

essay

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RACISM

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The general definition of racism is discrimination or prejudice by an individual, institution, or the community as a whole against people based on a particular ethnic group or race (Fish & Syed, 2019). In most cases, one is marginalized. The prolific scholar Henry Gates Jr talks about race by focusing on uncovering the history of the black American people and restoring their history. He uses renowned musician John Legend and the comedian Wanda. He traces back to their ancestral origins, where he finds out they had three sources. He did this through studies of traditional literacy and visual media.

According to Henry, race does not have any critical category in literature study and the shaping of critical theory. For Taine, the source of all structures and feelings is used to track a man's roots in the race. According to him, race was everything (Rusnani et al., 2019). During the 1850s, laws in various white states prohibited the blacks from voting, testifying against the white people in courts, or even marrying them; this was very discriminating. Free people had to carry papers to prove they are free, or else they could be sold back to slavery. For Taine, the race was everything, and race is the first and is the richest source from which historical events take their rise (Van, 2020). The race is a kind of a lake or a bottomless reservoir from which all other streams originate.

Henry Gates Jr, in his research, finds out that John Legend's mother's ancestral home is in Sierra Leone, and his father's line they find to be in Guinea Bissau (Kleinman, 2020). On the other hand, Wanda's mother's line he finds leading to several groups in Cameroon. Margaret Cooper also finds it to be originating from the Sierra Leone. Race has become a fundamental difference between cultures and linguistic groups. John Legend's ancestor only became free after the death of his master. The master treated John's ancestor as his kids without considering their

race since they also deserved to be treated like human beings even though they were slaves.

Paten later settled in Ohio together with his children.

Henry's theory is white since it is based on how the black Americans suffered under the white Americans. The blacks worked as slaves to the whites. Phillis Wheatley claims that a few could believe an African can write poetry (Byerman, 2019). The Europeans thought that the African people could not create any formal literature or create any arts and science. If they could, it could be judged that the Africans and the Europeans were fundamentally related; otherwise, they were destined to be slaves. This was prejudice.

The whites also believed that the blacks could not write. They thought only the Europeans could write as it was seen as a visible sign of reason that only the whites could do. It was a crime for a slave to learn to write, and any person who could be found to commit this offence could be fined a sum of one hundred pounds. This theory, therefore, is white as the black Americans are oppressed.

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