

Robert P. Jones, *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy: And the Path to a Shared American Future* (Simon & Schuster, 2023)

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Review: Robert P. Jones, *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy: And the Path to a Shared American Future* (Simon & Schuster, 2023)

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Arguably the most important journey literature in Western cultural history includes the ancient Homeric epic account of Odysseus' journey around the Mediterranean and the underworld, the *Odyssey*; and Virgil's ancient derivative epic account of Aeneas' journey around the Mediterranean and the underworld; and Dante's medieval account of Dante-the-character and Virgil's colorful walking journey through the Inferno, the Purgatorio, and the Paradiso, *The Divine Comedy*; and James Joyce's twentieth-century modernist account of certain characters walking journey around Dublin one day, *Ulysses*.

Against this Western cultural backdrop of portrayals of different kinds of journeys, it strikes me that the white American Baptist religion scholar Robert P. Jones is constructing his own personal journey narrative ("my reeducation journey" – he styles it [2023, p. 18]) through his three most recent books, all published by Simon & Schuster:

- (1) *The End of White Christian America* (2016);
- (2) *White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity* (2021);
- (3) *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy: And the Path to a Shared American Future* (2023).

Make no mistake about it, Jones' new 2023 book is designed to be a sharper entry in our current culture wars in the United States today than even his 2016 and 2021 books were. Consequently, I hope that Jones' new 2023 book becomes a blockbuster best-seller. When the *New York Times Book Review* names the 100 most notable books of 2023, I expect that Jones' new 2023 book will be listed, because it is notable for its penetrating discussion of the Doctrine of Discovery and white supremacy.

Consequently, I plan to set forth here a discussion of the Doctrine of Discovery in the media ecology conceptual framework of the thought of the American Jesuit Renaissance specialist and cultural historian and pioneering media ecology theorist Walter J. Ong (1912-2003; Ph.D. in English, Harvard University, 1955).

Robert P. Jones' Testimony

Now, the word White appears in all three titles of Jones' most recent books. Jones appears to be excruciatingly self-conscious about being white -- not that this is the only