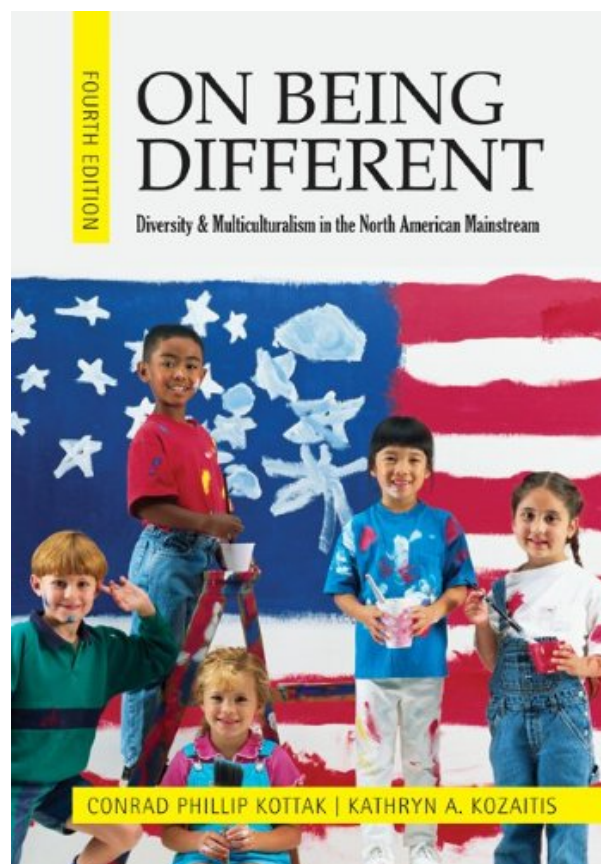
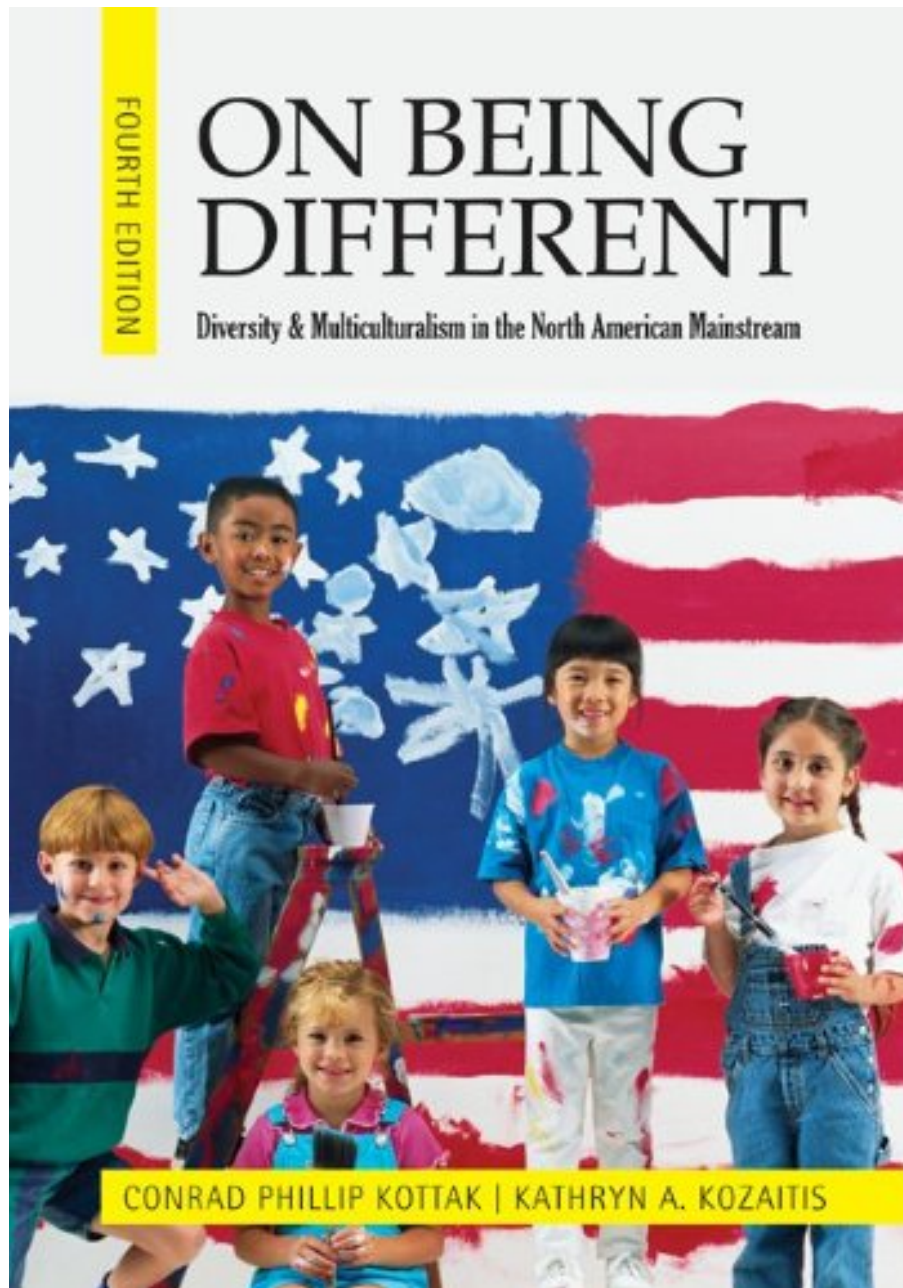


