**CLCV 224: Home Essay #2**

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Afrocentrism and Eurocentrism are two conflicting schools that share different opinions toward the history of African culture, the historical contribution of African culture, and the origin of ancient mythology.

Afrocentrism focuses on investing the role of African culture in politics, economics, history, and religion. In addition, Afrocentrism stresses protecting and spreading the African culture derived from literature, Music, and Media among the modern descendants of Africa. One of the major proponents of Afrocentrism is African Americans in the 19th century when they just recovered from the persecution and racism of white people. African American scholars who hold Afrocentrism advocate for social justice, and try to elevate the influence of African culture that has previously been impaired by colonialism in world history. Martin Bernal, the writer of Black Athena, is one of the proponents of Afrocentrism. Martin claimed that ancient Greece was a hybrid colony of northern invaders and colonies founded by the Phoenicians. By providing this evidence, Martin criticizes that classical scholars ignore the influence of African culture on Greece culture. To conclude the appeal of scholars who hold Afrocentrism, we have to understand their urgent need to create a sense of national identity for African descendants, and their willingness of improving the social status of African descendants.

Classical scholars, on the other hand, claim that western culture contributes most toward the world culture. Beyond that, Classical scholars also criticize Afrocentrism scholars that Afrocentrism has the problem of historical inaccuracy, scholarly ineptitude, and racism. Specifically, Mary Lefkowitz claims Afrocentrism is grounded on identity politics, instead of academic research. The case of Cleopatra reflects the different opinions of these two schools. As an important historical character, classical scholars assume Cleopatra as Greece because of her Macedonian Lineage. In contrast, Afrocentrism scholars claim Cleopatra as African as Cleopatra was born in Egypt, the northern part of Africa, and thus Cleopatra should be Black or African. The contradictions of the case of Cleopatra show the influence of new Afrocentrism on old Classical Eurocentrism. The reason behind both of these two assumptions, the ethnicity of Cleopatra, reflects their different political and cultural appeals. Eurocentrism scholars want to assert their colonialism by showing the strong historical influence of western culture. Afrocentrism scholars made their contra-assumptions to elevate the social status of African culture.

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Besides the literature works, films are another carrier of culture and ideological trends. Through the learning this semester, we appreciated and analyzed several films directed by Spike Lee and Quentin Tarantino, and both of these two directors focus on the racial justice of African Americans. In Quentin Tarantino’s film, “Django: Unchained”, Django is a slave who suffered from the persecution of latifundium. Then, Django was rescued by a bounty hunter who did not value whether Django is a slave or not. After the death of the bounty hunter, Django takes over his place and accomplishes the bounty. In “Django: Unchained”, Quentin shows a society of black people being treated unfairly by white people. The revenge of Django implies the new system could influence the old system in which white people control the world. It is pretty common that a white person would be a bounty hunter, a western cowboy. However, a cowboy with black skin is an extraordinary character during that period. Besides that, Quentin also builds Django as a character who could survive dozens of shots, and tear his enemy into flesh using his revolvers. By building a black cowboy character, Quentin tries to indicate that white people-dominated society is not invincible, and black people should fight for their own rights and freedom just like Django did. It is reasonable to assume that Quentin believes black people should fight against social injustice to earn themselves rights and freedom.

In Spike Lee’s film “Do The Right Thing”, Spike narrates a story that people kill each other because of small reasons and racism. Although those characters in the film have their own ordinary lives, the racism among these people finally creates tragedy. Overall, Spike’s proposition is more focused on peaceful solutions to racial problems. In contrast, Quentin holds a more aggressive view toward the solution to racial injustice.