

A glowing DNA double helix structure is shown against a dark blue background. The helix is composed of two intertwined strands, one appearing as a bright blue line and the other as a dark blue line. Between the strands are vertical bars representing base pairs, colored in green, yellow, and red. The helix curves across the frame from the top left towards the bottom right.

Science and Racism

Wasn't really scientific so more like theory

Disclosure

- Some topics in this presentation are very traumatic, depressing, and potentially triggering which I will make a note of. I will have a break but feel free to stop me at any time if you'd like for a break or to share or reflect on anything. While I don't want to sugar coat anything or leave information out, I am also not a psychologist and don't best know how to talk about traumatic things and I understand that everyone has their own limits, different triggers, etc. I'm down to skip a portion if needed or anything just lmk. Not that anyone needed my permission to stop me but wanted to put that out there clearly. Also I myself have not really been able or given myself the time to process this. (Looking back I worded things in a way that didn't hurt me mentally as much so hopefully this helps).
- Timeline is more rough as many of these ideas carried on and continue to support each other but it's more of when newer ideas were circulating most before a rise of different forms of study.
- I'm sure there is a lot this doesn't cover sadly due to a lack of time and erasure of history and information including but not limited to leaving out experiences of specific groups, lack of resources & rejection of scientific/medical support and services, the in depth-ness of the relationship between science and enslavement, space and race, science used by abolitionists, scientific racism beyond being U.S. Europe centered, any relationships between math and racism, intersectional experiences, erasure of BIPOC STEM contributions, other justifications for racism such as religion, etc.
- It's pretty word heavy because I be panicking sometimes so I wanted to not leave anything out

Brief Origin of Race and Ties to Enslavement

Note: Did not go in depth with this so probably so much missing, sugar coated

Greeks: (Around 2,400 years ago . Not sure how much of this is true.) Herodotus

- Greeks' believing they were superior in comparison to Ethiopians in the South and Persians in the East. They said Persians were too lightskin for upper class Greeks - Greeks loved getting suntanned playing in the nude so they laughed at Persians for staying inside and not going out being unhealthy. They supposedly described Ethiopians as the prettiest people in the world. ““The Ethiopians to whom Cambyses sent these gifts are reputed to be the tallest and most beautiful of all peoples.”
- There was a realization of the difference of skin color yet not much of a notion of race. There was more of a focus on how people lived and where they lived which was Greeks' reasoning in saying that non-Greeks were barbaric and uncivilized. Basically there were earlier forms of categorizations of people, with those categorizing deeming themselves superior yet it was not based on a hierarchy of skin color.
- Aristotle built a categorization based on climate (different climates → different superiorities). He said that nature intended for some people to be enslaved by others while challengers talked about God creating and wanting all people free.

Islamic Enslavement: Early examples of justification and twisting narratives

- Ibn Battuta was considered the 13th centuries' best traveller.
- He travelled to West Africa and spoke of Mali glowingly, feeling in to be the safest of where he traveled. This was shouted down as lies. His Moroccan society was enslaving people from Mali as well as Slavic people. Describing them as not inferior would have went against their justifications for enslavement at the time.
- At the time forms of slavery were existing all over (Slavery dates back to 3500 BCE (5 thousand years ago) found in almost every ancient civilization) by and with all peoples subjected to it. It originated from the term Slavs for Slavic people as they were heavily enslaved at the time.

Portuguese Enslavement: (1400s)

