Anti-Black Racism

Name

Institutional Affiliation

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The concept of racism has affected U.S. communities for centuries. While significant changes have been made in the constitution to accommodate people of all backgrounds, minorities still face discrimination from the dominant white population both in institutional and societal capacities. Anti-black racism is a primary concern in this subject as people of African American descent continue to complain about mistreatments founded on white supremacy. The issue of race is deeply rooted in social structures and people's cultures, making it an influential aspect of self-identity and a principal determiner of public interactions.

**Positionality Profile**

Several identifiers can be used to define my positionality. A primary aspect is gender, which is universally used to distinguish people. Another feature that is relevant in the American context is race. Finally, the issues of class, occupation, and origin are equally useful. Hence, my positionality is that of a middle-class Asian female international student. The intersection of all these elements creates a unique position in the U.S. Markedly, Asians form part of the minority groups in America and experience a weaker position in society. Asians are not only underrepresented in national and regional governance but also in many school leaderships. My positionality is further compressed by being an international student. Local born Asians can exercise a broader spectrum of privileges in support of justice compared to foreign learners. Moreover, the class influence remains to be a dominant force in America as the wealthy white residents enjoy more power in public matters. Thus, middle-class individuals are likely to be overlooked in social discussions and policing. Despite the improved position of women in American societies, patriarchal influences persist, diminishing the effect of women in matters of justice. Men dominate most of the institutions, both in administration and composition. Therefore, the intersection of these social factors renders my positionality as an insignificant force in American matters of justice.

**Reflection Based on the Current Context**

Social justice is a central pillar of all societies. At the rudimentary level, it entails the recognition of the rights of all members of a community and respecting them. Equality can be achieved by, among other factors, establishing and applying common standards across all people. However, the influence of race has complicated the realization of justice in America. Anti-black racism has been manifested through the unwarranted killing of African Americans by police officers. The recent murder of George Floyd has sparked nationwide protests in demand for a better form of justice for people of color. Such drives are synonymous to the 2010 campaign by the UC San Diego Black Student Union over the mistreatment of African American learners by fellow white scholars (“UCSD Black Student Union Protest,” 2010). I can relate to both events since they are common to the experiences of Asian minorities in America. The recent pandemic exacerbated the discrimination against Asians due to the link between China and Covid-19. According to Omi and Winant (1994), race is embedded in the culture of civilizations throughout history, a factor that affects people’s behavior. Hence, the past influences of slavery and racial segregation can be traced to contemporary injustices against African Americans. The prejudices inherited from ancient white slave owners are socially active in current generations who are comfortable with mistreating and even killing African Americans.

The concept of sociohistorical crafting of race discussed by Omi and Winant (1994) is useful in understanding anti-black racism. My positionality, which has drastically transitioned in the past few months influenced by the race factor, enables me to comprehend the problem of anti-black racism. An example is the social discrimination of all Asians in the wake of the Coronavirus. While Asians were previously excluded due to their minority status in American societies, new fears of the disease worsened the experience. White communities collectively assigned an aspect of danger to all Asians, especially international students, irrespective of their origin, residence, and status. Equally, modern anti-black racism is an evolution of white supremacist perceptions, which subconsciously establishes a “criminal” tag on all African Americans, affecting the behavior of individuals and societies.

References

Omi, M., & Winant, H. (1994). Racial formation. *Racial Formation in the United States*. Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group.

“UCSD Black Student Union Protest” (2010, February 19). [Video file]. Retrieved from https://vimeo.com/9592524