RACE AND POLITICS IN THE AGE OF OBAMA


Many hoped that the election of the first black president of the United States would signal the end to what may rightfully be called the continuing significance of race. Indeed, as I write, we should be into our seventh year of postracialism in the United States, but we are clearly not. The emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement in response to the murders of blacks by whites underscores the continuing significance of race in the age of Obama. The racial strife on college campuses, including Ivy League institutions, is also indicative of the continuing significance of race in America. Although the significance of race continues, we lack a clear understanding of how, if at all, the presence of Obama as a political figure affects how race operates in the context of social and political life in the United States.