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MONOGRAPH

**“SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES THAT CAN BE OBSERVED AND DEMONSTRATED
IN THE USA DUE TO RACIAL DISCRIMINATION DURING THE 90s”**

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SUMMARY

In this monograph you will know how slavery started when African people were kidnapped from their homes and brought to the United States so they could become slaves and how discrimination and segregation was birthed upon slavery and all the atrocities they had to face due to the hate of the era. This paper also explains what being a minority is and how they are seen in society. It will also be explained all the steps and obstacles the black community had to face and overcome in order to get the civil rights act signed. It will be demonstrated with stories of the black community the racism and division in public places during the 90's and also the wealth gap that exists between white people and colored people. It will be also explained cases of racial profiling and what racial profiling means. And finally the monograph will conclude with the explanation of 3 interviews to different African American teachers currently working in Alabama.

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INTRODUCTION

United States has been through many social changes during the last two centuries, one of the biggest one of them was the desegregation and all the process behind it. As we all know during the early 90s it was common for African American people to be slaves but that changed through the years due to the sign of the Civil rights act, nevertheless it left African American people in a huge disadvantage against white people socially and economically, during the mid 90s, late 90s and even in the actuality African American people have suffered atrocities which are considered hate crimes. There is no reason why racism still persists in the actuality since we have come a long way we should acknowledge and remember what we have passed as a society and as a world so we never go back to be that hateful, disunited and even inhuman society.

The world is an endless and full with opportunities place, but it is our job to make it a home for every single one of their guests and we can only do that with equality. We can not look the other way and pretend there is nothing wrong in many parts of the world but we also can not forget what a great part of the African American people suffered, how they were forced to abandon their lives and forced to work restlessly for others, with no hope of things getting better. Gladly things have changed and people are getting or got opportunities

which they thought they would never have. There were big examples of what perseverance means and there was African American People who didn't say much but their actions spoke greatly such was the case of Rosa Parks who did not gave up her seat to a white person on a segregated bus in 1955, she inspired her community with an important message: fight until you can't anymore. Another important member of the African American community is the leader and activist who fought through peaceful campaigns: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who we will never forget since he paved the way so black people could have the same rights as any other citizen of the United States and this was granted to them in 1964 with the signing of the civil rights act. In this monograph we will talk about how racism started in the United States, how African American people were seen in society and what had to happen in order to African People being able to get the civil rights act signed.

CHAPTER I

1.1 Slave trafficking

The transportation of the slaves from Africa to America, known as the middle passage or "middle passage", lasted between two and three months, depending on the ports of departure and arrival. The British abolitionist (1759-1833) declared that "Such amount of misery hasn't ever been seen condensed in a small space as in a slave ship during the middle passage". In one of these ships, more than four hundred captives could be hachined, separated into three groups: men; young adults, women, and children. Women were given light clothing and often suffered violations by the crew and the captain. The men remained naked when the weather was fine and at night they were locked together under the cover. (National Geographic, 2014).

In the case of the United States, as in many other countries, they traveled overseas and arrived in Africa where they kidnapped, force and torture black people. A huge quantity of black people died in the shipments due to diseases, others killed themselves by jumping into the ocean because they knew that their freedom was about to be ripped away.

It has been said that racism started in the colonial era, The United States of America needed to build itself so they could become powerful, rich and prosper, they knew that they couldn't do that on their own and that they will most likely need "strong people" that could

do the hard work that nobody, not even the low-class citizens of their country wanted to, and also they needed a cheaper and faster way to become a First world country.

It is estimated that, in the United States, there were one million three hundred thousand black slaves in the middle of the second decade of the nineteenth century, out of a total of eight and a half million inhabitants. Slavery did not have a homogenous geographical distribution: it was almost non-existent in the North compared to the situation in the South. In states, like Virginia, they could become half of their total population. (Los ojos de hipatia, 2013).

The reasons why the south had more slaves were the plantations of cotton and tobacco, during the XIX century buying a slave cost 2.000 dollars approximately, it was cheaper to buy a slave with no civil rights, than a normal employee.

The slaves did not have any civil right in the United States of America. They could be transferred or sold as a good. They could not exercise any legal action: contracts, marriage or ownership. The personal situation varied depending on the character and treatment of their owners. Many slaves tried

to flee to the North but their owners could recover the fled. (Los hojos de Hipatia, 2013).

