

White skin evolved only recently, in several distinct human populations

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis.

If you read Nell Irvin Painter's [The History of White People](#) you will learn that the white race is a social construction of relatively recent vintage. When I read her work in 2011 I was a touch annoyed by it, because a lot of interesting empirical data was shoehorned into her thesis and preferences. In relation to her putative topic, she wasn't a big fan (I don't doubt that Painter likes white people as humans, but she obviously thinks that the invention of the white race was not a good thing). I have serious reservations and objections to these sorts of Manichaean frameworks. And yet over the last few years I have come to a very different but new perspective: *I believe white people emerged biologically only in the past 5,000 years, on the edge of history and prehistory.* I think a plain reading of the race concept in biology is entirely defensible so long as you integrate population thinking. But, human races are not primordial. They aren't even Pleistocene.

This brings us to the [Kalash](#) of Pakistan. They are pagans who live in the fastness of the Chitral. Their cousins on the other side of the border, in Afghanistan, are the Nuristanis, who were forcibly converted to Islam in the last decade of the 19th century.

A major salient aspect of the Kalash is that they are mostly white. That is, if you took a Kalash man and dressed him in jeans and a baseball cap wouldn't think twice if you saw him in a country music video.

Read full, original post: [White People Are a Homoplasy](#)