

“Driving Miss Daisy” (play) Summary and political Aspects

"Driving Miss Daisy" is a story set in Atlanta, Georgia, spanning from the late 1940s to the early 1970s. It centers around the relationship between Daisy Werthan, an elderly Jewish widow, and Hoke Colburn, her African American chauffeur.

Racial and cultural differences:

1. Social status:
 - a. Daisy is a wealthy widow and occupies a privileged position in society
 - b. Hoke is a working class chauffeur
 - i. Their profession reflects a power differential, which is evident in their interactions.
 1. Daisy has a dismissive attitude towards Hoke which reflects her sense of superiority and entitlement
 2. Daisy asserts her authority over Hoke which is obvious when Daisy gives orders rather than making requests or having strict rules for their interactions on how Hoke should chauffeur her
2. Perceptions of Race:
 - a. Daisy holds prejudiced views towards African Americans
 - i. when her son hired Hoke as a chauffeur, Daisy has a reluctance (=Zurückhaltung) towards Hoke as well as feeling a discomfort when driven by a black man
 - b. Hoke is aware of the racial Dynamics and confronts Daisy's prejudices with patience and understanding. He challenges her assumptions and gradually earns her trust and respect through his professionalism and integrity.

The relationship between Daisy and Hoke evolves from initial reluctance and prejudice to mutual respect and genuine friendship. Over time, as they spend more time together, they begin to understand and appreciate each other's perspectives. This transcends the racial and social barriers that divided them in the beginning. (Navigating through challenges together which leads to mutual trust)