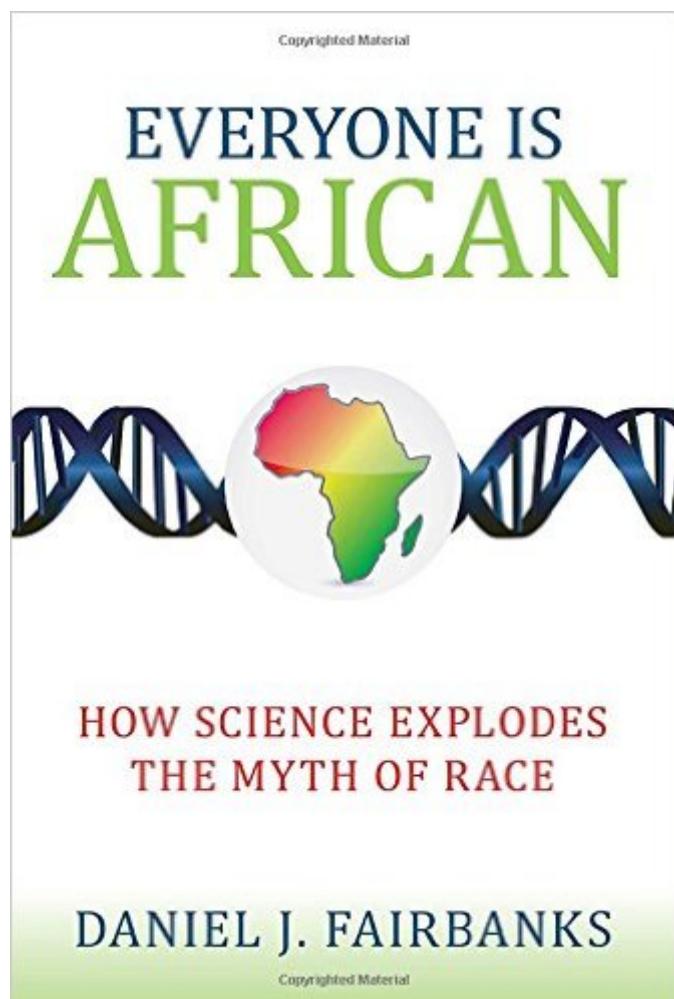


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# Everyone Is African: How Science Explodes The Myth Of Race



## **Synopsis**

What does science say about race? In this book a distinguished research geneticist presents abundant evidence showing that traditional notions about distinct racial differences have little scientific foundation. In short, racism is not just morally wrong; it has no basis in fact. The author lucidly describes in detail the factors that have led to the current scientific consensus about race. Both geneticists and anthropologists now generally agree that the human species originated in sub-Saharan Africa and darkly pigmented skin was the ancestral state of humanity. Moreover, worldwide human diversity is so complex that discrete races cannot be genetically defined. And for individuals, ancestry is more scientifically meaningful than race. Separate chapters are devoted to controversial topics: skin color and the scientific reasons for the differences; why ancestry is more important to individual health than race; intelligence and human diversity; and evolutionary perspectives on the persistence of racism. This is an enlightening book that goes a long way toward dispelling the irrational notions at the heart of racism.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This was an easily accessible survey of recent genomic results describing what we know of human variation, what it tells us about our recent evolutionary past, and how little the variations we focus on for racial and racist discrimination have to do with who we are as humans. I appreciated the effort by a geneticist to write an anthropologically sensitive book. I have three short and relatively simple corrections: 1. On page 74, Nina Jablonsky and George Chaplin are from Penn State (my alma mater), not Penn. No change to the actual information is needed. 2. On page 77, the author says,

"Although sickle-cell trait occurs in people with many different ancestral backgrounds, it is most frequent in people with African ancestry." I would emphasize that this is true in the U.S., but in India it would not be an appropriate statement. It also uses the unfortunate concept of continental ancestry, and sickle cell is completely absent from large swaths of populations that have very long tenures in Africa.<sup>3</sup> On page 103 in the discussion of illustrations in Gould's book, *Mismeasure of Man*, the claim is made that they are 18th century drawings, while most of the illustrations, including the most invidious from Nott and Gliddon's *Types of Mankind* come from the 19th century. These are extremely minor points, and do not detract from the overall message of the book.

Too politically correct. He was wrong to imply that Nicholas Wade the author of *Troublesome Inheritance* as a racist. I read Nicholas Wade's book and what he is saying there are some biological differences between world populations and there are some genetic testing to prove it. Wade and others weren't saying to incorporate racist institutions, what he was saying is some racial groups different when it comes to variety of behavior detected, whether that would be intelligence, proneness to criminality and so forth. It is naive for Daniel J. Fairbanks to deny these differences exist.

This book should be required reading for every diversity trainer and educator. Diversity exists (more in Africa) and we share a genetic core influenced by ancestral changes. The argument is made carefully. While it is complex for those like me who are not geneticists, it is understandable/accessible in a way my college genetics course was not. Any university with a diversity requirement should consider requiring this for every new student before the discussion continues.

This is a superb summary of race in humans. It is carefully written and accessible. It truly debunks the notion of race among humans.

This book should be required reading for everyone so that we will learn that we all came from Africa. This is science not mythology.

I will be honest, I don't know how to evaluate this book. I will give the author and the book the benefit of the doubt because of the author's previous book, *Relics of Eden*. I have a prejudice based on my experience as an economist against any book that does not have statistical tables or charts. I don't believe you can make a good analysis without these but I will overcome this prejudice in this

case and give this book 5 stars. I believe even if the book is not completely correct in its argument that it contributes something important to the conversation and should be read and taken seriously. I am not competent to judge the science but it seems to me to be a very good and serious book by a serious scholar. Other good books and information on human genetics here:

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