

BOOK REVIEWS

CROSSING DIFFERENCE: INTERRACIAL COMMUNICATION

Jon A. Blubaugh and Dorothy L. Pennington

Columbus: Charles E. Merrill Publishing Co.
1976, 102 + vii pages, \$2.95

“Everyone whether as employers or employees, teachers or students, or community participants, is involved in interracial communication during his or her lifetime” (p. ix). Hence, the purpose of this book is to make the reader aware of basic fundamentals which result in successful interracial communication transactions.

Based upon their past experiences of teaching interracial communication, the authors have combined their ideas, concepts and discoveries into a logically well organized and intelligently written book. Each chapter is followed by exercises that make the reader aware of his/her own individual biases that would influence the communication process in an interracial situation.

The basic fundamentals of interracial communication are examined and explored in nine conclusive chapters. In chapter one, perceptual differences are examined. These perceptual differences are based upon the socialization and cultural background of the individual. Chapter two explains how cultural and racial differences influence interpersonal communication. In chapter four, the use of power in an interracial communication transaction is explored. Chapter five covers stereotypes and racial assumptions that influence the communication encounter. The importance of language during the communication transaction is examined in chapter six. Differences of interpretation and perception regarding nonverbal cues are discussed in chapter seven. Respecting the values and beliefs of others are important if there is to be a positive communication transaction. The authors point out, in chapter eight that the values and beliefs of participants in an

interracial communication transaction may at times be more similar than those of the same race. Hence, assumptions concerning values and beliefs should not be based on racial differences. The concluding chapter list and discuss behaviors that will either block or facilitate interracial communication.

The authors have defined terms clearly. They have also used diagrams and illustrations effectively. Hence, the material is more easily comprehensible. Consequently, teachers/instructors would not find this book difficult to use as a text and students would not find the material stagnant or boring.

Although the focus of this book is interracial communication, the principles, concepts and ideas discussed could also be used in other interethnic or intercultural communication transactions. This is a very important feature of the book. Consequently, all who read this book will find the material quite useful.

This is not a book of dos and don'ts, but is more of a guide to help the reader understand the dynamics involved in interracial communication within the interpersonal context. As a result, the reader is stimulated into making the necessary adjustments that will improve his/her communication transactions in an interracial situation.

This book should be read by all who are involved in interracial or interethnic communication transactions.

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**PERCEPTION AND MISPERCEPTION
IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS**

Robert Jervis

(Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1976
445 pages \$25.00 (cloth); \$11.50 (paper))

Professor Jervis has produced a work which may well prove useful to students of international relations, psychological theory,