- Prince “Henry the Navigator” wanted to enslave people but didn’t want to work with Islamic slave traders, who were enslaving multiple different people including Europeans, Arabs, and Africans. He opened up a school for oceanic navigation - not surprisingly backed by rising science at the time.
- Prince Henry sponsored voyages to West Africa focusing the Portuguese slave trade on people from Africa which was therefore racist in practice as he focused on a specific group of people.
 - This points towards how the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade was unique as with it developed a system of belief of different races and their supposed inferiority compared to Europeans. Recognizable locational and visual differences such as skin color, which later grew to include other features, made it easy to separate people and generate false ideas presented as scientific facts. Obviously no enslavement is justifiable and weighing traumas is not the goal but it is important to understand the difference especially when often argued against.
- A man wrote an essay for Henry on people from Africa to thus justify Henry’s plans. “Zurara invented the African race when he described the people being sold at a slave auction in Lagos, Portugal. He described the people as being different from each other in language, ethnic group, and skin color, but he lumped them into a single group of people who lived like animals and needed to be saved by civilized Europeans, who were inherently superior.” Indigenous people in the Americas were lumped into the group “Indian” or called “Blacks from the land”
- Henry was one of the biggest instigators of the enslavement of Africa. The Portuguese imported African people to Cape Cod in the 1480s.
- Race was created for the purpose of enslavement*
 - “Slavery doesn’t affect us today” yet racism, systematic oppression, hierarchies, everything we have today literally stemmed from the history and institution of slavery in theory and practice.

Intentionality

- There is a false notion and large teaching that racism was just people's ignorance not understanding other's differences and thus mistreating them. This teaches that racism starts and ends with individual's attitudes. I definitely remember this being the belief as a kid teaching us that racism was solely treating people different based on their skin color, failing to mention its role in institutions. This is not to say that not accepting people's differences wasn't part of the problem yet it was not the start and will not be the end of racism and this notion often supports unhelpful beliefs that just not seeing difference - being colorblind - will "solve racism".
- The creation of race and racism was very intentional. Exploitation and enslavement was their goal from the beginning. Creating this idea of race to be culturally and "scientifically" accepted, justified these intentional racist institutions that were already being put into place.
- The Age of "Enlightenment" was on the rise as well including philosophical beliefs of ethics and morality. Deeming non Europeans as not even human allowed them to argue that enslavement was not immoral. This was backed further due to the rise in thought that animals were made for human exploitation and to serve people. There was also the notion that Europeans were saving less civilized people needing their ways of life eradicated.
- Race has no biological basis but it is very real socially, institutionally, and culturally. The notion that because race doesn't exist, neither does racism is ridiculous.
- Other justifications included religious ones saying slavery was in the bible, saying it was fine because they were prisoners of war
- Note: It is estimated that 38-46 million people are enslaved today encompassing human trafficking shifting into systems of illegal control.

Science & Theory

Note: many of these concepts were taught in schools

What is true?

- There is more genetic variation in flamingoes than there are humans
- Race has no biological basis and DNA cannot distinguish between racial groups. DNA varies because of environment, disease, adaptations, etc. This is still barely taught or understood. Restriction of access to this education, furthers ignorance and racism.
- People develop different adaptations (clines) over time due to geography which causes difference in appearance. This does not only affect skin color.
- There is no scientific evidence proving that different populations have specific intellectual or physical abilities.
- Physical traits, body types, eyesight etc. can be related to various abilities but are generally not correlated to different populations.
- Races are assumed to have dispositions to certain diseases yet this is most often due to societal factors and injustices stemming from racism such as increased stress, trauma, psychological and physical mistreatment, etc.



Early Beliefs/Race Theories (1600s)

- Polygenism was the belief that different races were separate species.
- Monogenism was the belief that races were created and evolved together from a single pair.
- Many were religious on both sides. Polygenists believed God created people separate in different locations. Monogeists tied the pair to Adam and Eve and saw polygenism as heresy. I read somewhere that monogenists opposed slavery and advocated for racial equality but yeahh not sure about that one. It definitely was debated and created a religious divide.
- Essentialism: influenced biology before darwin. Belief that the world is made up of fixed essences and that variation is a result of imperfections and deviations. This supported the belief that white people were the first race and those deviating from them were less than.
- Francois Bernier published an essay diving humanity into races in 1684, mostly women by skin color and a few other traits. People from Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, India. South-east Asia, and the Americas were together. 2nd: people from sub-Saharan Africa, 3rd: east and northeast Asians, 4th: Sami people. There wasn't a clear determinant of racial hierarchy supposedly yet he described others as ugly and in relation to looking like animals, essentialist.
- First scientist who studied race was Robert Boyle, natural philosopher, chemist, physicist, and inventor. He believed in monogenism and that there were white people who could give birth to people of various races and different skin colors - tied to studies of albinism at the time.
- Henri de Boulainvilliers believed in the "right of conquest." He thought of race as a contemporary cultural construct.* He divided the French into the "French race" descending from the invader Germanic Franks and the indigenous Gallo-Roman race.
- Richard Bradley describes: white Europeans with beards, white men in America without beards (Native Americans), men with copper skin, small eyes, and straight black hair, Black people with straight black hair, and Black people with curly hair. Inspired later categorization.

