



MATILDA

EFFECT



Pionierinnen der Forschung **Female Pioneers of Research**

Pt. 13
Ruth Benedict



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Ruth Benedict (1878-1948)

Anthropologist

In 1923, she earned her PhD in Anthropology with a dissertation on 'the concept of the guardian spirit in North America.'

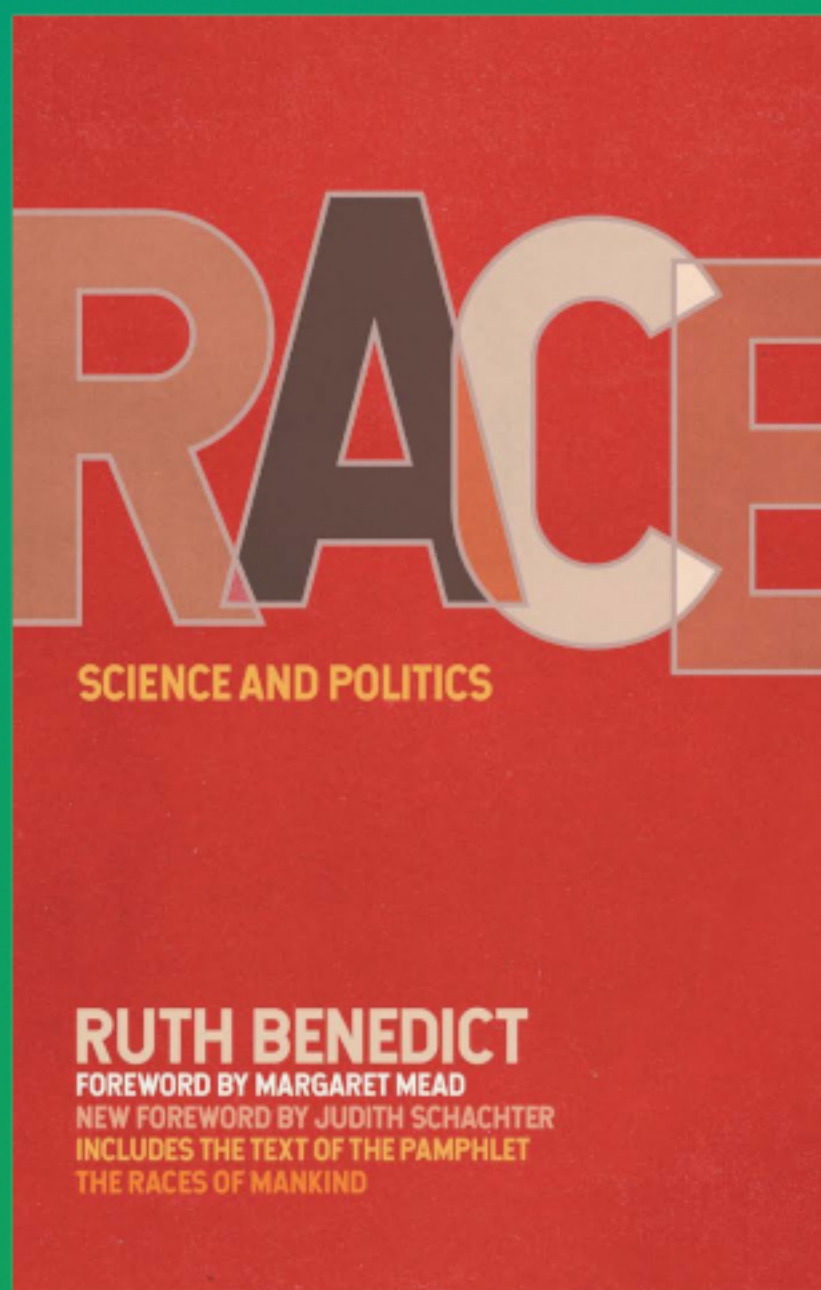
Her research is considered foundational to the concept of cultural relativism.



After 11 years of field research among Native American tribes, her most famous work, 'Patterns of Culture' (1934), was published, which examines various cultures and shows how certain personality traits and attitudes define individuals within a culture.

She argued that no trait exists in isolation but must always be considered in the context of the entire culture.





Her 1940 book, 'Race: Science and Politics,' was an anthropological refutation of racist theories.

It was not conceived as a scientific work but as a 'book for the general public.' The importance of distinguishing between biological race and racism as a political dogma (the belief in the innate superiority of one race and the innate inferiority of others) was addressed.





"The trouble with life isn't that there is no answer, it's that there are so many answers."

"Das Problem des Lebens ist nicht, dass es keine Antwort gibt, sondern dass es so viele Antworten gibt."

