

**Charles A. Gallagher: “Color-Blind privilege: the social and political functions of erasing the color line in post-race America.**

**Main Point:** Gallagher believes that color-blind America is something that white people have come up with in order to justify the past and give them a sort of psychological comfort that will help erase all of the horrible racism in our history. It is also a way to say that the America of today is a much better, color free, place in which to live. But he disagrees with the idea that America is Color-blind because he says that even though it may look like color does not matter it is only the cultural side of America that is this way. White kids can listen to rap, black kids can play golf. Things like this make America seem as though it has moved past race but if you look at the statistics showing the percentage of black CEO's to white CEO's the difference is plain to see. When you look underneath all of the cultural similarities between the races you can see the actual differences between whites and the rest of the different races in America.

**Central Issues and Concepts:**

*Color-blindness:* this term can be explained in two different ways. The first definition is the idea that our society should be a society in which color and race does not matter. And the second definition is the idea that we actually do live in a nation and time period that does not discriminate due to race or ethnicity.

*Optional Ethnicity:* this is defined as a form of ethnicity that can be chosen due to the fact that we are all “Americans”. Basically people can choose to be different ethnicities on different days with no repercussions what so ever. For example, people being “Irish” on St. Patrick’s Day. This might not be the person’s actual ethnicity but no one cares because it is St. Patrick’s Day.

*Post-Race:* the idea that race is not the most important part of politics, culture, or economics. It basically states that race does not really shape the rest of someone’s life. Gallagher tries to stress the point that whites do not seem to have a problem with people of other races who talk or act just like them. He quotes a man who said that he does not care about race because the Asian family that lives across the street acts, dresses, and talks just like him. But what would he say to an Asian family that did not speak English and came straight from china. He also talks about the fact that whites use these ideas of racism to state that the black people are racist because they do not allow whites into their all black events.

**Two Key Quotes:**

“Embracing a post-race, color-blind perspective provides whites with a degree of psychological comfort by allowing them to imagine that being white or black or brown has no bearing on an individuals or a group’s relative place in the socioeconomic hierarchy” (Page 101).

“Race categories exist, but assimilation allows any individual to become an American, if they so choose” (Page 104).

**Two Key Questions:**

Why do you think all of the men and women who were questioned for these studies were white?

Do you think that there will ever be a time in American history where we are a “Color-blind” nation? What do you think needs to change in order for this to come about?