African-Americans: Identity

Origins: Africana

“American” is the racial group used to categorize immigrants or descendants of immigrants from the continent of Africa.

Africa is the second largest continent in the world, comprised of 57 countries and 1,032,932,974 people who speak over a thousand different languages. Since Western European colonialism and imperialism began in the 15th century, Africans have migrated to the United States in large masses – continuing up to date.

Early Troubles

African-Americans faced racial discrimination for centuries, that became truly prevalent during the Atlantic Slave Trade (16th–19th Cent.). Race was used against Africans as a means or justification to enslave them, and further persisted once they had reached what was then British colonies. Even after the establishment of the United States, however, African-Americans would remain on the bottom of the class hierarchy in society.

Road to Freedom

The Road to Freedom for African-Americans truly began after Abraham Lincoln’s presidency, and the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation–abolishing slavery in the United States. Still, prejudice and segregation continued to exist, and African-Americans were subjected to racist epistemologies that dominated the 20th century.

Civil Rights Movement

The Civil Rights Movement was a reaction to the continued prejudice and segregation being faced by African-Americans. Leaders such as Martin Luther King and Malcolm X – and many others – used the Movement as a way to stand up for the rights of African-Americans and ignite needed change.

Balancing Distributive Justice & Equality

The end of “Separate but Equal” meant the greatest form of equality for African-Americans. This marked the allowance of resources and rights (tangible and intangible) to be distributed amongst all races, including African-Americans. The United States is a highly stratified society, with hierarchies for all different variations of groups. Statistically, African-Americans are one of the lowest earning minority groups, but with time, has continued to advance and climb up the status hierarchy in the United States.

Statistics

In 2010 the number of people identified as African-Americans in the U.S. was 12.8 percent. Which equals to 37,090,545.

The income of black households in 2010 was of $32,068.

The poverty rate of African-Americans back in 2010 was of 27.4 percent and 74.2 percent of the 37,090,545 were covered by health insurance. 44.2 percent of African-Americans are owners of their own house.

Employment Rates

Education Rates

References


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