*The words race and species were often synonymous until the 1700s due to this belief.

Rise of Anthropology (18th, 19th Century)

- Anthropology began as a colonial science focused on the study of the languages, history, culture, and biology of non-European people with an agenda to have European reason and control.
- Anthropologists used objective procedures to advance racism, placing people on graded scales of civilization and advancing fake theories of so-called “cultural evolution.”
- It also supported forced acculturation in which colonizers spearheaded cultural erasure around the world.
- Scientific racism was used to justify colonization, arguing their exploitation was in favor of people whom they labeled and ingrained into themselves and one another as uncivilized, less than, un-human, unintelligent, primitive, savages, etc.

Scientists who questioned and opposed this work were marginalized, ignored, and dismissed as “unscientific.”

Anthropology and science fields and scholars today often fail to teach, remember, and hold founders of different sciences accountable for their part in advancing racism in theory and action.



Racial Categorization, Tie to White Supremacy (1700s)

- The enlightenment period included a rise in categorizing things - taxonomy. In school we learn about the categorization of rocks and animals but many of these leading thinkers were also categorizing people. Schools erase scientists' role in categorizations that advanced scientific racism. During this period, hierarchy of categories was also popularized (in tangent with religion - putting God on top.)
- 1759: Swedish Carolus Linnaeus, father of taxonomy, categorized humanity as a species with four varieties: European, American, Asiatic, and African in the published "Systema Naturae." I'm pretty sure we learned about him but none about this.
- He believed physical traits to be a result of geography initially however later he developed four temperaments of supposed biological difference including blood (sanguine), yellow bile (choleric), black bile (melancholic), and phlegm (phlegmatic). These supposedly determined personality and health.
- He switched orders of racial hierarchy around yet his classification of African people remained the lowest with the most negative descriptions.

(The four temperaments were popularized in medicine used to treat illnesses. It arise by Greek thinkers around 400 BCE. Humors refer to fluids that are present within the body and there was a belief that different people had different proportions of them. The dominant fluid determined your category. Apparently were at a time and still today used yet they seem to not have the negative racist stereotypes and implications of before and are more about relationships, career, conflict resolution, adventure etc so perhaps it was more weaponized to support Linnaeus' and other categorizations.)

CLASSIS I.

QUADRUPEDIA

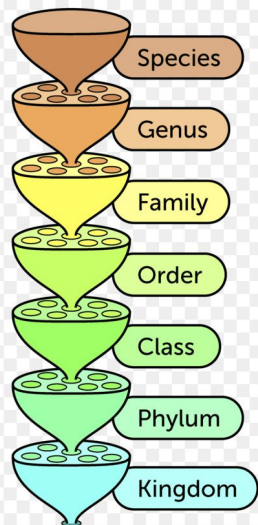
Ordo 1.

ANTROPOMORPHA. *Dentes pri-**more* *prima*
mores utrinque quatuor, aut nulli.1. HOMO. *Nosce te ipsum.**Homo variat:* Europæus albus.

Americanus rubescens.

Asiaticus fuscus.

Africanus niger.

2. SIMIA. *Os dentatum. Pedes pentactyli**Homo sapiens*

Members of the genus Homo with a high forehead and thin skull bones.

Homo

Hominids with upright posture and large brains.

Hominids

Primates with relatively flat faces and three-dimensional vision.

Primates

Mammals with collar bones and grasping fingers.

