

The Many Moods of the American Negro

PROTEST AND PREJUDICE. Gary T. Marx. Harper & Row. 228 pp. \$8.95.

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Sociologist Gary T. Marx, thoroughly analyzes Negro attitudes toward themselves, toward their condition and toward whites.

Because of the complexity of the problem of a segregated society and the changing condition of the civil rights crusade, people react to the identical situation in different ways. Age, sex, religion, employment, education, community and mobility invariably influence the response of the Negro. So Dr. Marx points out that there is not one mood of the Negro American, but many.

Marx's major thrust is to discover the degree of militancy displayed by the Negro in the civil rights struggle. On the whole, men, nonreligious people, those who are educated and those who live in the North are more militant than women, religious people, the uneducated and those who live in the South. The collected data are interpreted to show that 50% of the Negro population are moderates, i.e., neither conservatives nor militants.

Upon testing myself, I was surprised to discover that my score categorized me as militant; I think of myself as being moderate. I therefore suspect that the percentage of moderates who recognize themselves as such, is closer to 65%. Many white Americans will especially be reassured to learn that the NAACP and the Southern Christian Leadership Crusade are overwhelmingly more popular among Negroes than the Black Muslims and Black Nationalists.

Marx points out also that Negroes emerge as less likely to be anti-Semitic than whites when those in similar social positions are considered. Only a very small minority of Negroes are anti-Semitic, or hate whites.

Marx sums up by saying that "the data suggest that many people hold an overly sensational image of the Negro mood. To be sure, there is deep anger and frustration, as well as varying degrees of suspicion and resentment of whites. Yet, there is still optimism about the possibility of change within the system. Most Negroes favor integration in principle, are loyal to the

United States, are opposed to indiscriminate violence and are not consistently anti-white or anti-Semitic."

This book merits discussion by all who have an interest in the furtherance of human relations. It might very well be the most comprehensive study of its kind.