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Period 3

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Homework #3

In "Letter to My Son" by Ta-Nehisi Coates, what the author discusses about the treatments of blacks can be related to the history of Latin America, East Asia, Africe, and India. One thing the author discusses is how tours of places regarding America's Civil War are conducted. The author writes "...I knew that in 1859 we were enslaved and in 1865 we were not, and what happened to us in those years struck me as having some amount of import. But whenever I visited any of the battlefields, I felt like I was greeted as if I were a nosy accountant conducting an audit and someone was trying to hide the books... I doubt you remember the man... how every visitor seemed most interested in flanking maneuvers, hardtack, smoothbore rifles, grapeshot, and ironclads, but virtually no one was interested in what all of this engineering, invention, and design had been marshaled to achieve." This can be analogous to how in some global history classes focus on how Latin America was conquered in some parts with what tactics and technology by Spain, but fail to mention or focus on what has become of all of it. The author also questions his judgment of those who vouched for civil rights nonviolently in a country built upon murder, slavery, and violence. This can be likened to the Mongols ransacking and conquering Asia. By the time they hit Eastern Asia and started expanding westward as well, there was a period of peace despite the violent history. All the violence did amount to some sort of peace, no matter how cruelly they did it. The author also mentions how part of black heritage was also involved in slave trade across the Sahara. This comes from the need for labor among the African kingdoms at that time. In addition, the author also mentions how it did not matter whether you were rich or poor but black and white. This can also be likened to ancient India's caste system where the lowest class, the Sudras, where the many foreigners were placed while higher level jobs were not held by any foreign people.