

Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo. 2002 “We Are All Americans! The Latin Americanization of Racial Stratification in the USA.” *Race & Society* 5:3–16.

PRIMARY ARGUMENT: The author argues that a tri-racial stratification system is emerging in the United States, consequently creating significant changes in our understanding of racial outcomes and further maintaining White supremacy.

IMPORTANT DEFINED CONCEPTS:

- **Tri-Racial System:** Separates people into three race categories: White, Honorary White, and Collective Black. Much like Latin American and Caribbean nations, the new system put light-skinned people (e.g., Japanese Americans) as a secondary group next to “Whites”.
- **Honorary Whites:** Those that see themselves as “White” or believe that they are better than the “non-Whites,” despite not actually being “White”. The category is composed of light-skinned Latinos, northern Asians (e.g., Japanese, Koreans, Chinese, Asian Indians), and multiracial people. These people are still subordinate to Whites.
- **Collective Black:** The category at the bottom of the tri-racial order composed of dark-skinned Latinos, Black people, reservation-bound Native Americans, and southeast Asian immigrants.

PRIMARY FINDINGS:

1. In the post-civil rights era, there are high rates of interracial dating and marriage between Latinos and Whites and between Asians and Whites. Whites are marrying “Honorary Whites,” not people from the “Collective Black” category.
2. Income data suggests that Latino groups that are mostly White (“Honorary White”) have per capita incomes that are 40–100 percent higher than those of Latino groups that are predominantly comprised of dark-skinned people.
3. Asians are generally less segregated from Whites than Blacks and Latinos. However, they have experienced an increase in residential segregation in recent years. This may be because new immigrants from Southeast Asia are closer to the “collective black” category than they are to “whites” or “honorary whites”.
4. Because the tri-racial system enables some non-Whites to experience “Whiteness” and White-like outcomes, people who want to maintain a color-blind ideology (i.e., race doesn’t matter because some non-Whites are doing fine) can do so.

KEY QUOTE: “We need to short-circuit the belief in near-whiteness as the solution to status differences and create a coalition of all “people of color” and their White allies” (pp.13).

QUESTION: It is fair to say this tri-racial system still has many problems, for example, white and honorary white will make more connection, but that does not mean white supremacy is not reinforced again. How could the society adjust better with the existing and widening gap between racial groups?