

BLACK SHEEP

Q&A

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1. What is racism?

Racism is a political theory based on the thesis that humanity can be divided into groups on the basis of biological determination - races - and that this biological determination reflects the different mental and intellectual abilities of members of these races. Races are not equal and therefore their members cannot be granted the same rights and share in political power.

2. How did racism originate and how did it develop?

Racism emerged as a political theory at the end of the 18th century with the development of anthropology and sociology. The starting point of the theory is an unchanging biological givenness, which attributes to stereotypes to members of individual races, which, like physical differences, are hereditary and therefore unchangeable. Arthur de Gobineau postulated the foundations of racist theory in his book *A Treatise on the Inequality of the Human Races*, where he divided humanity into 3 basic races - yellow, black, and white - and assigned various characteristics to them. He described the Aryan race as the best race.

Racism later took on new dimensions through the theory of social Darwinism . The theory applies Darwin's law of natural biological selection to society. He claims that only the strongest individual will survive, who also determines the history of mankind. In various works of the time, this strongest individual is the representative of the white race. At the end of the 19th century, the „scientific“ foundations of anti-Semitism were laid (authors such as Le Bone, Haeckel , Drumont consider Jews as eternal enemies to be waged), later used by Nazi theorists.

The term racism first appeared in the Oxford Dictionary in the 1930s . Racism takes various forms even after World War II. At the same time, the world community strives to suppress it at the legislative level (International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1965, International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, 1973) and practical (elimination of apartheid in South Africa, elimination of racial segregation). In the 1980s, based on knowledge of genetics, anthropology, sociology, and philosophy, it was refused to divide people into different races because such a division was not scientifically justifiable .

3. What are the possible solutions to the problems with racism?

Possible solutions to racism include prevention, policy and legislation, and effective repression.

Prevention :

- education and training for human rights, multiculturalism and tolerance at all levels of education,
- anti-racist non-political education (not to identify anti- racism with the policy of the left or the centre),

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- effective anti-racism campaigns, ie campaigns that are no longer convincing,
 - neutral media language (Vietnamese trader sold counterfeit goods vs. Tradesman sold counterfeit goods),
 - expanding leisure activities for unorganized youth and young people at risk of social exclusion.

Policy and legislation:

- consistent anti-discrimination policy and implementation of anti-discrimination legislation,
- enforcement of legislation for the protection of national, ethnic and linguistic minorities,
- a supportive, respectful and integrative migration policy,
- training of all law enforcement agencies in the field of hate crime.

Effective repression:

- effective application of legal rules prosecuting hate crimes by qualified professionals,
 - the use of alternative punishments at the expense of unconditional imprisonment and the use of Mediation and Probation Services in the socialization of offenders,
 - prudent criminalization of less serious non-violent acts, such as the wearing of certain symbols.
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4. What makes people hate violence and racism? How can anyone be racist against their own race?

The reason can be fear , and it can have several causes. For example, I may be afraid that someone will hit me if I don't hit first. I may be afraid I won't go anywhere if I don't clearly join a group and protect it. I may be afraid that if I do not join the hatred, I will become its target. I may be afraid that someone will take away what I like. I may be afraid that if I don't dig around, others will notice that I'm basically an uninteresting zero. In addition, fear has the disadvantage that it likes to disguise itself as something else , so sometimes I think I'm fair, proud or even brave, and at the same time I'm just scared. It is not wrong to ever be afraid or to be just, proud or courageous, but if we make fear wrapped in something noble the center of our lives, we are lying on a lie.

Racism against one's own race is linked to hatred of a group with which I have some commonalities. I may also be afraid that they will connect me with someone with whom I do not want to be associated or I am afraid to be associated with him . If I can't get rid of the traits that connect me to the group, then one of the solutions is the sharpest possible definition of this group, which I am afraid to belong to.

5. How do refugees most often deal with the course of migration? What indicators could suggest that someone adapts better than anyone else? (E.g. age, trauma, education, etc.)

Damilola Taylor was a ten-year-old boy originally from Nigeria . In 2000, he and his family moved from Africa to a panel housing estate in the south of London with the vision of a better life. On November 27, 2000, Damilola was attacked by older classmates on his way home from school . During the attack, he was seriously injured by a sharp broken bottle . He died shortly after the attack on the street as a result of bleeding from a femoral artery. In retrospect, it was discovered that Damilola had been bullied at school by a group of classmates for a long time. After a series of investigations and trials, brothers Danny and Ricky Preddie (12 and 13 at the time of the murder) were convicted of murder and sentenced to eight years in prison in 2006 .

6. How did Cornelius (the main character) manage to return to normal life?

It was not easy for Cornelia to change her current lifestyle. Violent behavior, blue contact lenses, expensive clothing, and light face powder were a way to protect him from the racism he had to face in society. One of the strong motives for changing his behavior was Cornelius' girlfriend, who hated his violent behavior. Another strong point in Cornelius' life was the discovery that he was dyslexic. For years he was called stupid at school, until he himself believed it. Over the years, he has found that reading disabilities affect his academic performance. Another important milestone for Cornelia was admission to a higher vocational school, where racist insults and attacks from more educated students dropped significantly. Cornelius gradually allowed himself to put down his protective mask. He had recently learned to accept his true black identity and began to appreciate his original Nigerian roots. This allowed him to accept himself as he really is over time.

LINKS

I didn't know if I wanted to be black or white : my life between worlds. The Guardian . [online]. Copyright © 2019 Guardian News [cit. 12/09/2019].
<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2018/oct/26/i-didnt-know-if-i-wanted-to-be-black-or-white-my-life-between-worlds>