Book Review Assignment

In this book, the author not only discusses the superior attitudes of whites toward non-whites in the US, but the US’s consistent behaviors towards non-whites in other countries especially during times of conflict. He illustrate the white privilege is actually planted in a lot of US’ peoples’ heart because their education and society common sense. He also shows the real condition that the difference in education and wealth distribution still exist which makes most white people receive better education and make the disparity become more and more larger. The role of whiteness means a lot of things in American. A lot of people would have some supposition when they meet a white. In the book, whiteness is a multidimensional, complex, systematic concept. As stated in the Aresds’s essay: the whiteness is socially and politically constructed, and therefore a learned behavior. It does not just refer to skin color but its ideology based on beliefs, values behaviors, habits, and attitudes, which result in the unequal distribution of power and privilege based on skin color. It represent a position of power where the power holder defines the categories, which means that the power holder decides who is the white who is not. Then, importantly, it is fluid which means it is changed with time.(Fyre, 1983).

This books told me the “Whiteness as group identity” model conceptualizes whiteness as one of many different racial identities, according to the model, those who are part of a group that is the numerical minority, has less power relative to others groups, which means they would experience more discrimination (Lyubansky, 2011). This group is different from other group which is neutral, some of people equated whiteness with a racist ideology. They argue that the US society is characterized by a socially created racial hierarchy that values whiteness above all others and that because whites are socialized. However, the burden of whiteness shows the other side of whiteness. It is always stressful of being a white when people surrounding are talking about race.