Any possibility of having a normal life or becoming somebody was nonexistent for slaves. If somebody was born or sold as a slave it was most likely that he or she would die that way. Slaves lived a life full of humiliation and discomfort, from the long and pay less hours working under the sun without even taking breaks to watch their families heading down the same path.

1.2 Civil rights

Black people were a very large group during the colonial era, so they could not just stay seated as they saw their whole life and rights being neglected and forgotten since they never had any, they could not stand being treated as animals and dehumanized time after time. They knew the only way they could have a voice or even have the chance to get heard was to unite forces and fight until they could not anymore. Because of the colored of their skin, they were privated from many rights that a USA citizen would get, like the right to vote for example. And so the movement to start their civil rights started. Getting signed the civil rights act was a hard journey, they had to face many obstacles the first one was to abolish slavery; Northern states were the first ones who abolished slavery between 1777 and 1804. President Abraham Lincoln made it official when he signed up the act to Emancipation Proclamation which ended slavery in most states.

Signing up this act made most of the "slaves" free and they had the right to choose whom they wanted to work for, but it did not end many problems.

The emancipation granted black people basic civil rights, but the constitution did not secure them completely. Lynch H. (2018).

Through nonviolent protest, the civil rights movement of the 1950s and '60s broke the pattern of public facilities' being segregated by "race" in the South and achieved the most important breakthrough in equal-rights legislation for African Americans since the Reconstruction period (1865–77). Although the passage in 1964 and 1965 of major civil rights legislation was victorious for the movement, by then militant black activists had begun to see their struggle as a freedom or liberation movement not just seeking civil rights reforms but instead confronting the enduring economic, political, and cultural consequences of past racial oppression. (Lynch, 2018).

Even though black people were oppressed they fought back each time, there were several black activists who fought through speeches and protests so they could get their civil rights, one of them was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. he became famous because of his speech "I have a dream" that took place in Washington DC in the spring of 1963, thousands of people attended his march, he received several death threats, he was assassinated five years

later, but he did live to see the Civil rights act signed in 1964, one year later after his biggest speech. Martin Luther King Jr. (1963) "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter". For the writer that is a very empowering quote, because it gives people's life meaning and shows that even though he had to face criticism and eventually he was murdered for speaking his mind, he did not give up, because he knew he was not only fighting for him or his family, he was fighting for a nation. Finally and after so many marches, murders and hatred against colored people, the Civil rights act was signed,

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was the nation's premier civil rights legislation. The Act outlawed discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, required equal access to public places and employment, and enforced desegregation of schools and the right to vote. It did not end discrimination, but it did open the door to further progress. (National Park Services, 2006)

1.2 What being a minority means

Minority, a culturally, ethnically, or racially distinct group that coexists with but is subordinate to a more dominant group. As the term is used in the social sciences, this subordinacy is the chief defining characteristic of a minority group. As such, minority status does not necessarily correlate to population. In some cases, one or more so-called minority groups may have

a population many times the size of the dominating group. (The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2017).

Because they are socially separated or segregated from the dominant forces of a society, members of a minority group usually are cut off from a full involvement in the workings of the society and from an equal share in the society's rewards. (The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2017).

Black people in the United States of America are considered a minority, they are the second largest minority group with a population of approximately 38.8 million people. Apart from the traditional African American community that arrived in the USA during the colonialism, there are other black-groups immigrating to the states and they come from different parts of the world.

CHAPTER II

Evidence of discrimination effects in labor and study areas XX century.

2.1 Segregation in schools, labor areas, and public places

During the XX century it existed a huge difference between black and white people but mostly because the US imposed that each individual got treated differently depending on the color of their skin; public spaces were divided like the "colored" one (for black people) and the normal one (for white people), such as libraries, schools, buses, theatres, etc.

A short list of testimonies of people who lived during the segregated era will be listed below.

Water Fountains. "White" and "colored"

Segregation was made real for me as a white Northerner when I took a train trip around the US in summer 1947 (I was 24). My return from the West Coast was by way of the Southwest and New Orleans. It was on that leg of the trip that I for the first time saw drinking fountains labeled "colored" and "white." This was not outright cruelty such as lynching or denial of voting rights, all of which I had learned about. It was not silly, as it at first seemed to me. I realized that for segregation to stick it had to intrude into the simplest everyday activity such as taking a drink of water. It was that very banality that brought home what it must be like to be "colored."

