NWA Straight outta Compton

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This movie is about the biography of the legendary American hip-hop group NWA. It deals with the birth and dissolution of the NWA, centered on the three members of Eazy E, Dr. Dre and Ice Cube, as well as the historical anecdotes in it. Most of the characters in the music world are real people, and the real names of the record company are also mentioned.

At the time in middle of 1980s, The US government was implementing a strong drug control policy after proclaiming a “war on drugs”. This policy had made many people in the US criminal convicts and has adversely affected the growth of the poor people because their criminal records prevent them from finding good jobs. They also had to pay huge taxes to imprison them in prison. Because of the inmates who exceeded the limit of detention, the US prison was a mess including gang wars, drug distribution, and murders due to poor management. And above all, It had deepened the economic and social disparity between races that already existed in the US, and in particular, the social isolation of the slums from blacks and Hispanics deepened.

This movie shows the black discrimination treatment received by most black people at that time from the protagonist’s point of view. The police in this movie suppressed and searched black crowds just reason of they gathered late at night. It was also the cause of the 1992 Los Angeles riots by beating a black driver, Rodney King. The excessive suppression and crackdown of police against blacks makes me remind #BLM, which is currently campaigning in US.

On the other hand, the NWA from the Los Angeles slums expresses the ill-treatment of black people in American society through rap music. It was rough and too much straightforward, so it was judged to ban for radio transmissions but the public reaction at the time was explosive, including sales of more than 10million albums. In particular, “Fuck the Police”, a song expressing the unfair treatment which they received from the police hit a big hit.

After watching this movie, I thought again about the problems of racism. Of course, this movie is more straightforward and stimulating than the racism that I have experienced abroad(to be exact, my Korean friends had suffered). However, It is definitely an act somewhere in the world, so the related campaign is running. There are obviously racisms in Korea. There were workers from Southeast Asia in the factory where I worked for a while, and even though they are same employee, they were discriminating them. The racism is always around us. Living together without discriminating according to race in any countries in the world, humanity is the greatest value which our society must pursue.