Mammals

Chordates with fur or hair and milk glands.

Chordates

Animals with a backbone.

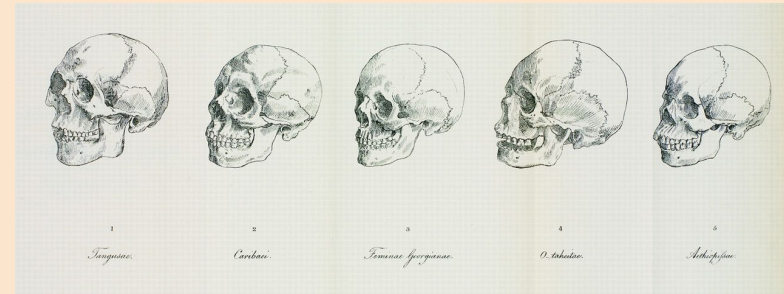
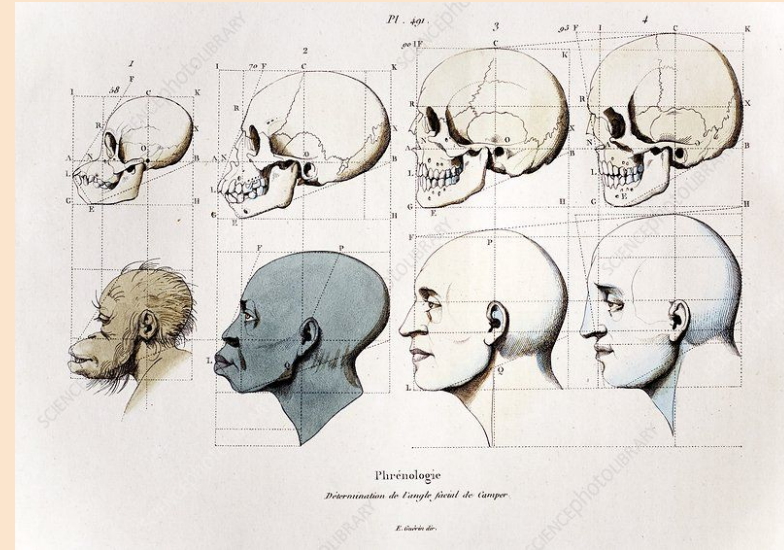
Animals

Organisms able to move on their own.

Species	1	2	3	4	5
Americanus	Red, choleric and straight	Straight, black and thick hair; gaping nostrils; [freckled] face; beardless chin	Unyielding, cheerful, free	Paints himself in a maze of red lines	Governed by customary right
Europæus	White, sanguine, muscular	Plenty of yellow hair; blue eyes	Light, wise, inventor	Protected by tight clothing	Governed by rites
Asiaticus	Sallow, melancholic, stiff	Blackish hair, dark eyes	Stern, haughty, greedy	Protected by loose garments	Governed by opinions
Africanus	Black, phlegmatic, lazy	Dark hair, with many twisting braids; silky skin; flat nose; swollen lips; Women [with] elongated labia; breasts lactating profusely.	Sly, sluggish, neglectful	Anoints himself with fat	Governed by choice [caprice]

