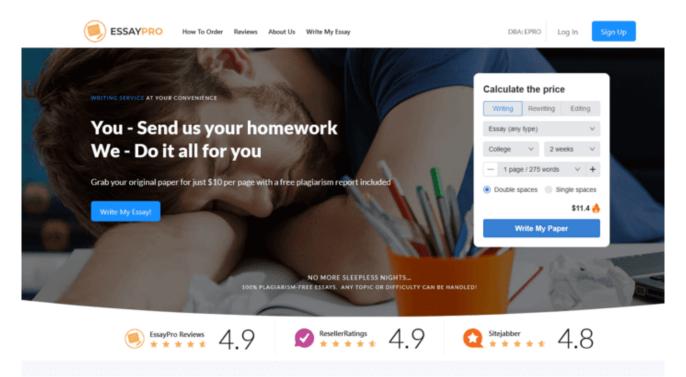
## Race and Intercultural Relations in the United States



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We don't have problems understanding ourselves. We have problems understanding our interactions with others. See yourself as another sees you and you will begin to understand their viewpoint

Preface

The development of a culture in the United States has been a winding road of interactions between differing, oftentimes opposing cultures and races from the first footfalls of Europeans upon the American continent's shores. Each group of settlers and immigrants have brought their own unique perspectives and underlying values to the table. Many of these perspectives have been incorporated into the mainstream way of life, many others however, have been dismissed and discarded as either foreign or outright dangerous. The patterns that have emerged from this interaction of cultures and peoples define who we are today as Americans, not a homogenous amalgam of those who came before us, but an inter-connected group of varied cultures living within the same system of democracy. Whether for good or bad, our collective interaction has defined our reference set of values and norms in our interpersonal and cultural development.

The patterns that define the macroculture of the United States are deeply rooted in the intercontinental strife and politics of Europe, Africa, and Asia prior to the colonization of North America. The developing European empires and their social, cultural, commercial and religious differences set the stage for <u>intercultural</u> interaction and development for the next 400 years in North America. These groups religious bigotry's (Protestant vs. Catholic vs. Islamic...), social inequalities (noble vs. <u>peasant</u>), and outright greed all combined to contribute to and define our unique American experience...

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...ities and privileges to all members of society, regardless of class, <u>race</u> or religious belief. It is the hope that all people can live the American dream of equality and prosperity.

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