

Is there opportunity for people of color in America?

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Introduction

America is known as the land of opportunity for all. But America is not like that for everyone. People don't talk about the fact that some people do not get equal opportunity or any opportunity at all. For people of color, They do not get the same opportunities as white American's. People of color get denied everyday when applying to jobs, looking for homes, and so many other things. For example, white American's are seen as hard workers when applying for jobs. They rarely get denied a job when they get that opportunity unlike black people who get denied very often. Often, white people do not acknowledge the fact that black people can't even go outside without fearing for their lives every time. Black american's can't even get jobs sometimes because their hair is to curly and it is only socially acceptable to have straight hair. White americans get handed opportunity after opportunity day after day compared to black people. Black people do not get this, and if they do, it is often because they are either known by people or are already very wealthy. These 7 cultural products demonstrate and show you ways that opportunity available for people of color was questionable.

2

"Breadline for the Louisville Flood"

The background image of this photo, shows a white American family in the car, happy as can be, advertising America as "The world's highest standard of living" (Breadline for the Louisville Food). Saying how "There is no way like the American way." But right in front of this billboard picture, is Black Americans, in line for bread. This shows how black Americans do not get equal opportunity. While white Americans aren't struggling, black people are because they do not get equal opportunity.



3

100 Years later: "The complicated History of the Women's Suffrage Movement."

Founders like Elizabeth Katy Stanton supported racial hierarchy by accepting the black communities assistance but then abandoning them on the fight for black women's rights. There was lack of support. Also women supporting the movement, made racist comments to annoy anyone who wasn't a wealthy white woman. Black women didn't play a huge roll in the fight for women's suffrage because they were pushed to the side by wealthy white women. "White women suffragist would repeatedly make concessions to white supremacy in order to further their cause" (100 Years Later: The Complicated History of the Women's Suffrage Movement). Black women were forced to march at the end, behind them.



47:00

100 Years Later: The Complicated History Of The Women's Suffrage Movement

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By Hillary McQuinn and Meghan Chakravarti



"Ragged Dick"

Another of Dick's faults was his extravagance. Being always wide-awake and ready for business, he earned enough to have supported him comfortably and respectably. There were not a few young clerks who employed Dick from time to time in his professional capacity, who scarcely earned as much as he, greatly as their style and dress exceeded his. But Dick was careless of his earnings. Where they went he could hardly have told himself. However much he managed to earn during the day, all was generally spent before morning. He was fond of going to the Old Bowery Theatre, and to Tony Pastor's, and if he had any money left afterwards, he would invite some of his friends in somewhere to have an oyster stew; so it seldom happened that he commenced the day with a penny.

When Dick was dressed in his new attire, with his face and hands clean, and his hair brushed, it was difficult to imagine that he was the same boy.

Ragged Dick excerpts are about a white man who was always unlucky. He didn't make much money and was unkept. In order for Dick to succeed he had to be honest and kind. This story shows how Dick starts off poor but makes his way up as opportunities arose for him. He ended up having very good luck. This story suggests that anyone can succeed with hard work and have good morals. But what this story doesn't tell you is that this is only the case if you are a white male. Success comes so much easier if you are a white male. Being a different race or gender will affect the way you get a job and if you succeed.

“How I Served my Apprenticeship as a Businessman”

This is showing you that America is a land of opportunity as long as you work your way from the bottom to the top. While living in Scotland, Carnegie's father tried his best to support his family buy working as hard as he could. Then his parents decided it was best to move to America because it would be better for him and his brother. "I well remember that neither father nor mother thought the change would be otherwise than a great sacrifice to them, but that 'it would be better for our two boys'" (Carnegie) Carnegie believes that opportunity comes from starting off poor because it builds honesty and your character as a person. Some things were out of his control that helped lead to his success like luck and how his father lost his job which led the to move to America. Moving gave Carnegie more opportunity to succeed. But he doesn't mention what it would be like to be a different race or gender. If Carnegie happened to be a different race, that would really affect the opportunities he had and probably would have led him to having less than what he had.

How I Served My Apprenticeship As a Business Man.
BY ANDREW CARNEGIE. A Story of the Struggle for Success.
The Young Men's Association, 1911. Pp. 117. 425 Cents.
No. 117.



“The Right to Housing Is a Civil Right Due Without Discrimination,” Racial Bias in Public and Private Housing.

