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Sommario/riassunto

Challenging a prevailing attitude, this account disputes the idea that racism is no longer a factor in American life. Based on cultural and literary evidence-including Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn-it argues that, in some ways, the United States very much resembles the country of the 1850's. Not only are the representations of blacks in popular culture throwbacks to the days of minstrelsy, but politicians are also raising stereotypes reminiscent of those which fugitive slaves found it necessary to combat: that African Americans are lazy,