I chose not to drink from either fountain.

Mary Sive

Montclair, NJ

Public Library Segregation

I am a middle-class white. I was in grade school in Alexandria, Virginia, during the 50s. When I was growing up, I knew about segregation, but I didn't know the extent of it. It wasn't until the 90s that I learned that, before desegregation, the public library in Alexandria did not admit black people (even though their taxes help support it), and —what is worse —that there was no separate public library for the black population. As a child, I spent many happy and ignorant hours in that library, and I "learned", because they did not use the library, that African-Americans had no interest in intellectual pursuits. Such lessons that are intuited through ignorance, lessons that are not taught but that come through osmosis, can be the most damaging and insidious.

Charlotte Becker

Roanoke, VA

(American Public Media 2018)

But not everything was lost, there were people who fought so they could inspire others for example Rosa Parks, she was an African American woman, activist and a very important figure to the civil rights movement. In 1955 she did something that was considered illegal: she refused to give up her seat on the bus, some people thought she only did that because she was tired, and yes, she was tired, but tired of giving in, she was tired of being humiliated, she was tired of being treated like a second-class citizen, she was tired of feeling like she did not belong. Not giving up her seat was more of a form of speaking with actions, telling the white supremacists that her and her family, friends, etc., mattered and should not be defined by the color of their skin rather by their actions. She ended up in jail, but that was just a small price to pay for all the great things she helped to accomplish, what she did there was legendary and iconic, she inspired many other activists like Martin Luther King who has been mentioned before.

(Rosa Parks, 1955) “You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right.” We could say that she lived by that quote, she was bold and fierceness on an era where her actions could have gotten her killed.

(Rosa Parks, 1955) “Stand for something or you will fall for anything. Today’s mighty oak is yesterday’s nut that held its ground.”

It is true, people should believe in something and defend it at all cost, because if you truly believe what you are doing is right and you are not hurting anybody then you should dedicate your life to it and never be afraid because you might be able to change the world if you put your heart and mind to it, people’s life could change forever because of your ideas.(

(Ruby Bridges, 1980) "Don't follow the path. Go where there is no path and begin the trail. When you start a new trail equipped with courage, strength, and conviction, the only thing that can stop you is you!" Ruby Bridges.

Another great example of someone who changed the world is Ruby Bridges, she was the first African American girl to attend an all-white school in 1960, getting her there was not an easy journey, white supremacists and racists marched and made protests so she could not go, but then again, the power of people fighting together had more value and she defeated and closed mouths of people who did not believe or thought that she was capable.

2.2 Wealth gap between colored and white people.

There is arguably no racial disparity more striking than the wealth gap. While the median white household earns just [65 percent](#) more income than its black counterpart, its net worth is fully [ten times as high](#). And, unlike income, which individuals earn in their own lifetimes, wealth accrues over generations, and whites are more than [three](#) times as likely as blacks to inherit money from their families. In the public debate on racial inequality, the wealth gap is among the sharpest arrows in the progressive quiver. When conservative commentators argue that America is a meritocracy, or that blacks lag due to cultural factors, progressives can retaliate with a single statistic that seems to prove the reality of white privilege beyond the possibility of doubt.

But statistics don't interpret themselves, and the wealth gap is no exception. A recent wave of scholarship has converged on the interpretation that the wealth gap is caused by two factors: slavery and racist New Deal policies. (Hughes 2018).

From what we read we can conclude that wealth has to do with old money and what does it mean? It means that part of the fortune that a person can have is inherited, obviously, people of color 100 years ago had no one to inherit money from because their ancestors were slaves, therefore it was impossible to leave them a fortune or even money in general. On the contrary, white people had higher chances of being able to create a fortune and to be able to leave an inheritance to their descendants because they were able to have decent and well paid jobs.

