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Reflections on Cultural Appropriation!

My personal definition of cultural appropriation is the use or adoption of without any acknowledgement or consent from the original culture. Whether it is fashion companies ripping off different cultures without consent and making a profit without any acknowledgement or how cinco de mayo is celebrated differently in the US and in Mexico or how white tic-tokers are stealing dances created by black tic-tokers. Cultural appropriation can take in many forms and in many regards it is very controversial and is in the gray area in terms of ethics. It all depends on how the instigators and the victims react and what determines whether it is ethical or not and what they should do to make it right in the eyes of the victims. In this article we are going on a deep dive on my reflection on all three of these cases of cultural appropriation.

First off, the United States and Mexico celebrate Cinco de Mayo differently. To the point that shows that the United States is very ignorant of Mexico's traditions and uses that day just to have a party. A way that Americans are ignorant is " many american believe that cinco de mayo is Mexico's independence. Cinco de may is simply a day where Mexico won a huge battle against france. While the actual Mexican Independence Day is September 16 and it is only really celebrated in the city of Puebla, in fact most of Mexico does not celebrate it" (Insider). Having a fun holiday is perfectly ok, however it is necessary to know what the celebration is or at least move the holiday to Mexico's actual independence day which Mexico actually celebrates.

Next is that white tick tock creators are stealing dances from black tick tock creators and going viral with them. “White people often incorrectly believe that they are entitled to black people's creativity simply because they claim to appreciate black culture, however a white person saying that they appreciate black culture without taking tangible steps to empower black creators is still racist” (YouTube TikTok). Simply state that taking something that was created by another culture without giving them credibility and sharing that fame is extremely wrong. The white tick-tokers should have given credibility to the black tick-tokers and at least a collaboration with them would be the right thing to do. In this way viewers will actually be able to appreciate the culture from the black community.

Lastly, fashion companies are stealing designs from indigenous cultures without giving any consent, making a huge profit and not empowering any indigenous cultures. “Fashion companies are increasingly being taken to task for selling expensive versions of traditional Indigenous dress. Gucci’s kaftans came with a US\$3,500 price tag, which is far more than the \$10 that Indians pay” (The Conversation). This is blatantly wrong. These fashion companies are ripping off the Indian’s designs and are shorting the original companies that actually create clothing. The fashion companies should source their clothing to an authentic indigenous company and split the profits halfway percent so that the indigenous companies do not shut down. In this way the customers get authentic clothing and know it will support the indigenous people who created it.