



# The Challenges of Racism Today

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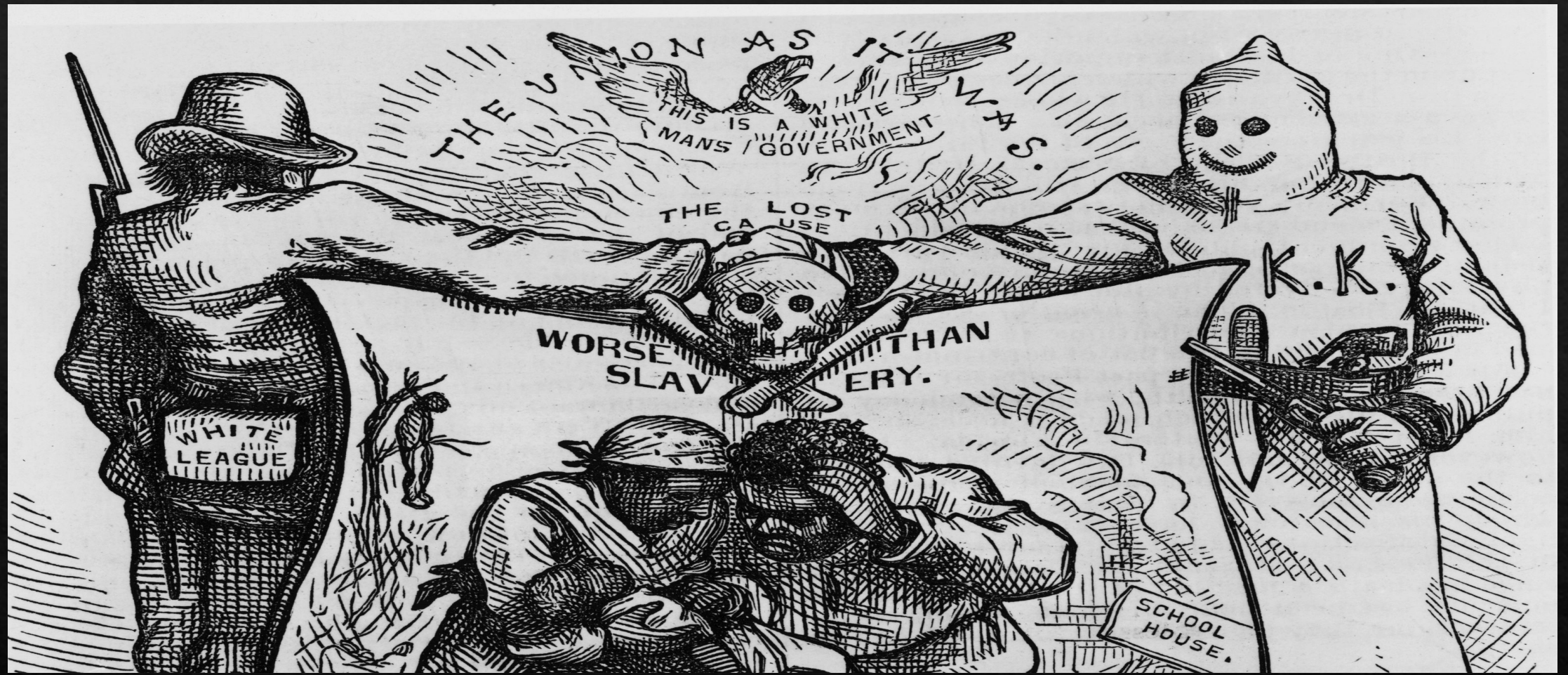


# History of Racism

- ◇ Racism dates all the way back to 1525 to 1866 when 12.5 million people were kidnapped from Africa and transported to the Americas through the transatlantic slave trade. 10.5 million survived this harsh journey. Racism brought about names who are very familiar to us today and those who we never knew and their personal story in the role of racism for instance John Casor the first black man to be declared a slave for life in America. The story of Manuel Vidau talks about his luck at winning the lottery he was able to buy the ticket from working as a cigar roller and bought his freedom. This information is mainly on slavery which is just the seed of what we know of racism today and the history of slavery is a very hefty one.

# History of Racism: Jim Crow Laws

- ◆ You can't talk about race without mentioning the Jim Crow laws, "a collection of state and local statutes that legalized racial segregation." These laws existed for about 100 years "from the post civil war era to 1968-were meant to marginalize African Americans by denying them the right to vote, hold jobs get an education or other opportunities." You would think that life couldn't get any harder for African Americans but if an African American were to speak their mind about the laws they would either be fined, jailed, arrested or would get severely punished or sentence to death. The Jim Crow laws began with the Black codes a set of strict laws to basically control the lives of African Americans. An organization named the Ku Klux Klan which were ran by whites during this Jim crow era were trying to ensure that the lives of black people didn't advance and their way of doing so was by vandalizing and destroying schools, torturing and lynching black citizens at night.



