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CS 175

White Rage Reading Assignment

 Individual Example 1 found on page 48.

“In the southern part of the state near Valdosta, a white plantation owner, Hampton Smith, had become notorious for his brutal treatment of black laborers on his farm. Because his standard employee management practices included beatings, theft of wages, and whippings, he had considerable difficulty hiring anyone to willingly work his land.”

This is an example of individual racism because it shows how an individual plantation owner treated his “employees” because of their race.

Individual Example 2 found on page 22.

“I am not,” Lincoln had said, “nor ever have been, in favor of bringing about in any way the social and political equality of the white and black races.”

This quote shows that even Abraham Lincoln hold individual racist beliefs such as that white and blacks are not equal.

 Institutional Example 1 found on page 24.

“The intended beneficiaries were clear because from 1843 through 1862, when the law was finally passed, most African Americans were not citizens and therefore, regardless of how impoverished, were ineligible.”

This is an example of institutional discrimination because the law was specifically crafted to help US citizens which most African Americans were not and could not become, hence the intent was clear to discriminate against African Americans.

Institutional Example 2 found on page 79.

“Already Jim Crow had cost America’s black children dearly. Delaware, a border state, had abdicated all responsibility for the education of its African American citizens: “Blacks were pretty much left to their own devices as far as education was concerned.”

This quote is describing the state of Delaware’s response to being forced to create schools for African American’s, instead of complying the very officials in charge of education simply decided to abandon the responsibility.

Hegemony Example 1 found on page 28.

“If African Americans resisted and complained bitterly about the Black Codes, this meant only that the Freedmen’s Bureau was “encouraging unrealistic expectations among the former slaves.”

This quote is describing the reactions to the Black Codes, white southerners tried to impose the belief that African Americans had unrealistic expectations about how they would be treated. The hope was to make in a mainstream belief that this was how African Americans should be treated.

Hegemony Example 2 found on page 112.

“America has been the best country on earth for black folks. It was here that 600,000 black people, brought from Africa in slave ships, grew into a community of 40 million, were introduced to Christian salvation, and reached the greatest levels of freedom and prosperity blacks have ever know.”

This is an example of hegemony because it tried to impose the belief that African American Slaves were treated well or somehow should be thankful for being brought to America. When in reality they were enslaved and treated horrifically.

Structural Example 1 found on page 119.

“Attorney General John Mitchell announced that the Department of Justice, which he viewed as “an institution for law enforcement, not social improvement,” opposed the renewal of the Voting Rights Act because it targeted, and therefore discriminated against, the South.”

This is an example of structural discrimination because the department of justice was trying to push the narrative that they were treating all states equally by equally applying the VRA. However the VRA was specifically created in response to behavior from specific states, so applying it “equally across states” was not really equal.

Structural Example 2 found on page 121.

“Far from trying to disfranchise black voters, Nixon disingenuously explained, the amended legislation sought simply to address an imbalance that, when other areas of the nation also discriminated against segments of their citizenry, left the South unfairly singled out.”

This is an example of structural discrimination because Nixon was pushing the idea that the south was being discriminated against and that being equal meant applying the VRA to the whole nation. However again the VRA was created in response to specific behavior from specific states, opening the scope of VRA to make it “equal” was just an attempt to overwhelm the system and prevent it from functioning.

Intersectionality Example 1 found on page 24.

“In 1864, two years after the Homestead Act passed, he advocated taking the plantation owners’ land as well and distributing it to “free, industrious, and honest farmers,” which again was Johnson’s way of helping poor whites, whose opportunities, he felt, had been denied and whose chances had been thwarted by the enslaved and masters alike.”

This is a quote of intersectionality because it shows how poor white people were treated very differently than poor African Americans or African Americans in general. The white population in the US were seen as mistreated where as poor African Americans were somehow at fault for their situation.

Intersectionality Example 2 found on page 36.

“Nonetheless, Johnson had absolutely no qualms about using the power of government to ensure that plantation owners and poor whites gained or regained title to millions of acres of land….”

This is an example of intersectionality because it shows how the population was sympathetic to poor white US citizens but blamed poor African Americans for their situation.