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Composition 1

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In his speech *The Other America*, Martin Luther King Jr. confronted the then profound economic and social disparities that divided American society. King maintained that there happened to be, in fact, “two different Americas"(King): one prosperous, accessible to white Americans and one in which poverty, discrimination, and social neglect were fundamental states of beings of the Black communities and other underprivileged groups. He emphasizes that all these inequities are systemic and, therefore, are part of a national crisis, demanding urgent changes.

The many differences between black and white America King speaks about are topics such as discrimination within the housing market, and inequality in the field of public education. King surmises that both of these lead directly to poverty and, in turn, are and will continue to be causes of civil unrest and bitterness towards the American system and leadership. By connecting economic disparity with racial discrimination, King makes it clear that the two are undoubtedly related. He demands urgent policy change in the direction of racial justice from the American government

Martin Luther King touched on a variety of topics regarding race-related inequalities in America. Many of his ideas and observations about society in 1967 can still be observed in the present modern society. A very important element of his speech was the confident strength of his well-organized and compartmentalized ideas. He could present his ideas by feeding off of justifiable anger. Still, he had the wisdom to acknowledge that his anger would likely internally muddle his ideas, also accounting for the fact that anger has no place in civil or academic discussions. His lack of projected anger was also especially relevant in 1967, as riots were destroying infrastructure in the black communities, so it was especially important to portray himself as a civil voice of reason, and not portray the black community as uncivilized goons with uncontrollable anger. I definitely need to look more deeply into the social and economic standings of the nation of the 60s and early 70s. From what I know it was a period of immense economic boom - where the ‘boomers’ came from - so in taking that version of history into account, King’s idea of ‘the other America’ can be illustrated clearly to the audience because of the duality or ying and yang of the two ‘Americas.’

As a minority, I don’t think racial equality in this country is achievable. By definition, different races have different cultures and as long as they stay true to their own heritage they will obviously operate differently from other races with different cultures even within the same system. There is still undoubtedly a long way to go in terms of providing everyone in America with the same opportunities. However, even if there was utopian equality of opportunity, different races would prefer to do different things, hold different jobs, and overall go about their lives in different ways. Although I am a minority that is well integrated and prefers to live within the rules of the American ‘system’, many of my friends from the tribe prefer to keep to themselves, living on the reservations, and serving a very important role to our tribe of keeping stories and traditions alive. No matter what kind of opportunities, or even equity is made available to these friends, they will never use the benefits that the system offers to minorities like I do. They prefer tradition to American life.

**Works Cited**

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Speech**.**