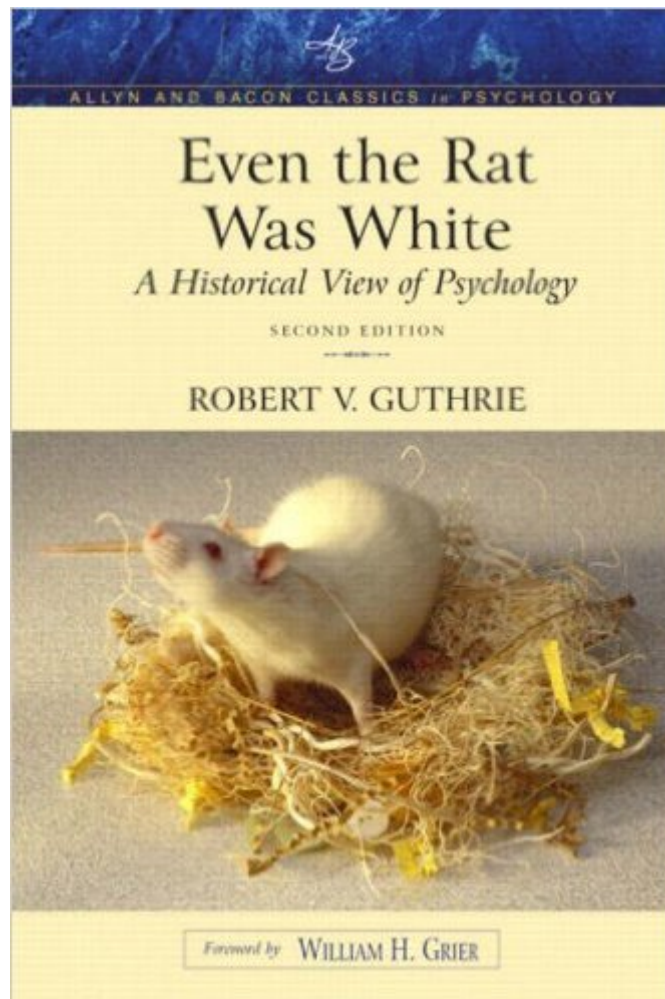


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# Even The Rat Was White: A Historical View Of Psychology (Allyn & Bacon Classics Edition) (2nd Edition)



## Synopsis

Even The Rat Was White views history from all perspectives in the quest for historical accuracy. Histories and other background materials are presented in detail concerning early African-American psychologists and their scientific contributions, as well as their problems, views, and concerns of the field of social psychology. Archival documents that are not often found in mainstream resources are uncovered through the use of journals and magazines, such as the Journal of Black Psychology, the Journal of Negro Education, and Crisis.

## Book Information

Paperback: 282 pages

Publisher: Pearson; 2 edition (March 28, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0205392644

ISBN-13: 978-0205392643

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 1 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (78 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #134,261 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in [Books > Medical Books > Psychology > Ethnopsychology](#) #60 in [Books > Medical Books > Psychology > History](#) #1453 in [Books > Medical Books > Psychology > General](#)

## Customer Reviews

Robert V. Guthrie's classic novel, *Even the Rat Was White: A Historical View of Psychology*, is an excellent historical document that views psychology from multiple perspectives. Guthrie cites many archival documents that are not found in typical, mainstream resources, which exposes students and educators alike to not only elusive but also informative material. It is an excellent source for informing and intriguing readers and inquiring minds about the impact that African-American psychologists have had on the field of psychology. The first part, or section, of Guthrie's literary work focuses on the "scientific" measure of race and racial differences. From physical appearance (e.g., Shaxby and Bonnell's photometer) to mental aptitude (e.g., the Stanford-Binet and Wechsler-Bellevue scales), there existed a myriad of measurement devices and instruments for measuring racial differences. Of course, the majority of these measurements indicated the racial inferiority of American minorities (viz., African-American inferiority). The spurious results were the product of three major factors: (a) experimenter expectancy, which was due, for example, to the

previous research of eugenicists such as Francis Galton and Charles Davenport, (b) culturally-biased instruments or measures, and (c) suspicious statistical analyses (e.g., Charles Babbage noted the unethical practices of "trimming" and "cooking" data sets.).As stated previously, the result of the measure of racial differences led to an assumption of minority inferiority. Even though much research has been conducted to invalidate and repudiate these claims (e.g., M. J. Mayo and Horace Mann Bond have produced literature in support of racial equality.

Robert Guthrie's *Even the Rat was White*, was written from the historical perspective of African Americans and was designed to inform readers of the challenges African Americans faced and contributions African Americans made against all odds in the psychological sciences. This brief review is aimed for the general reader and will succinctly cover topics discussed in the book. *Even the Rat was White* is divided into three parts. The first part discusses and analyzes psychology and racial differences. The second part of the book presents influential African American psychologists, their struggles, and their contributions to the fields of psychology. The third and final part of the book is composed of conclusions and future directions. The first part of the book painted a detailed historical picture of the stereotyping of African Americans and how psychology did nothing to dismantle these ideas; it only perpetuated the obviously flawed stereotypes that kept African Americans as inferior individuals for hundreds of years. An example of this is IQ research, IQ tests, and IQ standardization. These tests are not culturally sensitive, are designed by middle-class whites for middle-class whites to excel on. The second part of the book provides biographies of several prominent African American psychologists giving detailed background on their upbringings and the adversities they had to overcome to receive their education and have their work taken seriously. Their contributions are also noted at the end of each biography.

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