

**Behind the myth of a color-blind nation...**

# THE COST OF PRIVILEGE

## Taking on the System of White Supremacy and Racism

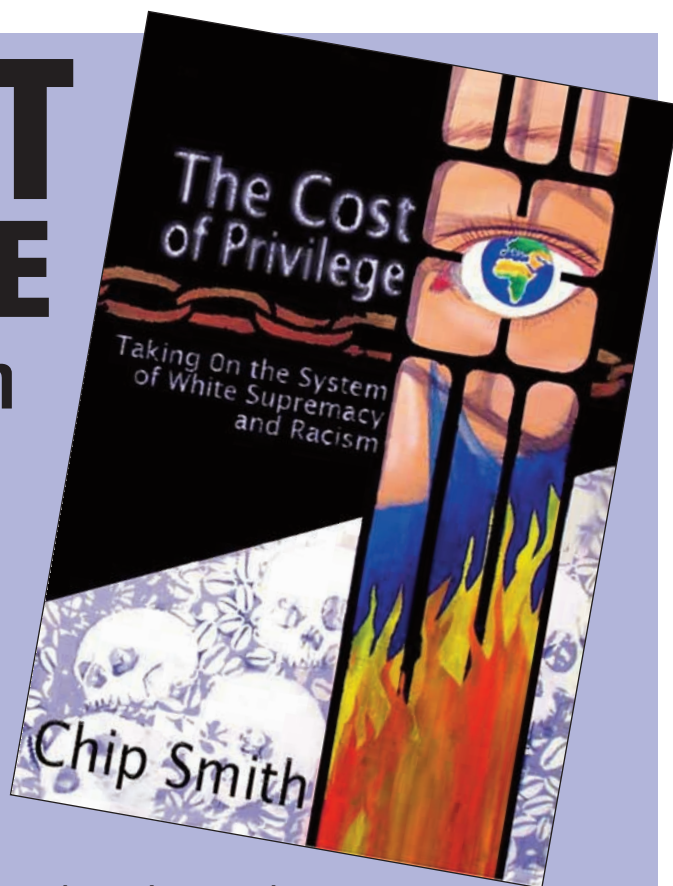
By Chip Smith

*This is a path-breaking study of the sometimes baffling dynamics of racial oppression in the United States. In fact, this is the most comprehensive and clear analysis of racism and national oppression that I've seen. It is recommended reading for any serious activist fighting for social justice in our time. Not just theory, but a guide to action!*

—Komozi Woodard, Professor of History, Public Policy and Africana Studies, Sarah Lawrence College

**New from Camino Press, February 2007**

Cover art and illustrations by Malcolm Goff



White supremacy is more than mere prejudice. *The Cost of Privilege* tears through the matrix of “race relations” to expose a power structure that has shaped all economic, political and cultural life in the United States, since colonial settler days.

On one side of the color line are systematic oppression, super-exploitation and demonization of people of color. On the

other, a systematic awarding of privileges, large and small, to everyday working people who cling desperately to “whiteness” and often don’t even recognize the role their lives play in a much bigger scheme.

Author **Chip Smith**, a seasoned activist, presents historical analysis, first-hand stories, and critical examinations of political struggles that challenged white supremacy.

*Advance Praise for*

# **The Cost of Privilege**

## **Taking on the System of White Supremacy and Racism**

by Chip Smith

*Writing in a down-to-earth style, Smith weaves theoretical insight, political history, and organizing practice together, shows how capitalism, racism, and patriarchy interconnect, and offers excellent ideas for movement-building.*

—Johanna Brenner, author of *Women and the Politics of Class*

*Smith presents historical and personal case studies about how to challenge racism as well as anti-immigrant hysteria. Community activists, union organizers, and educators will find this book indispensable in their work.*

—Paul Ortiz, author of *Emancipation Betrayed*

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*The Cost of Privilege* takes on questions that every activist comes up against:

- Are “identity politics” a roadblock to working class unity?
- How do activists organize in mainly white workplaces, schools, communities?
- Are issues of gender and women’s oppression at odds with issues of race, or are they fundamentally connected?
- Can people of color trust white activists?
- How does privilege affect our day-to-day lives and what can we do about it?
- What movements have successfully cut through racial lines, and with what historic results?

An anti-racist activist for 35 years, author **Chip Smith** has been a Machinists union steward, stay-at-home dad, staffer for Jobs with Justice, and scholar. His Ph.D. dissertation at Temple University (1994) examined the impact of Philadelphia’s de-industrialization on low wages, African Americans and unionization.



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