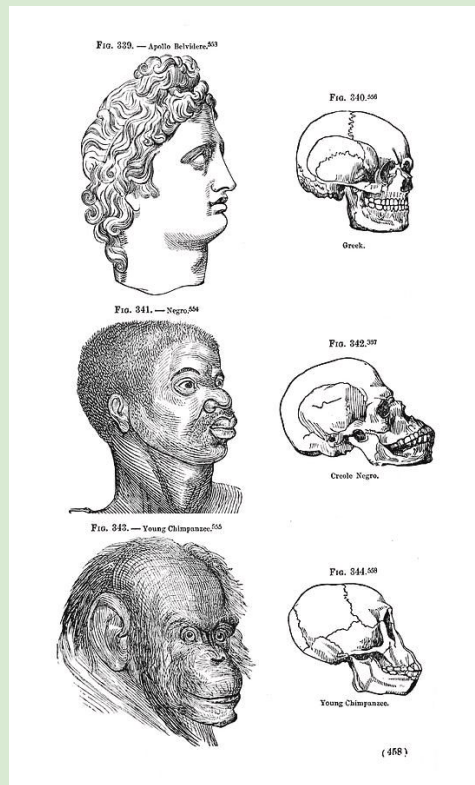
Categorization & Crainoscopy Surfacing

- 1770: Dutch Petrus Camper believed the Greeks to be perfection using Greek statues to establish standards of beauty and rank races based off of this. He developed the “facial angle” formula basing his ideal angle on Grecian statues. He said Greek’s “facial angle” averaged 100 degrees before measuring and sorting the skulls of apes and humans.
- 1795: German Anthropologist Johann Friedrich Blumenbach coined the term Caucasian as “mankind that originated on the southern slopes of Mount Caucasus.” He claimed it was the “original” and thus “most beautiful” race. He divided humanity into five varieties. “Ethiopian (African), Mongolian (Asian), Malay (Southeast Asia), American Indian (American), and Caucasian (European). Delineation. Believed that behavioral differences were fixed and racial differences were a result of different climates (clinical perspective).



Cranioscopy → Phrenology (1800s-1840s)

- Samuel George Morton of the 1800s claimed intelligence was linked to brain size, whites have larger skulls, and are thus “superior.”
- Franz Joseph Gall:
 - Develops crainoscopy which is later renamed phrenology. Apparently crainology has some legitimacy in using skulls to determine things about deceased individuals yet phrenology was the idea that different sizes of parts of the brain determine intelligence or behavior.
 - Idea of a person’s talents and qualities tracing from configurations of the skull to particular areas of the brain.
- Charles Caldwell
 - Studied skulls and claimed that the skulls of all African people indicated a “tamableness” making them suited for enslavement.
- 1839: Samuel George Morton
 - Develops theory of craniometry which is the measurement of the human skull and was used to justify racist stereotypes, immigration laws, and white superiority.
 - Rejected idea of differences created by environments saying they were dictated by God. This idea shifted Christian missionaries’ thought from believing their superiority was because they were Christian (so conversation would lead to superiority), to believing in inherent inferiority.
 - He studied and had detailed illustrations made of skulls of Native Americans collected after wars.
 - Supported idea that Native Americans were “adverse to cultivation” and “slow in acquiring knowledge” justifying “Indian” removal policies and the continuous stealing of land under the idea of them not being able to integrate into modern society.
 - Darwin described him as an authority on the subject of race. His book *Crania Americana* was widespread. Some even believed Native American skulls were a different consistency.



Social Darwinism (1850s)

- 1859: Darwin On the Origin of Species. Popularized the idea of natural selection - organisms evolving to adapt to their environment to ensure their survival and the survival of their offspring.
- Herbert Spencer: survival of the fittest and social Darwinism. The theory that human groups and races are subject to the same laws of natural selection as Charles Darwin perceived in plants and animals in nature. He believed people could pass learned qualities to their children.
- A sense of nationalism was advancing from racist thinking
- The belief of traits passing down led to beliefs of wanting to maintain “purity” of white blood, a foundation for Eugenics
- Advanced ranking races and the idea of measuring people from high to lower
- Idea that certain races were just weaker so they should die off while white people were the fittest to survive. This heavily justified genocide against Native American people.
- Led to the glorification of competition and struggle
 - Social Darwinists saw competition and ideas of “survival of the fittest” as inherent to humans and thus people shouldn’t interfere with their nature. They believed the strongest should produce the most children while poorer less successful people should be discouraged to have children. They believed that government should be involved in ensuring their superiority.
 - Believed that war weeded out the weaker people allowing stronger, intelligent people to reproduce. Interestingly enough there was a standard of mental and physical ability for who went to war so these “stronger” people were actually killed off.
- Supported anti-immigration policies and enacted anti-Asian legislation
- Some believed that African people would eventually evolve into European people
- Schools fail to mention this when talking about evolution as it was so intertwined, Darwin and some of his family were leaders in or supported scientific racism, supporting colonization, enslavement, genocide, forced removal, etc. in tandem.