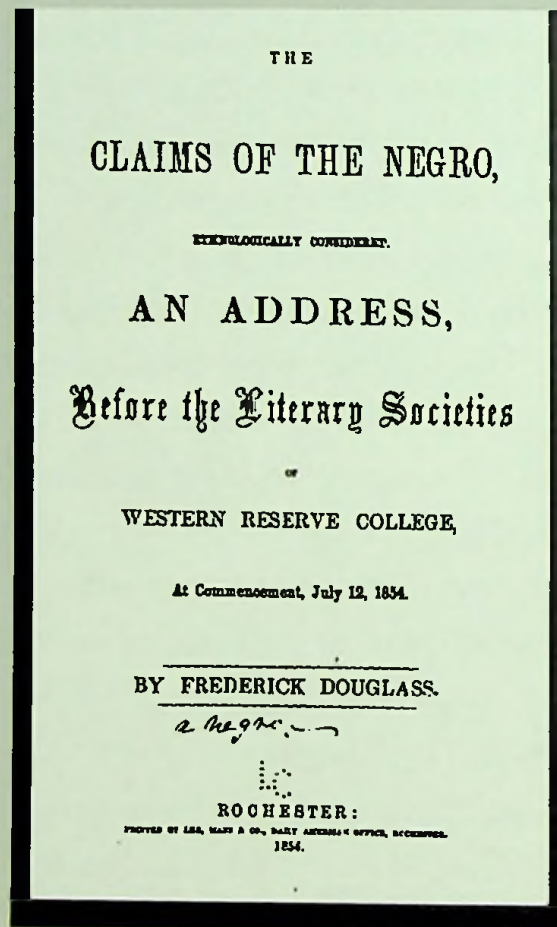
“The Right to Housing Is a Civil Right Due Without Discrimination”: Racial Bias in Public and Private Housing

The New Deal Public Works Administration, created in 1933, built public institutions, but failed to ease the severe housing shortage by constructing homes. In 1934, Congress created the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) to insure home mortgages and loans for home repairs at low-interest, long-term rates. While the FHA helped middle-income homeowners, it refused to insure mortgages in poorer inner-city areas where the risks of default were seen as greater than in the suburbs. FHA guidelines also by supporting racial covenants that prevented African Americans from moving into “white” neighborhoods. The following statement by a Newark, New Jersey, African-American newspaper to a joint Congressional committee on housing—created by anti-housing reform legislators to stall passage of a public housing bill—charged that policies of racial discrimination denied access to people of color for housing in both private and public facilities. The Supreme Court ruled in 1948 that restrictive covenants were not legally enforceable and FHA subsequently banned restrictive covenant clauses in contracts. Racial discrimination in housing continued, however, in sales of existing houses and through unwritten “gentlemen’s agreements” between realtors and buyers. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 barred discrimination in public accommodations, but de facto segregation continued in many parts of the U.S.

I chose this cultural product because it discusses how private groups and state policies limit and deny housing to an important group of people because of prejudice. The people who need housing the most are the ones not getting it. “As members of the working press we have had the unhappy privilege of observing that the people who need more and better housing most are the ones who suffer the most cruel discrimination in obtaining housing” (The right toousing is a Civil Right Due Without Discrimination). These people also suffer the most with discrimination. Discrimination towards people of color is an important problem that people need to be aware of. The fact that discrimination in housing is still a problem is so sad. How can this problem not be figured out by now.

Claims of the Negro: An Address

I chose this cultural product because it talks about slavery in the United States, Black Race, and African American—Race Identity. These topics had a huge impact in black peoples lives. Slavery was horrible and still exists in some places. Making others aware of these problems can change Black peoples lives for the better. Racism existed back then and still exists now.



Black Lives Matter Movement

The black lives matter movement is a fight for “Freedom, Liberation and Justice” (Black lives Matter Movement). The point of this movement is to stop discrimination towards black people in America. Black people do not have equality and we all need to help fight for equality. Systemic racism is a huge problem in America today and has been forever. “We are working for a world where Black lives are no longer systematically targeted for demise” (Black Lives Matter Movement).

**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**

How to get involved with the contemporary issue.

Getting involved can change black people's lives drastically.

1. Fight for equality with them.
2. Stand by them
3. Talk about it with family and friends.
4. Give links to websites to make them aware.
5. Donate to organizations and fundraisers that have to do with BLM.
6. Support black-owned businesses.
7. Volunteer your time.
8. Be supportive.
9. Be engaged and let people know you are.



Bibliography

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