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Different Views of Race in America

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Definition of Race

There are several definitions of race based on divergent views such as traditional, biological, and political. These views have changed with time influenced by the changes in historical occurrences and social attitudes in the society. The current view that race is a social construction supported by political realities does not assert how the socially constructed race came into existence and what were the primary determinants of race based on social classes. Thus, comparison of natural and traditional view of race provide a controversial argument about race. Biologically, race is defined by differences in biological traits such as skin color, sexuality, hair texture and other physical traits that manifest human differences. Though the biological differences provide differences in human, race is more of a social concept. Social views and perspectives in the society create the popularity and distinction classes stemming from biological traits. The traditional and biological view of race was biased on biological appearances that created the idea of 'black' and 'white' society. Notably, the latter are discrete groups distinguishing people based on genetic diversity (Goldberg, 2016). In essence, the current social view ignores the biological variables and creates a definitional based on social perspectives in support of culture and political diversity.

In the American society, several groups including, African Americans, Latinos, Asians Americans, and Native Americans have created ethnical classes that shaped the ancient and present American society. Goldberg (2016), argues that the construction of racial categories in America was motivated by the notion of superiority and inferiority impacted by historical situations. In the old America, different racial groups were identified for exclusion or discrimination in ways such as slavery. For instance, the whites consumed superior authority over other racial groups whereby the Africans were enslaved, Mexicans and Indians were evacuated from their lands, and Asian

immigrants were excluded from the society. Notably, in history groups such as 'black Americans' have fought for freedom in the society and respect of human rights through equal rights. Another factor the racial groups was the historical census dating back to the 17th century that grouped the American population into census regions. The census data identified the distribution US residents to establish citizenship and controlling illegal immigration (Omi & Winant, 2014).

From a sociological standpoint, assimilation matches the new meaning of race. The assimilation approach covers different types of assimilation that can be identified closely with Americanization. In the United States, assimilation has been identified with various races interacting with a specific race adversely abandoning their culture. For instance, the 'Indians' assimilated into the Latin America society and learning to speak Spanish or Portuguese language and adopting other cultural aspects such as European-based clothing (Wade, 2017). Zhou (2015), observes that assimilation helps acceptance of immigrants into America by the benefits that evolves in strengthening the American culture particularly the economy. Indeed, integration of one race into a dominant race through assimilation alleviates the issue of oppression of races in the society. Considerably, minor races such as the Indians conform to values and culture of the majority race for the purpose of elevating themselves to the levels of the main racial groups.

In my opinion, I support the racial construct definition of race. The racial construct approach has been in existence since ancient times and is not fundamentally biased on biological differences. I concur that race has a biological element, but that is not enough to define races on the biological traits. From a liberal point of view, race can be considered as a social construct. In support, while dating back to history, it is evident the reasons for distinguishing classes such as Irish, Jews and Caucasians are social.

In conclusion, the concept of race seems problematic from the recent researches. It may be of essence to live in a world whereby people treat each other equally without considering the social and biological differences. I believe that ignoring racial differences would help minimize the impact of racism in the current society.

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