Eugenics (Late 1800s and early 1900s)

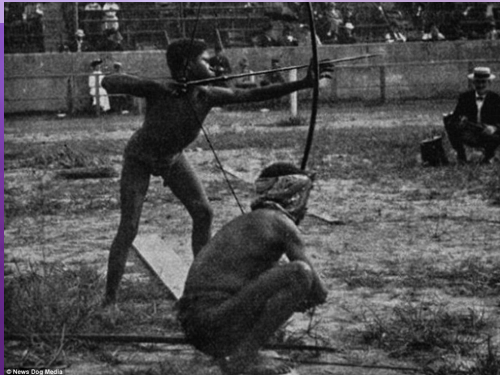
- The inaccurate theory of human improvement through selective breeding of populations
- Term coined in 1883 by Francis Galton the cousin of Darwin.
- Defined as “the study of agencies under social control that may improve or impair the racial qualities of future generations either physically or mentally.” He claimed health, disease, social, and intellectual characteristics were unchangeable and based on heredity and race.
- Prejudiced understanding of mendelian genetics
- Leaders worldwide perpetuated eugenic beliefs and policies based in racism and xenophobia, many of which still exist today.
- It became a global movement in the 1920s with main support in Germany, the US, Great Britain, Italy, Mexico, and Canada. Support was from statisticians, economists, anthropologists, sociologists, social reformers, geneticists, public health officials and members of the general public.
- In America it led to miscegenation movements and forced sterilization. Most states had federally funded eugenics boards.
- AMAB people were castrated and people’s ovaries were removed permanently preventing reproduction. There were also vasectomies and tubal ligations. Black babies with congenital defects were allowed to die.
- California was the second state to pass eugenics laws only 100 years ago in 1909. People beleieved in improving the human species through selectrive breeding including preventing those labeled as criminals, mentally ill, BIPOC, and sexual deviants from having kids. 20,000 disproportionately Black and Mexican people were sterilized who were deemed to be mentally ill. Hilter and the Nazis reported being inspired by California’s laws in formulating genoicdal eugenics policies in the 1930s. He wrote, “There is today one state in which at least weak beginnings toward a better conception [of citizenship] are noticeable. Of course, it is not our model German Republic, but the United States.”

Human Zoos: 1835-1958. TW: emotional torture, resource & medical denial, extreme racism

- With the rise in theories of evolution grew an obsession with declaring Black and Indigenous people from around the world as “The Missing Link” between people and apes.
- In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, thousands of indigenous individuals were stolen from Africa, Asia, and the Americas and brought to the US and Europe to be displayed in human zoos. Some were promised things they never got and some were bought, deceived, and enslaved. There were little hopes of escape and even if they did they were in foreign continents with nowhere to go.
- There were multiple exhibitions including P.T. Barnum’s displays which had people described as “the greatest natural and national curiosity in the world.” The zoos were completely the definition of dehumanization and these people were treated cruelly by people putting them on display and the visitors alike with mocks and insults. It was a whole structure and system of one’s people and culture being degraded and diminished into one thing, being labeled as uncivilized and savages through words and through putting on caricatures, and/or having genuine culture practices mocked and torn apart by millions of visitors meanwhile zoo owners were of course making money off of these people who got nothing in return.
- They set up mock “ethnic villages” showing typical daily tasks such as making stone tools and rituals as “primitive” and often engaged in fake battles or strength tests.
- The 1878 and 1889 Parisian World’s Fair presented a Black Village and the 1889 World’s Fair displayed 400 indigenous people as the major attraction, visited by 28 million people. The Colonial Exhibitions displayed humans in cages, often nude or semi-nude.
- Even children and babies were treated as displays and some people literally fed the children at the exhibits.

Human Zoos cont.