In the 1930s, as part of the New Deal, the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) created loan programs to help make home ownership accessible to more Americans. The Government created color-coded maps — green for good neighborhoods and red for bad neighborhoods — to determine who got those loans. Spoiler alert: many neighborhoods were designated as red because blacks and other people of color lived in them. This

process, known as [redlining](#), systematically prevented them from not only getting home loans but also encouraged developers in green areas to explicitly discriminate against non-whites. This often led households of color into wealth stripping “land contracts,” where they paid exorbitant prices for homes that they could lose very easily.

These policies resulted in [98% of home loans going to white families, from 1934 to 1962](#). Not only did the ability to purchase homes give whites the ability to accrue wealth, it also attracted new businesses to those neighborhoods, which increased property values and allowed those homeowners access to other wealth building vehicles like going to college. As a result, wealth in the white communities compounded and passed to future generations.

Even after these policies were eliminated, the lack of wealth still prevented minorities from moving up to the green neighborhoods and kept the communities separated by race. (Thompson 2018).

This is just one example of how the government also played an important role in the wealth gap that currently exists in the United States due to the different opportunities offered to white people and the very few, almost non-existent for people of color.

2.3 Racial Profiling

Racial profiling are the words used when people assume things about other individuals based on the color of their skin or ethnicity without having real facts or evidence about any committed crime. Racial Profiling has caused the death of hundreds of black people mainly killed by the police since they "represented a big threat".

In this part of the monograph we will explain and show a case of racial profiling. The story is about a african american teenage boy called Trayvon Martin, he was 17 years old when he was shot to death in 2012 by a police man called George Zimmerman. He accompanied his father to go on a visit in Sandford he went outside and bought Skittles and a soft drink, while he was walking through the street wearing a hoodie and his hands on his pockets holding the skittles, George Zimmerman saw him and followed him, Martin got scared and started running after few minutes Zimmerman pulled out the gun and shot him on the chest provoking his death. When Zimmerman was asked why he did what he do he said that Martin looked suspicious and he had his hands on his pockets so he probably carried a gun, but when the rest of the police approached the crime scene all they could find was the skittle and soft drink. Zimmerman . Zimmerman claimed self-defense and was eventually charged in Martin's death. On June 10, 2013, [Zimmerman's trial](#) began in Sanford and on July 13, a jury acquitted him of second-degree murder and of manslaughter charges.

CHAPTER III

3.1 Interviews

In this chapter we will expose interviews made to 2 people who live in The United States who agreed to give us answers about what they think it's happening in their country and how they perceived African American People are treated and also how far the AA Community has been acknowledged since 1964. The first person who we interviewed was Ciara a 30-year-old Irish woman, she is a community facilitator for a global platform for Jesuit Schools. The second person was Karina a 40-year-old Ecuadorian woman who works at digital Marketing and Communication. Details of the interviews can be found below.

3. Based on your daily life, do you think racism exists?

Karina and Clara did not have the same answers, Clara said no but Ciara said yes despite the fact it has never happened to herself she has seen it through the media.

4. Have you ever witnessed a racism attack towards anybody, including yourself?

Once again, Karina said no but Ciara said yes but she did not mention nor explained her experience.

5. Do you think that racism still exists in the workplace area nowadays?

In this question they both agreed but explained that it does not exist where they work currently.

6. What do you think is the best way for teachers to fight back racism?

“Teaching about the value of cultures and ethnicity and helping students to meet and learn together with other students from all over the world.” (Karina, 40 years old)

“I don't think the answer to racism is 'fighting back', I think the answer is educating people to be open-minded, to engage with people of other countries and cultures in a respectful way and to encourage honest and open dialogue between students (and teachers) of different cultures to avoid racism. This is one of the reasons I think Global Citizenship Education is so important.” (Ciara, 30 years old)

7. Do you think racism pull us back, as a society? Why?

“Yes, because it limits the possibilities of joining knowledge to work together for a better and more human world.” (Karina, 40 years old)

“Yes. One of our biggest strengths and opportunities as a society is our multi-culturalism. We can learn so much from each other and if we work together we can help to make our

world a better place. I think racism makes all of the above more difficult and tears people apart rather than bringing them together.” (Ciara, 30 years old)

8. Which do you think is the biggest obstacle that the African American youth faces nowadays? Why?

Karina expressed that the biggest obstacle the African American youth faces nowadays is perhaps the misconception of African American teenagers and how they are related with being part of gangs or criminals.

