



# Dear White America: Letter to a New Minority (City Lights Open Media)

*Tim Wise*

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White Americans have long been comfortable in the assumption that they are the cultural norm. Now that notion is being challenged, as white people wrestle with what it means to be part of a fast-changing, truly multicultural nation. Facing chronic economic insecurity, a popular culture that reflects the nation's diverse cultural reality, a future in which they will no longer constitute the majority of the population, and with a black president in the White House, whites are growing anxious.

This anxiety has helped to create the Tea Party movement, with its call to "take our country back." By means of a racialized nostalgia for a mythological past, the Right is enlisting fearful whites into its campaign for reactionary social and economic policies.

In urgent response, Tim Wise has penned his most pointed and provocative work to date. Employing the form of direct personal address, he points a finger at whites' race-based self-delusion, explaining how such an agenda will only do harm to the nation's people, including most whites. In no uncertain terms, he argues that the hope for survival of American democracy lies in the embrace of our multicultural past, present and future.

"Sparing neither family nor self...he considers how the deck has always been stacked in his and other white people's favor...His candor is invigorating."—*Publishers Weekly*

"One of the most brilliant, articulate and courageous critics of white privilege in the nation."—Michael Eric Dyson

"Tim Wise has written another blockbuster! His new book, *Dear White America: Letter to a New Minority*, is a cogent analysis of the problems of race and inequality as well as a plea for those who harbor views about race and racism to modify and indeed eliminate them. While the book's title addresses white people, this is really a book for anyone who is concerned about eliminating the issue of racial disparity in our society. This is must read and a good read."—Charles J. Ogletree, Jr., the Jesse Climenko Professor of Law at Harvard Law School and the Executive Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice. He is the author of a number of books, including *The Presumption of Guilt: The Arrest of Henry Louis Gates, Jr.* and *Race, Class and Crime in America*

"Tim Wise is an American hero in the truest sense of the term—he tells the truth, no matter how inconvenient that truth might be. *Dear White America* is a desperately needed response to the insidious mythology that pretends whites are oppressed and people of color unduly privileged. In the process, it exposes how new forms of racism have been deliberately embedded into our supposedly 'color blind' culture. Read this book—but rest assured, it's not for the faint of heart."—David Sirota, syndicated columnist, radio host, author of *Back to Our Future: How the 1980s Explain the World We Live In Now*

"The foremost white analyst of racism in America never fails to provide fresh takes as he punctures myths and defenses."—*World Wide Work*

**Tim Wise** is one of the most prominent antiracist essayists, educators, and activists in the United States. He

is regularly interviewed by A-list media, including CNN, C-SPAN, *The Tavis Smiley Show*, *The Tom Joyner Morning Show*, Michael Eric Dyson's radio program, and many more. His most recent books include *Colorblind* and *Between Barack and a Hard Place*.

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