- In 1904, people from the Philippines were displayed at the Saint Louis World Fair. The Igorot village was perceived as the least civilized of those on display. Filipino villagers were made to perform a dog-eating ritual over and over to shock the audience and a lack of drinking water and sanitary conditions led to multiple illnesses.
- Ota Benga, an African man, was put on display in New York City alongside apes and other animals claiming he was closer to apes than Europeans and the missing link in the evolutionary chain. He shot targets with a bow and arrow, wove twine, and wrestled with an orangutan. He took his life six years later after being released.
- The directors closed the exhibition after two days following public outcry from Black clergymen, yet few others expressed audible objection to the exhibit. Reverend James H. Gordon said, "Our race, we think, is depressed enough, without exhibiting one of us with the apes. We think we are worthy of being considered human beings, with souls."
- Along with the obvious horrors and emotional trauma of being on display and subject to this explicit racism, people from Africa were made to wear traditional clothing intended for heat even in freezing December temperatures. Many died and were buried in the gardens of the zoo.



Medical Apartheid

Trigger warning: This includes the experimentation on Black individuals feel free to step out of the space if needed or do what you need

Medical Apartheid

A book came out in 2007 titled *Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present* by Harriet A. Washington. Most of the following information comes from summaries of her book as she has taken multiple years to do an in depth study on this much better than I could do. It was the first comprehensive account of this history. She is much appreciated for this devotion.

- Much medical advancement in the U.S. was built off the torture of enslaved African people. Heavy experimentation occurred with no consent and no anesthesia.
- Scientific racism included ideas that Black people were less intelligent, sub-human or not human, didn't experience pain and were immune to diseases which made it impossible for white people to do manual labor in fields.
- Scientific beliefs came to surface for the purpose of justification and not from data.
- 850 enslaved African people were experimented on in Jamaica in the 1700s by John Quier with an early form of vaccination called inoculation.

Disease

Justifications for Enslavement:

- John C. Calhoun proclaimed: “It is not enough for the Southern people to believe that slavery has been entailed upon us by our forefathers. We must satisfy the consciences, we must allay the fears of our own people. We must satisfy them that slavery is of itself a right—that it is not a sin against God—that it is not an evil, moral or political. . . . In this way, and this way only, can we prepare our own people to defend their institutions.”
- Samuel A. Cartwright claimed there was a “disease causing slaves to run away” which he named drapetomania. He said it existed because enslavers were “too kind and treated them as equals”. He said it was curable unless they were located on the borders of a free state, with no explanation as to why they were incurable. He said it was curable by forcing Black people into submission by whippings and physical abuse. He also used a medical instrument to find Black people had a lower lung capacity than White people which he believed proved biological inferiority. Not considering how Black people lived in areas with little ventilation or insulation from weather.
- Black resistance was described time and time again as a disease. Schizophrenia was argued as a disorder of masculinized belligerence associated with “angry black masculinity” in the 1960s. It was tied to aggressiveness and hostility tied to people involved in civil rights movements. People argued that Black communities got diseases causing their bodies to break down because they could not handle the responsibilities of freedom.
- Dysaesthesia Aethiopica characterized by reduced intellectual ability, laziness, and partial insensitivity of the skin.

Experimentation - not at all the full picture

- White people didn't want to donate their bodies or bodies of loved ones to science. Enslavers were paid to the bodies of dead enslaved people in the name of science to be dissected and studied. Some were kidnapped and murdered for this. It was not secretive, there was even a nursery rhyme about it.
- Dr. Marion Sims; the father of gynecology
 - He operated on enslaved Black women vaginally without anesthesia, including when it became available. Some victims included Lucy, Anarcha, and Betsy.
 - An account of him forcefully restraining a man who had refused to partake in jaw surgery in front of his students. He also experimented on the skulls of Black infants.
 - He created a practice for white women later with anesthesia with great profits.
 - This all led to him being named president of the American medical association and there is a tool named after him used to this day showing how people who experimented were treated as highly astute medical professionals and were even honored

Break

- Take a minute to write down anything you're feeling if you'd like. Stretch/breath.
- A share out of anything if anyone wants at this point, there will be time after the presentation as well. Just a few more slides left.