Political cartoon to show an affect of Jim crow laws which started these two groups that ended up terrorizing black people.

# History of Racism: Jim Crow Laws 2

- ◆ The Jim Crow laws soon expanded at the start of the 1880s African Americans started to move to the bigger cities in the south because they didn't feel very obligated to force Jim Crow laws ultimately leading to more blacks in the cities and whites within the city demanding the cities to enforce more laws to limit opportunities for African Americans. The country forced Jim Crow more than ever before segregating things such as public parks restaurants and way more. Although Jim Crow was getting very out of hand for blacks it didn't stop some people for fighting to oppose the laws names like Ida B Wells who fought using her newspaper after refusing to leave a first class train car for whites only. The north also had laws that cities followed but you can argue that the south was more harsh while enforcing theirs. As for how Jim Crow ended it included the civil rights movement, Brown v board of education, the civil rights act, the voting rights act and the fair housing act.

# Affect of racism on African Americans currently

- ◆ The problem with racism today is that its systemic. Systemic racism is racism that is shown through Wealth gap, Employment, Housing Discrimination, Government surveillance, incarceration, drug arrests, immigration policy, infant mortality, health care, education and political power. As of right now African Americans are being treated unfairly which isn't anything new but is being more publicized than ever due to social media engagement. The more black people that are being killed the more names we add on to the Black lives matter movement and more reason for us to fight for systemic freedom because racism isn't gone its just been tuned and reborn in a way that fits the world we live in today



Two Political cartoons that express systemic racism today.

# How Racism affects the country

- ◇ Racism can affect the country by giving it a negative outlook towards people who are trying or even had thoughts of coming to this country to live. People from the outside looking into America would think why would I want to live in a place where they still haven't solved racial issues in their country, if that's the case they would rather stay where they are at and get treated fairly than come here and feel like their life is at risk daily. Racism also affects the country economically it has a negative affect on the GDP(Gross domestic product) in America, which is one of the most common indicators to track the nations economy. In a article by Kinder institute it states "Effectively, racism is costing white Americans \$2,900-\$4,300 for every man woman and child". If the racial gap closes white people can be living better than how they are now but they are loosing out on more money, job opportunities, and promotions by missing out on a 4-6% GDP growth.



# How Racism affects Society

- ◆ How racism can affect a society is peoples way of living can start to change. There has been many racial issues going on lately that involves cops killing innocent people, going into peoples houses without warrants, cops are pulling people over and some of these pull overs lead to some people getting shot for no reason at all we have even seen some of these situations happen on camera. The stories Trevon Martin and Ahmaud Arbery are two examples as to why society can start to not want to walk or jog at certain times at night or day because of fear of their lives. Stories such as these and much more can cause people to have PTSD and change peoples lives forever.

# How Racism can affect a Movement

- ◆ Racism affects the Black lives matter movement in a positive way although racism is a negative situation. As long as racism goes on and black people are continuing to be treated unfairly or killed for no reason the stronger the black lives matter movement gets. Not to long ago after the killings of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd the black lives matter movement was on a complete mission to march for justice, marching in states starting with Minneapolis to New York and while lots of other states in to US were marching lots of other countries and cities were marching with us like Canada and Barcelona, Berlin, Madrid and many more.

# Blue Print for Racism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

- ◆ Racism is a fight that isn't just going to end in one year but a fight where overtime as history has gone on it has progressed but still needs more progression now but some people don't know that even they can be an ally to the fight against racism and their little actions matter as well. Some ways we can help fight against racism is by understanding that systemic racism goes beyond police brutality, speaking up against racism in the workplace and supporting black colleagues, targeting racism in schools, making petitions and being politically engaging. These are just small ways to make an impact on racism but can definitely result in big progress.

# Summary

- ◆ To conclude everything racism has a very large history that begins from slavery all the way up to today. While people in the past fought the rights that we have today and basic freedom, we today are fighting for the same thing plus more because we know that racism hasn't changed at all it has just adapted to the times. Although racism is still going on in our lives and making a big impact on our lives today I believe that we have an easier way to combat racism than ever before using our social media outlets and trying to do the little things that can make a big impact in the long run. It takes one generation to make a change and if we educate young people and continue fight against systemic racism who knows how fast we can stop racism.

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