White Fear and US Racism in the Era of Obama: The Relevance of Neoliberalism

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Despite having more access to wealth and political influence than other groups, many White Americans perceive themselves—perhaps more than ever—as victims of political correctness and state sponsored reverse discrimination. In light of these concerns, I make three general points in this article. First, I argue that the presumed shift away from neoliberalism by Obama’s “big government” has spurred an anti-statist backlash in the US that draws from, and reinforces, the myth of white victimhood. Second, I address how neoliberalism and post-racialism (which Obama embraces) are mutually supportive ideologies that sustain the racial status quo. Lastly, I suggest that challenging contemporary structures of racial inequity requires anti-racist measures that break completely from the neoliberal/post-racial paradigm. [Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: http://www.transformativestudies.org ©2011 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]


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