“Abolition”

- Enslavement ending was not because people had a change of heart or new scientific understandings. It came with the industrial revolution out of the belief that industrial ways of production were more efficient and to save the Union as Lincoln the glorified white savior said, “my paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and it is not either to save or destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some an leaving others alone, I would also do that.”
- The “abolishment” of slavery basically just shifted where Black people were working as we know with coal mining - slavery by another name - and policing and laws were used to keep Black people as working prisoners sometimes in harsher conditions than in chattel enslavement.
- It is also believed that a quarter of freed enslaved people died or suffered from illness between 1862 and 1870. Many ended up in “contraband camps” many of which were former slave pens. In these camps, disease and starvation led to countless deaths. A military official in Tennessee in 1865 wrote that former slaves were “dying by scores - that sometimes 30 per day die and are carried out by wagonloads without coffins, and thrown into a trench.” The death rates were so bad that some expected them to die out. This only encouraged the idea that freed people couldn’t survive on their own.

Later experimentation & mistreatment

- Tuskegee Experiment: Between 1932 and 1972, the Public Health Service tracked syphilis in about 400 African American men. Researchers told the men they were being treated for “bad blood” and weren’t aware that they had the disease. Instead, they were being studied on without given treatment despite penicillin, a treatment for syphilis, becoming widely available. They were not given consent for this study. This not only affected them but the people they were close to as many passed the disease onto others and died from it. A lawsuit was filed winning participants and families \$10 million. Apparently Black doctors also knew and approved of the experiment. There were at least 40 other experiments where doctors deliberately infected healthy Black patients with diseases including syphilis and gonorrhea.
- Parents of an all black school were approached in the 1920s saying they had a cure for ringworm but in actuality they were applying radiation to their heads to see how it affected people.
- The crack baby epidemic was a myth. Drug abuse in Black women was ten times more likely to be reported to law enforcement though it was no more common than in white women.
- Graves were robbed providing Black bodies to medical schools. Birth control methods were tested on Black women- some called it genocide.
- In the 1950s a branch of the American military dropped paper bag bombs in predominately Black neighborhoods in Florida. They had mosquitoes with malaria and was testing on if they would get malaria so they could go and use the same tactics in war.
- Prisoners were tested on with cancer cells injected into them. 180 out of 396 were Black. Some included mind control and caused blindness.

Late 1900s-now:

- Polygenism and biology-based racism were widely disproven in the mid-20th century, so people moved to using social science as a justification for racism.
- Studies showing high rates of imprisonment among Black Americans attempting to prove innate criminality, pseudoscientific intelligence claiming mental superiority of white people. These studies never accounted for social, political, systemic inequities as usual despite being social science. Fake racist “evidence” was used to support segregation and other forms of systemic anti-Black racism specifically so pretty much as shown in the history, the culture and practice using science to justify racism has been evolving and ongoing to what we have today and common methods people use to attempt to justify racism today were used then to justify what people viewed the most extreme representations of racism and don’t call the prison system.
- Black people were barred from chapters of the American Medical Association.
- In the 1990s they wanted to see if there was genetic cause for aggressive behavior. They bribed Black and Latinx families to study their children. They were taken over night, given drugs, and experimented on.
- Today studies continue to find that bias, prejudice, and stereotyping play a role in differences in health care by race and ethnicity. Some medics still believe in intrinsic biological differences between races leading to less appropriate treatment decisions for Black patients thinking that Black patients’ pain is less severe.
- Other issues today include gaps or lack of access to health insurance, limited access to services and high-quality physicians, poorer treatment from medical professionals. More than 250,000 people die in the U.S. every year from medical error and negligence. 20-30% of minorities were misdiagnosed. Implicit bias leads to a lack of medical support. African Americans have the highest percentage of a positive test result from covid with 34% of deaths.
- A lot of the history of experimentation on Black history in America understandably increases medical mistrust in Black communities, affecting major decisions such as taking vaccines.

Sources

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