Racism in a Politically Correct Society

When the comments of Donald Sterling about Black people exploded in the news, many called the owner of the Los Angeles Clippers basketball team, racist. While the remarks were certainly offensive, Black Americans must not look a “gift horse in the mouth.” This situation is a golden opportunity to bring attention back to the topic of race, to define the word and to extract it from the amorphous concepts under which it has been buried for 50 years. Concepts such as Minority, Diversity, People of Color, and other terms that soften, obscure and diminish the real issues of the Black race in America. While their issues are unique and unlike those of other groups, in a politically correct society, it is unacceptable to even mention racism or Black Americans. Public policies and customs insist that both subjects be avoided and rendered irrelevant and unintelligible.

Sterling’s remarks present a teachable moment. Racism should not be confused with or equated to prejudice, bigotry, discrimination or bias. Racism evolved in the early 1500s as a result of the developing international slave trading. It is a group-based phenomenon and began when nine European nations decided to develop the Western world using Black people as a non-competitive, non-paid, enslaved labor force. Racism is the bastard child of slavery. Racism is a competitive relationship between Blacks and non-Blacks for the ownership and control of wealth, power, and resources. The primary purpose of racism is to maintain the maldistribution of resources and inequities of wealth and power that slavery and Jim Crow segregation bequeathed into the hands of Whites and other slave holding groups. Racism uniquely applies to Blacks and competing White ethnics.

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To be a racist, a person must not only be a member of the group that owns and controls the wealth and power resources, but also use that power to marginalize, exploit, exclude or subordinate Blacks. Sterling is a member of the privileged class, but we do not know that he engaged in behaviors that denied Blacks opportunities to own and control wealth and power. Labeling him a racist and focusing the discussion on whether he is one or not, serves no useful purpose. His hateful remarks, in and of themselves, while not racist, expressed what was in his heart and mind. He has a right to express his feelings and actually put into words what many people feel, but have learned not to say until sure of their company. It is his words and the fact that they represent unspoken sentiments about race that run deep in American society that Blacks should keep as the focus of their reaction.

Race is the root of the underclass status to which Blacks are now relegated. Slavery, race and racism are economic issues. And while many prefer to ignore the historical roots, slavery did mal-distribute nearly 100 percent of the ownership and control of the nation's wealth and power building resources into the hands of Whites, at the very inception of the country. Racism is a cross-generation affirmative action plan for Whites. Control of those resources, and the wealth they generated, have been passed down from White generation to White generation. Blacks, as a group have been excluded. The Black Civil Rights Movement of the 50s and 60s brought critical world focus to race in the United States, the economic and social problems between Blacks and Whites in the United States and the exclusion of Blacks from controlling and owning resources. As a result, the government took steps to take control of and change the public focus. The Nixon administration initiated the public policy of Benign Neglect to purposely obscure and redirect attention from Blacks to Minorities. Sterling's remarks bring the issue of race back into focus. He did not want his girlfriend seen with Black people. It was Blacks he did not want her to bring to his games. He made no mention of Minorities.

The public reaction of moral outrage is symbolic and superficial and should not be accepted as the appropriate and final resolution to the incident. I would hope that Sterling's remarks would lead Blacks to conclude that they should become a more competitive and self-sufficient group in American society and announce measurable strategies they can take toward that end, at least in the area of sports. Blacks can change the economic formula in sports. There is a role for players and for fans to flip the script. Black athletes in basketball, baseball, or football could organize and use their collective dominance in sports to become more than simply expendable performers.

Black players could take these steps. They could:

1) Leverage dominance in the sports industry to acquire ownership of teams in the leagues;
2) Seek to acquire major equity ownership in sports arenas and stadiums;
3) Use the PowerNomics® concept of Vertical Integration to maximize the above efforts:
   a) Build a vertical chain of Black-owned industrial suppliers of equipment and supplies, and use ownership leverage to be sure a percentage of team purchases are from Black suppliers and manufacturers;
   b) Use acquired ownership to secure concession contracts for stadium food, security, and maintenance, promotion, advertising, management and to create other jobs and other businesses for Blacks.
4) Create a non-profit organization to match Black businesses with entrepreneurial business opportunities in sports, to develop oversight and training programs to assure that services delivered by the Black business are of high quality.