Ciara, on the other hand expressed her unconformity with the racist policies being implanted by the current president of the United States of America.

9. Do you think there has been more positive changes for the black community after the civil right movement in 1964?

They both agreed that there have been positive changes since 1964. Ciara expressed her thoughts about the development in the percentage of the African American youth assisting high school, however, she thinks that they still need to improve more at college graduation rates, she also mentioned how poverty has declined but there still exists a wealth gap between white people and African American people.

10. During the 90's the African-American community has had outstanding leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr or Malcom X. Do you think there is a 21st century leader for the African American Community?

They both agreed that a huge and important leader to the African American community is the ex-US President Barack Obama.

1. What's your name, age and nationality?

2 responses

Karina, 40, ecuadorian

Clara, 30, Irish

2. What's your profession?

2 responses

Digital Marketing and Communications

Community Facilitator for a Global Platform for Jesuit Schools

3. Based on your daily life, Do you think racism exists?

2 respuestas

no

Yes, although I don't experience it directly on a daily basis I see it through media and stories from other people.

4. Have you ever witnessed a racism attack towards anybody, including yourself?

2 respuestas

no

Yes

5. Do you think that racism still exists in the workplace area nowadays?

2 respuestas

yes, probably it does

I don't think it exists in my own office but I do think it exists in other work places.

6. What do you think is the best way for teachers to fight back racism?

2 respuestas

teaching about the value of cultures and ethnicity and helping students to meet and learn together with other students from all over the world.

I don't think the answer to racism is 'fighting back', I think the answer is educating people to be open-minded, to engage with people of other countries and cultures in a respectful way and to encourage honest and open dialogue between students (and teachers) of different cultures to avoid racism. This is one of the reasons I think Global Citizenship Education is so important.

7. Do you think racism pull us back, as a society? Why?

2 respuestas

Yes, because it limits the possibilities of joining knowledge to work together for a better and more human world

Yes. One of our biggest strengths and opportunities as a society is our multi-culturalism. We can learn so much from each other and if we work together we can help to make our world a better place. I think racism makes all of the above more difficult and tears people apart rather than bringing them together.

8. Which do you think is the biggest obstacle that the african American youth faces nowadays? Why?

2 respuestas

not sure, but maybe the missed preconception that all African American Youth has had an experience or relationship with gangs.

If we are speaking about the United States I would say to overcome the racist policies being implemented by the current president.

9. Do you think there has been more positive changes for the black community after the civil rights movement in 1964?

2 respuestas

Yes, definitely

Yes, I think they have advanced a lot in terms of high school education (I think they are still a little behind in college graduation rates). In general their incomes have risen and poverty rates have declined. There are also a lot more people from the black community who have been elected into political positions. However I think there is still a huge gap in wealth and still very high unemployment rates.

10. During the 90's the African-American community has had outstanding leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr or Malcolm X. Do you think there is a 21st century leader for the African American Community?

2 respuestas

Not sure, but I think having Barack Obama as US President helped on this regard

Yes, I think there are many. one example is ex-US President Barack Obama.

CONCLUSIONS

From the first chapter we can demonstrate how African people were kidnapped from Africa and brought to America in poor conditions where they had to work restlessly and

without being able to complain since they feared for their lives. It is also discussed how the civil rights acts was signed and what being a minority in the USA means, how they were and are seen.

African American People were left behind economically and socially due to the discrimination they faced, for this reason there exists a wealth gap between African American people and white people but this is not stopping African American people to challenge themselves or the odds to have a better life. We also evidenced hate crimes against African American people and false accusations that were made because of the color of their skin.

In the last chapter we interviewed two people who live in the USA in the actuality who shared their point of view with us about how the African American people are treated and viewed nowadays therefore therefore we can conclude that there has been great improvement for the African American community since the 90s but there is still a long way to go.

RECOMMENDATIONS

At the end of this work it is recommended that people never forget how the African American people were treated when they first were brought to America so we can make people aware about how humans should never be treated.

We also recommend to read about inspirational African American people who made extraordinary things despite nobody believing in them. It could be very useful to understand this monograph more but also to realize that anything, anything at all is achievable and possible.

We recommend people to talk to others and discuss how they treat people on a daily basis and how they can work together to make the world a better place not only for themselves or their families but to create better environment for every person who lives in our planet.

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