



Diversity Explosion: How New Racial Demographics are Remaking America

William H. Frey

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At its optimistic best, America has embraced its identity as the world's melting pot. Today it is on the cusp of becoming a country with no racial majority, and new minorities are poised to exert a profound impact on U.S. society, economy, and politics. The concept of a "minority white" may instill fear among some Americans, but William H. Frey, the man behind the demographic research, points out that demography is destiny, and the fear of a more racially diverse nation will almost certainly dissipate over time.

Through a compelling narrative and eye-catching charts and maps, eminent demographer Frey interprets and expounds on the dramatic growth of minority populations in the United States. He finds that without these expanding groups, America could face a bleak future: this new generation of young minorities, who are having children at a faster rate than whites, is infusing our aging labor force with vitality and innovation. In contrast with the labor force-age population of Japan, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom, the U.S. labor force-age population is set to grow 5 percent by 2030.

Diversity Explosion shares the good news about diversity in the coming decades, and the more globalized, multiracial country that the U.S. is becoming.

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Diversity Explosion: How New Racial Demographics are Remaking America Details

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Fernanda says

By 2027, the projection is that the population under 30 will be close to 50/50 whites/minorities. This will be a very natural, very welcome balance and hopefully, by then, we'll have adapted to globalization and the importance to educate each other and work together.

Jacqui says

A look at the increasing racial diversity of the American population. Presents tons of statistics on how diversity is spreading through the population, and discusses how the broad trend and the particular spatial and generational concentrations of different minority populations will effect the country going forward.

Seriously, lots of really detailed stats for people who love demographics.

Matthew Green says

Diversity Explosion is a well-written, concise overview of the racial and ethnic demographic changes taking place that will transform the United States into a majority-minority society within the next few decades.

Bryan Ericson says

I found out about this book while reading an article. It provides a fascinating look at our country's changing demographics. Loved the chapter on presidential politics.

Kayla says

Profound read. Really dissects the ethnic minority make-up around the country. The steady increase in the number of folks going South and West was intriguing. Frey also explains why all of this matters as we move closer to 2040 when the Census Bureau expects the number of ethnic minorities passes the number of non-ethnic minorities in the United States.

Anthony Saint Jean says

Extremely detailed and informative. I appreciated Frey's stratification of complex topics into bite sized chunks that are easily digestible. Highly recommended to anyone interested in U.S. demographic trends.

Liam says

"[F]rom a spatial perspective, new minorities are increasingly spreading out from large Melting Pot metropolitan areas to the New Sun Belt." (61)

"While the volume of new black migration to the South is important, so are the changes that black migrants are bringing to the South with regard to youth and social capital." (119-21)

"[A]n important milestone was passed when the 2010 census became the first to show a majority of each of the nation's largest racial minority groups residing in the suburbs." (164)

"[M]ore than one in seven newlywed couples are multiracial." (193-4)

APRIL KENNEDY says

America is changing. We need to make sure all children have the education they need to become all they can be! The neighborhood changes are happening right before my eyes.

Marquis Miller says

Another must read for all who are committed to building a socially just and progressive community.

Roberto Gallardo says

Great read. Eye opening for anybody interested in demographic trends in the US. Perhaps the most interesting argument set forth by the author is the cultural generation gap (measured as the difference between white seniors and white children). This gap basically confirms what has been a rumor in public policy circles for a while: the increasing disconnect between policymakers (older and white) versus a younger more diverse population. A battle will surely ensue as what to fund: programs for seniors or schools and programs for youth. One thing is certain however: an engaged, educated, and inclusive labor force is needed to support the increasingly older citizens. One more thing, if it weren't for minorities the US population would have declined as is happening in Germany and Japan.

Mills College Library says

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Michael Andersen-Andrade says

"The foremost reason why I anticipate the integration of both new and old racial minorities into the nation's mainstream is the sheer force of the unprecedented change in the nation's demographics. The diversity explosion that the country is now experiencing will alter all aspects of society in ways that can help the nation prosper, make it more inclusive, and increase its global connectivity."

I concur with this statement and I welcome the "browning of America" with open arms.

Roger Gloss says

Although some might consider this thorough discussion of American population trends by an experienced demographer to be a bit dry, I found it quite engaging. This book explains the unprecedented political upheaval we are currently experiencing and, ultimately, offers hope for a better future based on a more diverse population, the continued blurring of racial boundaries, and the decline in power of an older white population that is trying desperately to cling to the past.

Steve says

An important book for understanding the future of our country. Are demographics destiny? Review to come, maybe even a blog.

Allison Chang says

A glossy, comprehensive overview of growing diversity: notice that it is ~not~ titled "Minority Explosion" as it does an adequate job breaking down America's demographics: not just whites, not just immigrants. Hearing "the melting pot" talks shift to an cries of and against "walls" and ICE or white supremacy or who-stole-who's-job, I wanted this to be an objective view into understanding the numbers and trends and it was rather that: a concise almost-encyclopedic collection of digestible data and charts with clear commentary. A good start to the conversation, but I think I'd have to go elsewhere to now gain insight or stories behind these cultures and livelihood.