It is long past time for Black Americans to connect the dots between economic power and racism. So long as Blacks own and control practically nothing in the field of sports, they will be viewed and treated as nothing, and hateful speech will continue in public and private.

“One of the first signs of Americanization for any European immigrant group was to put them into competition with native-born African-Americans and in turn participate in discrimination against them.”

The Risk of Imported Deadly Diseases

Importation of deadly diseases into the United States poses a risk to the entire country and Black Americans are especially vulnerable. Immigrants from poor countries, legal and illegal, tend to seek housing and jobs in Blacks neighborhoods. The strains of bacteria and viruses of these diseases are increasingly dangerous. The CDC has identified multi-drug resistant Tuberculosis (TB), Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Avian Flu, a flesh-eating bacteria for which there is no known cure, Chagas a tropical parasitic disease, hook and tape-worms as imported diseases. Numerous other diseases such as measles, mumps, hepatitis, whooping cough and polio, once controlled in the U.S., are reappearing and surging in American populations. The imported versions of these once controlled diseases are often different strains from those against which most US citizens were vaccinated. These contagious diseases are spread through direct contact such as touching, coughing and kissing. New immigrants are hired as babysitters, housecleaners and landscapers and are frequently employed directly in the food chain in fast food and other restaurants.

A new and deadly disease is making its way into the United States. On May 2, 2014, the CDC confirmed a case of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in the United States. MERS is a new virus identified for the very first time in 2012 in Saudi Arabia. Symptoms include high fever, cough and can lead to pneumonia and kidney failure. Although many victims recover, there is no known cure. The first case of MERS in the United States was in an Indiana man who had been a health care worker in Saudi Arabia. The second confirmed case was reported a few days later in Cleveland, Ohio. Both individuals, health care workers in Saudi Arabia, had contact with each other. A third confirmed case was reported on May 17 in a man who had a business meeting with the first victim.

The World Health Organization reports that 570 people have contracted the disease and more than 170 people have died. Most cases have been on the Arabian Peninsula. On its website, the CDC says of MERS, “There are no travel restrictions to the Arabian Peninsula; however, the CDC suggests that people who visit there monitor their health and watch for any flu like symptoms. If you do feel unwell after such a trip, be sure to tell your doctor about your travel.” The government agency has also posted warning signs in airports near the gates where passengers deplane from flights arriving from the Arabian Peninsula.

Political correctness is a flawed prism for our government to use to formulate policy. It is particularly ineffective for formulating preventive or corrective solutions to protect citizens from real health threats.

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Harvest Perspective:
MERS joins the other imported deadly diseases that we are unable to control or eradicate that have the potential to become a health peril in the United States. The government’s feeble response to MERS allows it to be politically correct and not identify, as the originating source of the disease, a geographic region with which the United States wishes to remain friendly.

The Harvest Institute is alerting Black America because it is a vulnerable population. It is totally ill-equipped to address medical emergencies. Black neighborhoods have fewer hospitals, drug stores, medical facilities, doctors or insured residents. Blacks are on the bottom of every health ranking. The most vulnerable Blacks live in poverty with overcrowded and unsanitary conditions in which these diseases thrive. These neighborhoods are often the first hosts to incoming immigrants. It is not unthinkable that Black neighborhoods could be quarantined in the case of a serious disease outbreak.

The immigration policy of the United States is harmful to Black America in numerous ways. It causes native Blacks to be displaced in every sphere – economic, political, social, every level of education and directs public and private resources away from them. (See past newsletters for more in depth discussions.) Traditional Black leaders such as those in civil rights, elected officials and religious leaders prefer to be politically correct in issues of race. The majority support increased immigration and ignore the harm it causes to native Blacks, much less seek ways to mitigate the harm. They show indifference to Blacks and adopt terms that submerge and hide Blackness like Minorities, People of Color and Diversity. These Black leaders convert Black problems to minority solutions. They do not speak out about issues that represent risks to Blacks, therefore it is not a surprise that they do not speak about medical risks. Black leaders demonstrate practically no loyalty to their constituents, and allow others to advance policies that are harmful to Blacks. Blacks must practice group self interest and break the habit of supporting people who do not support them in return.

