisioning what the right of all peoples to self-determination means in a settler colonial state.



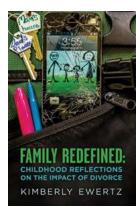
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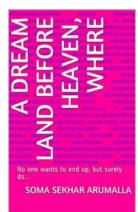
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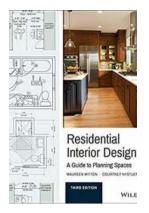
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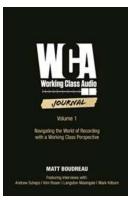
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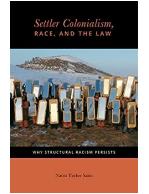
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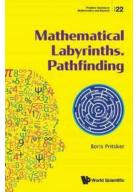
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