

## **Analysis of Discrimination and Racism**

The definition of discrimination is the unjust and prejudicial treatment to different categories of people. Then how to divide people into different categories becomes a question as we judge others by their external factors such as their race and clan. These are the most common factors which seem to define people and to differentiate the human race into various groups. I believe these factors will serve the purpose of benefiting one group at the cost of depriving others of their basic rights. When we talk about anti discrimination, we automatically think of the Americans who drafted the Declaration of Independence, that states that "all men are created equal" with the right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" however, discrimination and racism still exist, why? What conditions give birth to discrimination and makes the issue so stubborn and complex? Why are the current policies and actions lacking the efficiency to resolve the problem? What is the least we could do to alleviate the situation?

Before addressing the issue of discrimination and racism, discussing why it exists is crucial. There are two reasons in my opinion. Firstly, people compete for resources and secondly, people hold grudges and stereotypes to certain groups. The logic behind the first reason is that people tend to band together for the sake of their jobs and resources and excluding others who might pose a potential threat to their social status. For example, after the Americans liberated the slaves, they implemented the policy of racial segregation where the whites and the blacks were not allowed to be in the same public facilities as the coloured people as the whites deemed them to be second class citizens. In addition, the landlords, the police, the courts and the media were all run by white people. Although the blacks (which is what they were called at the time) had the right to vote, the white race thought of various ways to prevent them from using this right. They enforced election taxes and changed the law where they were required to pass cultural examinations before voting. The United States with its abundance of resources could be deemed to be the heavenly Eden that was created by the white people and of course they will be unwilling to concede their resources with others. As for the second reason, the after-mess of WWI and WWII and the continued booming industry called for more workers. Hiring the black labor force was inevitable and as a result two great black American migrations took place. The blacks first moved from the countryside to the city to work for these jobs which caused conflicts to intensify between the blacks and the whites and as a result, many whites, technology companies, and white collar service industries moved to the suburbs. The black exodus of people leaving the country coming to the city and the white exodus, where they moved to the countryside led to more slums in the city center, increased the destruction of public facilities by criminal gangs, made people poorer, increasing welfare spending which eventually led to deficits of government spending. A negative cycle finally caused the decline of the entire city center. With the black population migrating to the North between the 1960's and 1980's there was a gradual decline of the central cities in the United States. The conflict between white and black immensely slowed the development of the country. Stereotype thus was planted deeply in the minds of the white, the black take all the blame and criticism and racial discrimination become a combination of the above two factors.

But the trending idea is that the whites should make amends for their past behavior, and now they should take care of the black people working together to ensure the prospering of America, however, the actions will provoke conflicts and accelerate the division between different races. An example of this would be Truman enforcing the Affirmative Act, that companies were required to hire black people, schools had to allow coloured children to attend. But this policy aroused debates about the paradox of compensatory justice versus equal opportunity, individual compensation versus group compensation, anti-discrimination versus compensatory justice, and individual ability versus outcome fairness. Is it not equity exacerbated when social inequality emerges? Is it fair for a person to get a job depending on government policies and welfare? Will these policies be at the cost of depriving others who possess the true capability? Another example of this is the clash that happened at Charlottesville in America. In a sense, anti discrimination will intensify hatred and accelerate division. The policy of Affirmative Action will inevitably contradict with the American society mechanism which advocates the principle of free market and competition. While the Affirmative Act emphasizes the existence of races, it contradicts the principle of equal protection and ability of all races stipulated in the Constitution. The fact is, people who disagree with the policies will not change their stands because of political correctness which created and accelerated American separation. That's why we see white leftist and white rightists so often, and Trump was voted into office. In short, up until this day, despite all efforts, the United States has not solved the issue of racial conflict. What they have achieved is through years of hard work and regulations, they have turned the outspoken racial discrimination into the obscure and inconspicuous racial discrimination. Such an egalitarian world might exist in the leftists' fantasy utopia, the reality is the caucasoid and the African Americans become more and more divided.

Personally, I believe reflections and education are the only two resolutions to address discrimination and racism. As an Asian who has experienced racism and discrimination myself but being pretty critical of my own country, I believe that if one criticizes one's own group, it is not called discrimination, but reflection. The result of reflection is to recognize your own shortcomings, the uncomfortable truth, to strive for improvement as a better version of yourself. The consequence of discrimination is to deem a group of people superior to others, so it is right or even necessary to put them in concentration camps and exterminate them. Maybe, instead of advertising itself and showcasing its glorious national myths, we should talk more about the harsh history, reflect on the bitter fact, and instill the modern civilian notion to the young generation in our country, like policies of accommodation and compromise. Let stereotype, prejudice, discrimination gradually disappear by educating both the victims and the masses, because education is the only means that erases ignorance. Maybe we are more similar than different, we just need an opportunity to recognize we are the same citizen living in a civilized world. Lastly, I want to remind everyone that we live together peacefully by sharing the same values and beliefs rather than by our language, ethnicity and culture.