In the matter of imported diseases, Blacks will have to protect themselves and pressure those who represent them to demonstrate a less naïve view of these contagious diseases. One step would be to require health certificates for those who handle food anywhere in the food chain. Now, legally admitted immigrants are required to get a health check up within 30 days of entering the country. Within that 30 day period, however, a person with a contagious disease could infect many Americas. Illegal entrants did not comply with the law to enter the country and it is unlikely they would comply with medical requirements if not compulsory for employment or housing.

Another step would be to consider the example of Tuberculosis (TB), a disease once controlled in this country, which was reintroduced by infected immigrants and has become a dangerous disease that the government is working hard to bring back under control. Re-surgent TB is still a major health problem, but after a number of years, the CDC attacked the problem realistically. The agency knew that 65% of the TB in the country came from immigrants and refugees and implemented a Tuberculosis screening program to identify, intercept and prevent infected persons from coming into the country. The program has been successful in preventing new cases and in saving more than $15 million in health care dollars by stopping admission of infected persons. MERS and other dangerous diseases with an identifiable origin, should also be approached realistically, intercepted and prevented in a similar way. The health of the American public should be the highest priority of government agencies. Political correctness should not be a consideration.
Did you know that the United States actually has two Constitutions? The First Constitution, which includes the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights, was crafted in 1789 by what many call the Founding Fathers. The Second Constitution was laid-out by Radical Republicans in the mid-1860s, during the 10 year period of Reconstruction that followed the American Civil War. To understand their current economic and social condition, Black Americans must understand the original intent of the First Constitution and why the Second Constitution was rendered null and void by the United States Supreme Court after a mere 10 year time period.

The First Constitution has long been venerated as a document that ensures equality and justice for all. But is that the case? The First Constitution was a color specific affirmative action plan for the new nation. It actually set in place a social construct that established the relative positions of Blacks and Whites. It locked Blacks into enslavement and treated them similar to farm animals. It created a legal system that mal-distributed nearly 100 percent of all wealth, land, income, power resources, and levels of government into the hands of Whites and ethnic immigrants. It established the country as a White nation and guaranteed Whites first-class citizenship, voting rights, free land and free black labor, population dominance, preferential treatment in business, and set-aside access to the best food, schools, clothing, housing, jobs, and public offices. These benefits, awarded to Whites in the First Constitution, became the American Dream.

In the wake of the Civil War, Radical Republicans passed ten civil rights laws and the 13th, 14th and 15th Constitutional Amendments, which together would have been the Second Constitution. The purpose of those laws and Amendments was to legally free Blacks from slavery, protect them from being subordinated and used for personal economic gain and to rectify the social construct inflicted on Blacks by the First Constitution. The Second Constitution would have elevated Blacks to equal status with Whites and provided some of the rights, privileges and economic benefits that the First Constitution denied Blacks. However, the United States Supreme Court, the guardian of the original intent of the First Constitution, opposed and destroyed every effort by the Radical Republicans to give Blacks a race-based correction to the race-based inequities written into the First Constitution. The High Court nullified all of the civil rights laws the Radical Republicans had passed and ruled them unconstitutional. The members of the deciding Supreme Court were all White males who were, or had been, slaveholders. The Court did not have the authority to rule on the Constitutional Amendments, but they effectively denied and limited Black use of those Amendments for over a hundred years by permitting states rights arguments, allowing Blacks to be forced into peonage and allowing the violence and intimidation of extra legal groups such as the Ku Klux Klan, that defined the years of Jim Crow segregation.

The social construct of the First Constitution was never changed. It continued to be an affirmative action plan for Whites, protected by the United States Supreme Court. The Constitution under which we are governed today, includes the 13, 14th and 15th Amendments, remnants of the Second Constitution. Adhering to the original intent of the First Constitution, the Supreme Court consistently opposes and votes against any form of affirmative action plan or reparations for the descendants for Black slaves. Now you know.

