

'A View On the Psychological Path to Prison'

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This essay is based on my firsthand account on how a great deal of African-American men grow into a certain way of thinking which leads to a destructive way of behaving.

The first thing a child has to process as they grow and mature is their environment. I use the word environment to include the person's individual household as well as their specific neighborhood and community.

Secondly, and just as important is the seemingly cultural assignment thrust upon black men that, if rejected, can alienate them and eventually lead to social isolation.

Granted this list is not exhaustive but when illy combined they often create a diseased way of thinking and behaving.

Environment

No one born into this world has the luxury of choosing their parents, siblings or their overall living conditions. So we all enter into existence forced to play the hand we were dealt. And if this "hand" consist of a poor broken home, violent drug infested neighborhoods, and underdeveloped communities then the mentality and behavior that must be adopted to survive in this atmosphere will not be accepted by mainstream society unless it can be used to turn a profit.

The reality for African-Americans is that most of these conditions were created by a group of people through the long use of slavery coupled with the denial of governmental assistance while, at the same time, sanctioning domestic terrorism. This history is well-documented.

Additionally, instead of funding social programs to create legit opportunities for the "emancipated" the U.S. Government has left these victims to fend for themselves and then draft tough on crime legislation to punish their criminal behavior and survival instincts which under these circumstances are one and the same.

So far no human mind has created a remedy for American Racism and Oppression this is because these ideas are like intelligent viruses that evolve and grow more sophisticated as time goes on. Living in this hostile environment has had a traumatic effect on the African-American Psyche whether directly or indirectly. A sort of profound hopelessness.

We would like to think that slavery, peonage, the Tulsa massacres, Jim Crow, etc. are just things of the past which have no bearing on today's world. However, here in 2022 as this

essay is being written, African-Americans reside at the very bottom of the economic food chain and the wealth gap continues to widen.

Furthermore, it is easy to condemn and punish blacks who turn to crime for survival or out of pure despair, but how do we explain the denial of opportunity to those black people who obey the laws of the land, work and study hard only to have doors slammed in their face because of the color of their skin?

There is no justification, every theory proposed by the people who murdered, kidnapped, and enslaved Africans has been morally and scientifically debunked. The bottomline is they needed the free labor to build their international empire and the Africans as well as the African-Americans were and are just means to an end.

Lastly, society has effectively criminalized an entire race to the point that even if blacks are suspected of committing a crime the presumption of innocence guaranteed to American criminal defendants is not afforded to them. The inhumane treatment of the African-American has had such a detrimental effect on their psychology that self-destructive behavior has been the understandable result.

Culture

We speak of culture in terms of a system of enduring meanings, beliefs, values, assumptions, institutions, and practices shared by a large group of people and transmitted from one generation to the next.

American culture is segregated mainly due to economic exploitation of the have-nots. The privatization of major American institutions is a savvy way for the elites to hold control

over wealth while suppressing any competition from outsiders. Admittedly there are some blacks who are blessed and allowed entrance into the upper echelons of society, but this usually calls for the particular initiate to surrender any form of independent thought, thus becoming educated pawns and puppets.

African-Americans also have their own culture which is a diametrical contradiction to the ruling elites, therefore, blacks become enemies of institutions such as the criminal justice system. This is a powerful entity and without the resources to enforce due process blacks have been incarcerated at a higher rate than any other ethnicity.

Some African-Americans have attempted to separate themselves from the stigma placed on most blacks by integrating into different cultures only to be ridiculed and rejected. The African-American plight

is grim and out of these conditions form a dangerous mentality that often leads to long-term incarceration and disenfranchisement. However, most would argue that they were born disenfranchised in every which way but by name - a felony conviction just seals the deal.

Conclusion

It is impossible to comprehend what goes on in a young black child's mind once they are old enough to understand that they have been deemed inferior due to the color of their skin. Inside this essay are just some of the variables that spawn the rebel mentality of many blacks.

I hope my writings spark the question; how do we cure Racism? Without serious consideration of this question there can be no answer. Maybe the creation of racism and all of its accompanying evils was of such wicked

innovative genius that it has become
a part of human nature itself, and,
therefore, will endure as long as humans
exist.

Only time will tell.