

Is America Still A Racist Country?

Institution

Date

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Racism may be referred to as the hatred of an individual by another, or just the certainty that an individual is less than human because of his or her skin color, language, customs or any other issue that might reveal the fundamental nature of such a being. In the United States, for example, racism by white individuals on the blacks has fashioned a hefty racial dynamism and conflict in close to all scopes of the US community.

An Explanation of the Main Interesting Concerns on the Issue of Racism in the U.S. and Why It Is Important

Racism is an issue that has had a long history in the U.S. as it has existed all through the history of human beings. It penetrates every single corner of the U.S. society and has kept on evolving (Winant, 2011). The main issue that interests me in this very issue of racism is the fact that discrimination is beyond personal hate or the malevolent-minded treatment of an individual to another. It is due to this reason that makes it very important for the issue of racism in the U.S and the entire world to be researched on. Racism does exist in families as well as organizations, and it has been indorsed to continue subsisting since it is promoted and sustained by various institutions and governments. However, it should be noted that this is usually done unwittingly. Racism can be expressed in various ways as people belonging to different races can be denied entry to various public places or even deprived of their rights based on their beliefs and skin color. This has mostly been realized in the US where black people are usually on the receiving end of discrimination from the whites (Henry, Rees, & Tator, 2012). Even once individuals belonging to various groups or participants of any business pyramid determine that the practices of any specific establishment are racist in nature, such people would be hard-pressed to bring about change in such a setting. As Loewen (2015), explains this very notion, the groups that are

considered to be loftier are allowed to be in control economically and to socially rule over the rest of the groups that are considered to be inferior in nature. This state of affairs tends to be more annoying in the U.S. because several steps have been made in the last couple of years to amend the situation (Loewen, 2015). This is the main reason why this very issue is interesting. For instance, the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955 and the Selma March in 1965 were some of the boundless developments that were aimed at altering the culture of the U.S. After efforts of various personalities such as Martin Luther King Jnr., it was assumed that the relations between various cultures in the U.S. were gradually moving to perfection. However, with each single step forward, U.S. has continued to lag behind in actual racial resolution.

The main reason why the issue of racism is important is the fact that nowadays, racism mainly comes about as a result of fear and self-discrimination exhibited in nearly all regions of the U.S. Most individuals do not know those who live close to them because they usually do not mingle with them. An individual can judge his or her neighbor based on the interactions with other people of a similar race, or what has been previously said concerning that same person. Most people today do not show hatred towards other races because of anything personal. The hatred does come about as second-hand information acquired from other individuals regarding other races. It should be noted that such information is in most cases aimed at tarnishing the identity of a distinct race of “inferior individuals” (Henry, Rees, & Tator, 2012). To develop into a post-racial community, people should make conscience efforts to work towards it. Nobody should be blamed for the actions of those who existed long before the modern generation. Every person should step out of their secure spaces and get to understand the country that they live in. And because communication tends to revolve people’s differences and helps in making others

tolerable, one should not impose their essence on other people, instead, they should encourage all different races of people to live peacefully in a single nation.

An Explanation of the Position One May Take On This Ethical Issue

Despite the fact that the past couple of years have produced a lot of changes in the entire society with rules against discrimination being set up, the issue that has come to light is that it is not possible to legislate clearly what a man thinks as some will keep on fighting for change while others will continue resisting, seeking to rather retain the present circumstances (Boggs & Ofari, 2010). Even with racism being regarded as institutional ideology, there will be no progress unless every single person takes it upon himself or herself to work towards it. It is because of this very reason that I do support the claim that America is still a racist country and it has even become worse.

Reasons for Supporting the Claim that Racism Does Still Exist in the U.S.

According to Henry, Rees, and Tator (2012), racism still exists in the United States. To support this claim, Henry, Rees, and Tator argue that various states in the US are very diverse in their own settings in the sense that approximately 97.2% of the entire population in these states is whites. With the white people representing a large section of the states, it is evident that the crime, poverty, and the preconceptions are pushed almost entirely on the “black ghettos” of the various states. Joblessness is much higher; education is much lower in the black-American sections of most states. In most cases, there is a cold “judgementalism” that is evidently present when different individuals have to interact much lesser even though they live close to those belonging to other races. This is particularly true with the black-Americans. Although much of this is usually ethnic in nature, there exists a discriminatory attitude with most of the white populace in most states with a rather cold exclusiveness tending to bar individuals from having

access to better jobs and nicer sections of the several states being witnessed. It can be very difficult for individuals to leave “ghetto areas” once they find themselves in such regions and appear to belong there.

