Importance of Racism to World Events

Course  
Instructor  
Date

**Introduction**

The above-mentioned topic is interesting due to a variety of reasons. Racism is an issue which has led to many fights and scuffles in the recent past, bloodshed and loss were hence apparent. The fact that today’s generation has grown to overcome differences in skin color and appreciate each other as members of unified societies. [[1]](#footnote-1)Racism was a factor which worked to close human relationship, and today, rare cases of it are heard all around.

**Brief Overview**

In general terms, racism refers to the act of discriminating excluding or eliminating an ethnic group on the origin of their skin color or a wide variety of reasons. It was extensively practiced in the South African Republic in the late 20thcentury. Blacks were discriminated upon, and they lacked various privileges, the reign of President Nelson Mandela sought to remove racism as a vice and make South Africa a non-racial republic[[2]](#footnote-2). The following essay is an illumination of my interest toward the subject of racism along with four sources that helped to spark my interest even further.

**Literature Review**

Given the relevance of the overall topic and my apparent interest in it, a large variety of written material is available which extensively offer insight on the subject. The sources which will be discussed below contain, not only an enormous amount of insight but also the author’s personal views and opinions on the subject under discussion. As already explained above, racism is a broad topic, and an extensive collection of resources are available showcasing them. The following are hence some of the most inspiring pieces of work that have sparked up my fascination with the topic of interest.[[3]](#footnote-3)

P Maylam’s “South Africa’s Racial Past” talks about some of the most widespread and well known racial issues in the world. This is the South African ethnic strife. Nelson Mandela, who is known to be South Africa’s first president, was jailed for 27years due to his efforts of reuniting the Black and Whites of South America as one race. The book talks about the various protests and revolts which were formulated and demanded his release. It further describes the extensive discrimination that was faced by the minority group in the South African region which were the blacks. Racism was so pronounced such that a black and white individual was not allowed to travel on the same bus and let alone attend the same school. Despite all of the odds, Mandela and his amid fans of supporters broke the shackles of racial discrimination and Mandela was appointed as the first president of the Republic. The book also goes on to explain how Mandela stepped down prior to his racism free dreams being achieved.

Racism, Sexism and the Media by Wilson II, F Gutierrez, L Chao – 2003 is also a very intriguing title on the subject of racism. The reason as to why the title has raised my interest in the topic is due to the fact that it looks at racism from a relatively modern perspective. Allusions to the media paint this fact very well. It is worthwhile to note that it does not only speak about racism as a form of discrimination, but also other forms such as on the basis of one’s social class and social standings[[4]](#footnote-4). The title goes on to explain that today’s society is not free from racism, rather, it has only manifested itself to assume a different form which is class-based discrimination. As per this category, individuals are discriminated upon on the basis of their social class and so forth.

Such a title is intriguing since it basically showcases the type of social setting we are comprised of. Individuals have forgone racism in one way, but there still exists other forms of racial-like behavior.[[5]](#footnote-5) The title also extends and talks about sexism which is basically the act of discriminating upon an individual on the basis of their gender. In essence, the title has fascinated my interest toward the topic by reminding us, as individuals, that although we have forgone racism as a practice, we continue to indulge in other similar acts such as sexism and social discrimination. Our society can never be truly free until we stop such practices and embrace each other as ordinary individuals of society. The book has hence inspired my overall interest in the topic by depicting a modern society and the changes we need to exercise[[6]](#footnote-6).

Fredickson’s Racism: A Short History forms the third title to this list of generally inspiring works. As the title suggests, the title generally discusses racism from a historical viewpoint. It compares racism in the past and correlates it to similar acts which are practiced as per today’s standards. It addresses the subject from the earliest instance where the method has been employed in the latest and more modern scenarios[[7]](#footnote-7). Talks about the civil rights movement and racism also encompass this title hence it an important source of insight when one intends to learn about the history of racism and notable events.

Generally, the title formed one of the most inspiring works of art since it talks about racism as a thing of the past. This inevitably works to represent the society of today which by no means endorses racism.[[8]](#footnote-8) It is conclusively an insightful title with relevant information. Truth be told, it also covers some of the insight shared by the above mentioned two titles. It can be concluded that hence the work is a summary of all that has been discussed on the topic of racism.

Ibram X Kendi’s book “Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas” is a book that has well-articulated evidence of racism in the modern America. In addition to racism, Kendi also focuses on the inequality and racial violence that affect the present American Society. The title of the book tends to imply that the inferiority of the black race has been the significant aspect since the beginning. Kendi attempts to make an outright argument that even the racial abolitionists in the nineteenth century did not necessarily fight against racism.[[9]](#footnote-9) For instance, Kendi evaluates WEB Du Bois, a racial abolitionist. Kendi identifies Du Bois to have believed slavery, poverty, and segregation to have been the causes of the inferiority of the black race but Kendi also concludes these thoughts to be from a racial thinking perspective. Kendi relates the American past to the present on matters of policy making resulting from racist ideas. Ideally, Kendi’s book brings the real situation of Racism in America and how wrong it is perceived.

Racism has been addressed in depth by Berg and Wendt in their book “Racism in the Modern World: Historical Perspectives on Cultural Transfer and Adaptation.” This books mainly focuses on how racial ideologies emerged and managed to spread to Asia, Africa, Australia as well as Europe. The book also explores the true nature of racism in the modern society following an exploration of the phenomenon from various historians. The authors affirm that racism has affected every continent and this notion is attributed to the belief that racism diffuses globally.[[10]](#footnote-10) Racism is also identified to be an ideology created by the Westerners with the aim of subjugating the non-white races. Berg and Wendt have ideally connected racism from a historical perspective to the different forms of oppression faced in the Modern America.

Finally, the last title to level up my apparent interest in the subject is Aborigines and Racism: A historical perspective by MCHartwig. This title, in essence, talks about racism as per the shoes of the smallest continent in the world, this is Australia.[[11]](#footnote-11) The Aborigines hence refer to an ethnic society which is native the Australian mainland. The continent is riddled with a lot of wonders and exotic animals such that it would be worthwhile to view racism from the perspectives of such a country.[[12]](#footnote-12) It is useful to note that the book does not provide any relevant insight on the topic which has not yet been stated by the above-mentioned titles, but it offers insight into Australian History and facts about their racial strifes.

**Conclusion**

The titles mentioned above have sparked up my overall interest in the subject by extensively providing relevant information on the topic. The collection is an insightful mix of both modern and past events. Since the titles all talk about a single issue, a trend may be uncovered upon carefully analyzing the works and hence the level of knowledge on the subject will spike up. In conclusion, the problem of racism is something that directly affects the human population hence it should be extensively be taken into account.

Bibliography

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9. Ibram X. Kendi, *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* (Nation Books, 2016) 1-21. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Manfred Berg and Simon Wendt, *Racism in the Modern World: Historical Perspectives on Cultural Transfer and Adaptation* (Berghahn Books, 2011), 1-14. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
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