(This article is an excerpt from Dr. Claud Anderson's upcoming book, The Black Reader: 140 Questions You Never Even Thought to Ask.)
**New Release!**

**Wake-Up Call for America**

In this DVD, Dr. Claud Anderson issues a wake-up call to all America. He urges non-Blacks to understand the interconnectedness of deteriorating Black conditions and the economic health of the entire country. He examines the role of political correctness in the decline of Black America and the policy of Benign Neglect, which codified political correctness in race. Benign Neglect, in place for the last 50 years, is a national strategy designed to shut down the Black Civil Rights Movement and to shift focus to more preferred groups. Benign Neglect made Blacks disappear. It hides reality, obscures the condition of Blacks and buries them under broad ambiguous categories such as diversity, minority, gender, immigrants and sexual preference.

In this hard hitting lecture, Dr. Anderson describes how under Benign Neglect and political correctness, Blacks have regressed and been displaced in all areas of life. They have been abandoned by elected officials, religious leaders and by those who purport to be their leaders in Civil Rights. Political correctness either rewards Black leaders who do not speak up for their group or neuters them in race matters. Now, in 2014, Black Americans are this nation’s social underclass, who by the very nature of their socioeconomic conditions, will be forced to the bottom of every positive social indicator. In this DVD, Dr. Anderson suggests strategies to lift Blacks out of their underclass status and give them a chance to survive and prosper.

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**The Harvest Institute Report**

**Our New Format: Newsletter Online**

This is a blog-like Harvest Report on current events from The Harvest Institute (THI), a non-profit research, policy, education and advocacy organization whose work is to help Black America become more self-sufficient and competitive as a group. The Institute has moved to an electronic newsletter because of economics. The Harvest Board had to prioritize our budget to fund the Indian Law suit which we filed in 2006 (see past newsletters for the full story). This decision forced temporary suspension of the newsletter. We hope you will find this shortened electronic version informative.
THI Policy & Programs

The foundation for The Harvest Institute comes from Dr. Claud Anderson’s books, *Black Labor, White Wealth: A Search for Power and Economic Justice* and *PowerNomics: The National Plan to Empower Black America*. It is through this prism of these books that The Harvest Institute views current events and forms all policy and program initiatives.

A Word of Explanation

You will notice that The Harvest Institute capitalizes the words Black and White when referring to people. This may feel unfamiliar but we do it out of respect for both the Black and White race. It is inappropriate to capitalize Asian, Hispanic and other groups and not give Whites and Blacks the respect to which both are entitled.

New from Dr. Claud Anderson!

“1866 Indian Treaties: Benefits Due Black Americans”
A DVD Lecture

History books have omitted this chapter of United States history, but in this DVD, Dr. Claud Anderson fills in the holes. He explains the 1866 treaties, why they are important to Black America and the mandated benefits the descendants of Black Freedmen/Black Indians should have received by law. Even today, the descendants of Indian tribes receive economic benefits from the 1866 treaties. The mandates of the treaties that benefit Black Freedmen/Black Indians and their descendants, however, have simply not been enforced. Treaties are laws of the land. The 1866 treaties are not being enforced for Blacks.

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The Harvest Institute has had to prioritize our limited resources. As a result, we have not published the newsletter in awhile. We have put most of the funds we have received into the Indian Lawsuit with the Harvest Institute Freedmen Federation, LLC. As a cost saving measure, newsletters are provided in a PDF format and archived on our website, www.harvestinstitute.org.

Our case in the United States Supreme Court on the issue of the Indian Lawsuit continues. The cost of this ongoing legal pursuit is considerable and we could use some help. If you would like to contribute to this effort and the operation of the Institute, please send a check or money order to:

The Harvest Institute
623 Florida Ave., NW
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Coming this Fall!

A Black History Reader: Questions You Never Thought to Ask

Black America, as a group, is on the bottom of every social and economic indicator. The bottom status of Blacks has been and is an intractable issue. It is also politically incorrect to openly discuss race and Blacks. However, if Blacks are to survive and prosper in a multi-cultural and diverse society, political correctness will have to be discarded.

The purpose of this book is to provide information to illuminate a path from underclass status to a better quality of life. The 140 questions and answers in this book are not from the traditional point of view of professional historians, teachers, text books and popular media. Instead this book focuses on the underlying reasons for the status of Blacks in today’s society and recommends solutions.
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