Additionally, it is true to say that racism still does exist in the US as can be seen in the education sector. Several young black-Americans and Latinos in the US do not get an education that is identical to that of most white people, partially because the metropolitan learning institutions that the blacks do attend lack adequate funds as compared to those institutions located in the white environs. This is mainly because the US did decide that much of its funds meant for schools should come from local assets levies. Therefore, in communities where the houses and trades are less expensive, learning institutions will not get enough funds to offer high-quality education. This is somehow unfair as it depicts institutional racism. If the government did decide to finance various learning institutions differently, each learner, regardless of his or her race, may have access to a high-quality education. The continued low levels of educational and occupational outcomes achieved by local Americans are just but as a result of structural discrimination in the learning sector (Boggs & Ofari, 2010). This explains the enduring logical discrimination and the unwillingness of education authorities to slot in diverse ethnic representations of learning into the US school curriculum.

Another evidence that racism is still existing in the US is in the wealth sector. The remarkable expanse of wealth that was created during the slavery period by the African Americans in the US through the slave labor was all taken away by the white people. When slavery came to an end, the fortune that the earlier slaves had generated was not shared with them. The effects of this have continued to date since white people have been able to pass down all the fortune from generation to generation through heritage. Additionally, discrimination in

occupations has kept on limiting the access to wealth for numerous “individuals of color”. Due to this, white people all in all are still wealthier in the present day as compared to “people of color” because of the tremendous fortune that the white people snatched from the hard labor of the slaves.

Ethics Theory That Supports The Claim That Racism Still Exists In The U.S.

From all the above-mentioned reasons, one can come to a conclusion that the issue of racism in the United States will never end as it has even become worse. MacKinnon and Fiala (2014), while discussing “The Principlism Theory” as an ethics theory, argues that every single person in the society should use the principles of “autonomy”, “beneficence”, “non-maleficence” and “justice” as they form the better part of rational, religious, and racial beliefs of every single person that might end up helping in eradicating racism in the U.S. “The Principlism Theory”, by suggesting the set of principles that people should adopt in their daily lives, does give a hint that most people in the current society do encourage racism as they usually fail to live by the very principles of this theory that tend to unite different people to live as one. The principles spelt out in this theory do emphasize on the acts of doing good, doing no harm, and social dissemination of assistances and problems. This very concept, according to MacKinnon and Fiala, will ultimately help in eradicating the vice of racism that has for a long time existed in the history of the US.

The key beliefs of racism are that people can be divided into diverse groups based on their conduct, or economic and political achievement. However, these assumptions have since been disputed as wrong with most people concluding that racism primarily does affect those individuals of color. Martin Luther King Jr. is one of the activists who claimed that racism was all about color as he believed that it was because of the “black color” of most African Americans

that they ended up being racially abused and prevented from enjoying similar rights as the whites. To Martin, racism could only be wiped out if every person agreed to live in a single society as one people having one culture and one color (Winant, 2011). It is true, as mentioned above, that people of color still face discrimination and stereotypes. An example of the stereotypes that black people do endure is that young black boys are presumed to be violent, dangerous and evil. On the other hand, white individuals are usually presumed to be rich whereas Muslims are presumed to be terrorists just because of the September 11th incident.

In the present day, racism has become more multicolored and multicultural. The population of the U.S. has continued to grow to embrace more diversity in its peoples. Racism has stretched out to an extent that it has included animosity between all cultures in the U.S. The U.S has to learn on the right ways through which they can cope with the numerous issues minus bringing race into the discussion (Loewen, 2015). Due to the fact that the US is established on several cultures, racism will only weaken any potential bond that American citizens can have while existing together as one.

It should also be noted that certain aspects of discrimination have changed for the better. In the past, slaves were not treated with respect as they were frequently beaten by their holders if they tried to defy orders issued to them. Eventually, following the abolition of slavery, black-Americans started to enjoy similar rights as the whites. They were allowed to vote, to attend public gatherings with ease besides being allowed to attend same schools as the whites. Currently, various organizations have since been set up to work against racism and unequal treatment of “people of color”.

As Winant, (2011) concludes, unless drastic measures that will ensure that every single person is granted equal rights irrespective of the race he or she belongs to, the issue of racism in the U.S. will not be solved.

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