

Race and Class in Guyanese Politics

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The British promoted racism between African and Indian Guyanese during the colonial era to meet capitalists' ruling class objectives.

One of the ways racism was promoted in Guyanese by the British is governance. Whites or the black petty bourgeoisie controlled the local administrations. The leaders had been brainwashed to help Britain oppress the Blacks (Rodney, Race, and Class in Guyanese Politics, 1980, 28). Notably, it was the government's role to make and implement laws for the people. Therefore, misleading the leaders to accept discrimination was a reliable method to develop a capitalist society by acting as per the white imperialist system. The technique succeeded as people trust their leaders easily without assessing the impacts of the actions. Therefore, racism was supported among Guyanese by electing people who would be brainwashed to ensure oppression.

Britain developed racism through cultural nationalism. Rodney says, "The road to black power here in the West Indies and everywhere else must begin with a revaluation of us as blacks and with a redefinition of the world from our standpoint" (Rodney, Race, and Class in Guyanese Politics, 1980, 33-34). The blacks knew the inappropriateness of the whites'

stereotypical words, but they also used them. It is the case because they believed the white Europeans were beautiful while being black was ugliness. The situation led to the blacks activists focusing on the words “black is beautiful” (Rodney, Race, and Class in Guyanese Politics, 1980, 33). African and Indian Guyanese working-class populations had to unite to make a difference. African liberation was dependent on the working class changes. Thus, Britain developed racism by making blacks feel less critical based on cultural nationalism, making the author find the groups' need to unite.

The British capitalist ruling class's objective was to accumulate wealth at the expense of others. It was done by developing the economic infrastructure so to make foreign investments easy. Indians and Africans were oppressed in providing labor services while receiving little wages (Rodney, Race, and Class in Guyanese Politics, 1980, 46). The Colonial Office was informed that if the labor supply dropped, the plantations produce would be less. Immigration was therefore increased, and the people were forced to work on the farms. It was oppression because the aim was to help the capitalists make more while the workers were poorly paid. Besides, the Indians' local language was stolen to make Britain access as many people as possible to meet their needs.

Reference

Rodney, Race, and Class in Guyanese Politics, 1980. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9szjOu-yIPs)

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GRADE: F

COMMENT: wrong citation, not specific.