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*by* B J

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**Reading Response**

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## **Reading Response**

### **Reading Response 1: Brazilian Empire**

The lives of slaves and lower-class free people had some similarities. The way of living standard and religious believes are some of the similarities of the slaves and lower class free people in period of slave trade. All individuals subjected to slavery and the lower free people were mostly Africans; hence, pathetic life was a common phenomenon. They both led a precarious life as they served their masters, who were colonialists at the same time toil to make ends meet. Accessing good health services and a good diet was unheard of in the two groups of people during the slave trade. According to Viotti, slaves had a limited diet, such as beans, cassava, and a piece of jerked beef (Costa & Da Costa, 1986). Diseases such as fever, tuberculosis, and cholera were so rampant. As a result of this, several slaves and lower-class free people succumbed. Additionally, the two groups had the same belief. For instance, sick individuals had to seek services from sorcerers for healing. For them, medical sciences were not the real deal.

Slaves were subjected to harsh lives. Despite the provision of services, slaves were still regarded as lesser human beings by their masters. Further, spirituality was highly considered by slaves as they believed that was the only way they could get salvaged. The lower class free people, on the other hand, had tough life due to the unaffordability of necessities of life. Therefore, life as slaves and lower class free people had similar life situations.

### **Response 2: Neither Black nor White**

Brazil together with United States portray different perceptions of race. The difference in perception of race can be seen in color prejudice. Unlike the United States, Brazil believes that

race constitutes individuals of different colors. Here, there is a classification of different races as white and black. People regarded as whites have specific treatment. In this case, there is an inclusion of race in Brazil compared to exclusion in Brazil. The classification given to races in Brazil, such as whites, multicultural individuals, and blacks, indicated social equity, unlike in United States (Degler, 1986). An example is evidenced by many blacks living in Brazil compared to United States due to equity in treatment.

The implication that different cultures interpret and see races differently is based on the treatment such individuals are given. Also, the individuals' appearance, such as skin color, determines their originality. For instance, all whites are believed to belong to European countries while all blacks are Africans. This interpretation can be linked to racial discrimination evidenced in countries such as Brazil and United States. However, racial discrimination is more prevalent in the United States. Other examples of how race is understood differently in society are hair and the general physic (Degler, 1986). White people tend to have curly hair compared to other groups having straight hair. There are groups of people who are generally tall while others are very short. These natural phenomena define races such as Africans, Americans, and Indians, among others. Generally, people believe that blacks have their originality from Africa.

### References

Costa, E., & Da Costa, E. V. (1986). *Brazilian Empire: Myths and Histories*. University of Chicago Press.

Degler, C. N. (1986). *Neither black nor white: Slavery and race relations in Brazil and the United States*. Univ of Wisconsin Press.

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