

The archetypal white man. Indeed, the white man, like Mercedes and Benz, or Dolce and Gabbana, is difficult to say exactly when this association formed, and certainly there was talk of race prejudice before the Nazis changed our moral outlook and priorities, if not forever (for who can see that far into the future?), at least for a long time to come. To hate, despise, depreciate, or discriminate against someone merely because he belongs to a certain racial group now seems to us the worst of all possible vices. This has helped to create a moral climate in which the expression of virtuous, and the abatement of vicious, sentiment is mistaken for, or taken as, the whole of, virtue itself. Let a man be an unscrupulous villain, so long as he utters the right phrases.

IN PRAISE OF PREJUDICE

The Necessity of Preconceived Ideas

Theodore Dalrymple

is an unprejudiced significance of some of the prejudice is an inflexible generalization of psychology. The worst man are motivated, fact that a historical circum-

stances that lent a superficial plausibility to the motivating prejudice is beside the point. That Rwanda was being invaded by Tutsi rebels, and in Burundi to the south a massacre by a Tutsi government of every single Hutu who had attended secondary school had taken place, and that the Hutus were taken



BRIEF
ENCOUNTERS

Resumo de In Praise of Prejudice: The Necessity of Preconceived Ideas

Today, the word prejudice has come to seem synonymous with bigotry; therefore the only way a person can establish freedom from bigotry is by claiming to have wiped his mind free from prejudice.

English psychiatrist and writer Theodore Dalrymple shows that freeing the mind from prejudice is not only impossible, but entails intellectual, moral and emotional dishonesty. The attempt to eradicate prejudice has several dire consequences for the individual and society as a whole.

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