

Race, Class and Sexism Now

for Movement for a New Society alumni

February 26, 2025

With Erika Thorne and Betsy Leondar-Wright



How resistance is working
in Minneapolis



SHOWING UP FOR RACIAL JUSTICE (SURJ)

Organizing white people to get involved in multi-racial coalitions



60+
actions.

Over
1,700
people,
Feb 1-20
2025

Rollback of progress against oppression

MNS was a pioneer in the anti-oppression training now identified with DEI - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

We were almost unique in including classism, and ex-MNSers co-founded several economic justice groups, United for a Fair Economy, Class Action and Inequality.org

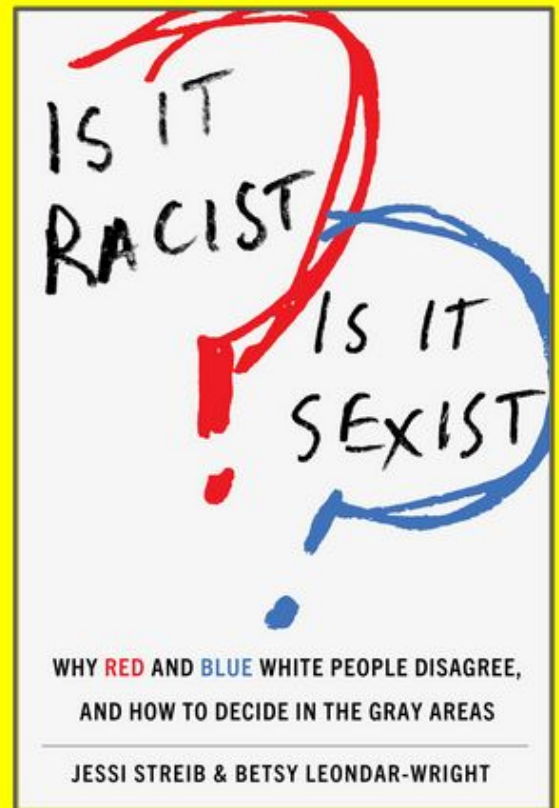


Now DEI is under attack, being banned and even criminalized by state and federal governments, and used as an excuse to cut back on science, the arts and education.

Interviews with 50+ conservatives about racism and sexism showed surprising complexity.

Some did speak up against the narrow forms of racism they recognized.

If you want to buy the book, get 20% off at www.sup.org with code ISIT20



The Boston Globe

Ideas

The section that asks "what if?" and "why not?"

The fallacy of thinking that Trump voters are probably racist

Liberals sometimes assume that many in the MAGA camp are motivated by racial animus — but the reality is more complicated.

By Betsy Leondar-Wright Updated October 21, 2024, 3:00 a.m.



How do we relate to white Trump voters?

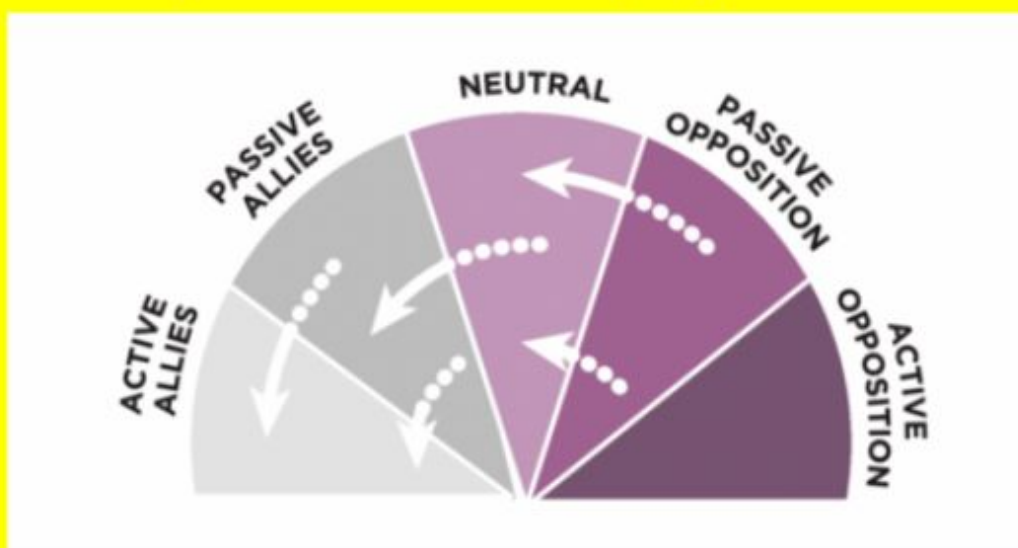


Assuming they are all racist *reduces* the possibility of coalitions with surprising allies facing cuts:

- Farmers
- Veterans
- Federal workers
- Sheriffs

Movements grow when there are coalitions of unlikely allies, and well-targeted campaigns that draw them in

One 2024 study showed that about 27% of white workers say DEI is a bad thing - nowhere near a majority! Lots of neutrals.



What campaigns might work to shift people on racism/sexism/DEI?

Discussion questions

1. What gives me hope that resistance, now, can expand beyond our “usual suspects?”
2. What anti-oppression / pro-DEI campaigns might appeal to surprising allies?
3. What steps can I myself take to draw in non-radicals into resistance movement(s) - including Trump voters?

For more information...

Betsy's website = www.classmatters.org

White People Confronting Racism = <https://www.whitepeopleconfrontingracism.org/>

Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) = <https://surj.org/>

Loretta Ross' TED Talk on calling in, not calling out = https://www.ted.com/talks/loretta_j_ross_don_t_call_people_out_call_them_in

