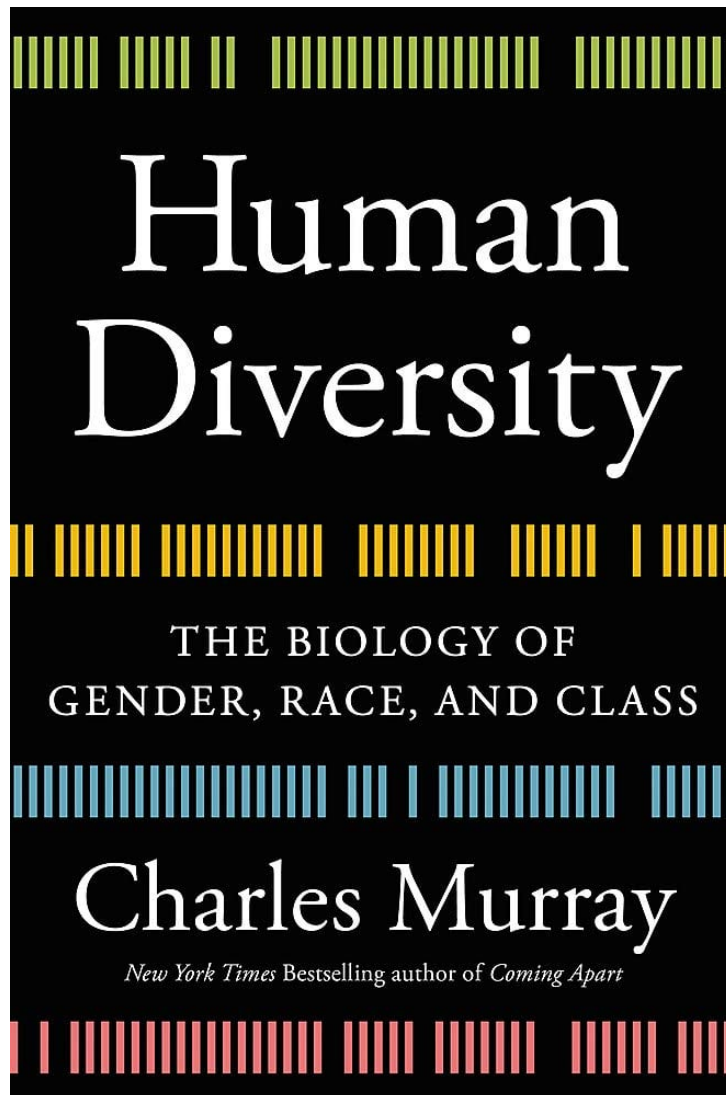


# Genetics and Human Difference

by Theodore Dalrymple



I read Charles Murray's [striking example](#) from the left-liberal British newspaper, the Guardian: a columnist once wrote that underclass girls in Britain got pregnant so young because the only alternative for them to early motherhood was stacking supermarket shelves. This elite-educated columnist thereby implied that stacking supermarket shelves was the summum malum of human existence, overlooking entirely the fact that stacking supermarket shelves is a perfectly honourable and socially useful thing to do, is not unpleasant in itself, may not be the last job the person doing it will have, and is probably suitable for many people of limited abilities.

It is the disdain that hurts, and that is what the modern upper class so successfully communicates to those below them on the social scale. "It is time," says Mr. Murray, "for America's elites to try *living* with inequality of talents," and to stop pretending that they are tormented by guilt at their own good fortune, which at the same time they do everything possible to preserve.

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