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CH 203

Response Week 7

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**Group 1, Question B**

Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. DuBois argued very different “plans of attack” when it came to the integration of black people in the then-recent free South. Washington obviously felt that rushing social change could bring no good to the cause. He urged instead for recognition of equality in what he considered to be the important aspects of life. During his Atlanta Compromise speech he placated his predominantly white audience by making statements like “… interlacing our industrial, commercial, civil, and religious life with yours in a way that shall make the interests of both races one” (Washington 2). Washington made these deliberate compromises while DuBois made idealistic calls for rapid and more extreme—at least in the eyes of white men—change. He called prejudice out for what he believed it was. He wrote, “… black man is darkened by the shadow of a vast despair. Men call the shadow prejudice, and learnedly explain it as the natural defense of culture against barbarism…before this there rises a sickening despair that would disarm and discourage any nation save that black host to whom "discouragement" is an unwritten word” (DuBois 5). Of course it is easy for us living today to say that DuBois was the most appealing, as he fought for what he believed in. But Washington was no spineless fool, he just truly felt that his way would bring change in a better way.

**Group 2, Question A**

In *Making an American Citizen*, we see a depiction of an immigrant couple essentially being taught how to be “American”. The first lesson is when the immigrant man is poking/hitting his wife with what seems to be a cane of some sort. An all-American man steps in and yells at the immigrant man. He takes the heavy bag off of the woman and ties it on the man’s back. He then rips the cane out of his hand and gives it to the woman. This provides an informative look into how Americans saw themselves. They felt that they were the modern, forward-thinking people of the world. They also felt that immigrants treated their families poorly and had to be corrected. Wife-beating (on this level) was not permitted by American society at this time. On top of this, men were expected to be the hard-workers doing, sometimes quite literally, the back-breaking work. A woman carrying a family’s belongings on her back was not allowed.

**Group 3, Question A**

Edward Ross focusses in his paper on the lack of development of immigrant women in our society. He focuses on the education of these women when he says “For [American students in our colleges] the native students of foreign fathers the ratio is four to one, and for the foreign­ born eight to one.” (Ross 226). He talks about how horribly these women are treated specifically, even compared to how horribly American women are treated. Charlotte Perkins Gilman focusses more on the general American woman at the time. She is concerned that women are unable to reach their full potential, stating “When, then, it can be shown that sex-distinction in the human race is so excessive as not only to affect injuriously its own purposes, but to check and pervert the progress of the race, it becomes a matter for most serious consideration” (Gilman 1). If they were talking with each other, Gilman would draw Edward’s attention to the way women were treated in general. She would want him to know that all women, including the American women,

should be treated equally in the battle for equality.

**Group 4, Question A**

The issue of immigrants is becoming one of the cornerstones of the Trump presidency. And although an overwhelming amount of people in America feel that immigrants from any country should be allowed to come here, there is a large portion of the country that obviously feels conversely. A large portion actually feels that all muslims should be banned from this country. They feel this for a number of reasons, but it is no surprise that the group they feel this way with are the most different than them. People wearing different clothes, praying to different gods, speaking a different language are very frightening to a certain group of people, especially when it is a widely held belief that these people are dangerous. This is very similar to how Americans have always felt about certain immigrant groups.

Works Cited

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