Race and Racism in Britain

Also by John Solomos

Racism and Equal Opportunity Policies in the 1980s (editor, with Richard Jenkins)

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Black Youth, Racism and the State

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Race and Racism in Britain

Second Edition

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*To the memory of Cleopatra, Solomos, Styliani and Yiannis, who
missed out on the opportunities I have enjoyed, but whose experiences
remain with me*

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Preface to the First Edition

I would like to thank all the colleagues, students and friends who have helped me to articulate the arguments which are developed in this book. Since 1982 I have taught a number of courses on the politics of racism and related issues, and this has allowed me to test out some of the early versions of chapters included in this volume. I also owe a special debt to my former colleagues at the Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations, University of Warwick, who provided support and a challenging intellectual environment in the initial stages of writing. My present colleagues in the Department of Politics and Sociology at Birkbeck College have given me the space and encouragement to complete this study, and without their support it would have been much delayed. A number of other academic colleagues have given me help and support, in particular Bob Benewick, John Benyon, Mike Cowen, Andrew Gamble, Clive Harris, Bob Jessop, Michael Keith, Bob Miles and Solomos Solomou. Equally I have benefited from the superb collection of materials on race relations brought together by Heather Lynn at Warwick, which has no doubt saved me many hours of searching. At Warwick I received valuable administrative and secretarial support from Rose Goodwin, Gurbakhsh Hundal and Charlotte Wellington. At Birkbeck I have benefited from the invaluable secretarial support of Audrey Coppard and Harriet Lodge. My students at Birkbeck during 1987–88 were the unknowing recipients of some parts of this book in the form of lectures, and their comments helped me to sharpen my ideas and to organise this volume somewhat differently.

I owe a deep debt to my publisher, Steven Kennedy, for his support of the project despite unforeseen delays. At a personal level my family has provided me with necessary emotional support. Friends in Birmingham and London have seen the project develop and helped me to relax when I needed to. George and Ian were good company on our various trips to watch West Bromwich Albion, and they and the ‘Baggies’ deserve a special thanks. Christine Dunn helped to keep me going even when the labour got too much. This book is dedicated with much love to my grandparents.

Birkbeck College, London

JOHN SOLOMOS

Preface to the Second Edition

For the second edition of this book I have chosen to rewrite all the chapters and to add additional material. This is partly the result of the pace of change even in the relatively short period since the first book was produced. Already in the past few years political debates about racial and ethnic issues have taken on new forms in both Britain and other European societies. Racist and nationalist movements have helped to further politicise debates about the role of immigration and the position of ethnic minorities. We have also seen the emergence of new forms of political and social mobilisation by minorities themselves. The changes I have introduced also reflect my own continuing attempts to come to terms with some of the key issues which this book covers. This can be seen in the new material included in Chapters 1, 5, 6 and 10, as well as in the changes I have introduced in other chapters. In including this material I have listened to the suggestions both of my students and my colleagues, and I hope this makes this edition more useful to both the specialist and the general reader.

In producing the second edition of this book I am grateful for the help and advice I have received from a number of colleagues and friends, who have helped me to revise and elaborate my argument. My greatest debt is to Les Back with whom I have worked closely over the past three years and who has influenced the content of a number of chapters in ways too numerable to mention. My students at Birkbeck College have proved a critical and supportive audience and they have helped me to clarify my ideas. The participants in the Workshop on the Politics of Racism, which has met at Birkbeck since 1988, have helped me to develop my ideas in a number of productive directions. In particular I am grateful to Clive Harris, Michael Keith and Syd Jeffers who have all helped to keep the Workshop a friendly place to try out tentative ideas. Terry Mayer and Joanne Winning have provided a supportive environment at Birkbeck while I was producing this second edition and made sure I was not overwhelmed by administration and that I kept to my deadline. Steven Kennedy once again encouraged and supported the production of this edition. Since the production of the first edition the 'Baggies' have introduced me to the delights of third division football, an experience that has

proved too much at times but which has at least allowed me to visit many new grounds and produced many enjoyable Saturday afternoons looking on the bright side of life.

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