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About the Author

Kathryn A. Kozaitis is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Georgia State University, and holds an adjunct appointment in the Department of Anthropology at Emory University. She received her Ph.D. in Social Work and Anthropology at the University of Michigan in 1993. Her key interests are in the relationship between global transformations and local adaptations, particularly in the processes by which economically, politically, and socially subordinated collectivities in a postcolonial world use culture to construct community, identity, and meaning. Professor Kozaitis has conducted ethnographic research on sociocultural change and adaptation among Gypsies in Athens, Greece, and on ethnicity and aging among Greek immigrants in Chicago, Illinois.

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Understanding of cultural diversity is essential to a healthy multicultural society. Fundamental to this book's approach is the belief that a comparative, cross-cultural view of human differences and similarities enhances understanding of diversity and multiculturalism within contemporary North America.

On Being Different provides an up-to-date, comprehensive, and interdisciplinary account of diversity and multiculturalism in the United States and Canada. Conrad Kottak and Kathryn Kozaitis clarify essential issues, themes, and topics in the study of diversity, including ethnicity, religion, gender, and sexual orientation. The book also presents an original theory of multiculturalism, showing how human agency and culture work to organize and change society.

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if you're reading this, it's not too late to drop a class that uses this text....

By nicole Vance

Worst book I've had to read for a class. Could have been an interesting subject but minimal ethnographic research was included, examples were sometimes from the two author's own personal experience and the discussions seemed shallow and mainstream. Was looking forward to the subject but only learned how to jump through hoops again, little to no actual learning gained.

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Ok but not a great guide.

By af117

This book does offer a number of great factual and statistical charts for those who want/need to study demographics or populations, and gives info on certain civil movements, but that's about all it's good for. The authors take a highly liberal and relativistic view of the world, and of cultures as a whole, while making the whole history of earth sound like a class struggle between "ruling elites" and minorities. Giving the book a distinct flavor of Carl Marx and Hippy counterculture. Especially advocated is "human rights", defined in the book as such: "human rights challenges the nation-state by invoking a realm of justice and morality beyond and superior to particular countries, cultures, and religions." To be honest this is the moral guiding doctrine of the authors and is very weak, and full of contradictions. For example, many religions (which under human rights, at least in America, people have the right too) do not hold abortion or sexual deviancy as a "human right", and rather call them "murder", and "perversion" respectively, while under the human rights advocated by the authors these things are defined as...a "right, or a choice". Nowhere in this book is this blatant contradiction clarified, so that any curious student is left wondering, what exactly is "human rights"? How does it coexist with my beliefs? And who gets to decide what entails human rights? And how do they decide? Notably lacking from these authors is any ethical guidance besides some Marxian thought, other than relativism (but then again why write the book?) leaving the readers with facts, figures, and no better understanding of what makes a good culture.

3 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Worst read ever.

By Shalon Brown

I'm 3 chapters in and still hate this book. I'm not sure who did the page layouts but the font choice stinks, the font size is bad, the content is overly scientific, I could go on. I'm forced to read this for an education class but this would be best suited for a more technical/behavioral course. Then again, some of the examples and references are too basic and overly detailed. It amazes me that a book devoted to cultural differences can be written and published when the authors do not have diversity of their own cultural experiences. "Typical" experiences have been focused on and so far nuances not outside of what we as American society already "know and see" each day are discussed over and over and over again. I'd recommend the book "Quiet" over this one.

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