

The Definition of Race and How Its Manipulation Affects the Modern Society

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### Traditional and Modern Concepts of Race

Before the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the term race was used strictly in reference to animals and their varieties. Race, when speaking of animals refers to a particular large group of organisms that share the same basic genetic makeup and can be differentiated from other groups, based on their genetic material (Banton, 2014).

According to Banton (2014), the use of the word race, in reference to human beings was not in active use until as late as mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. The term describes a major group of people, who, while vary in appearance, do share a common genetic build, culture and language.

This definition leads to a conclusion that a race is a group of a certain species with distinctive traits that make it stand out among their counterparts. The traits may vary from external, like hair, eye and skin color, to internal, such as unique biochemistry that produces a different scent for some, like strong, yet different from each other scent characteristic to Caucasian and African people, and almost no scent in Asian peoples.

The geographical location also play a major role in defining a race. The brightest example is the Negroid race, with dark complexion to resist ultraviolet radiation, and the Nordic race, with pale complexions, better suited for cold environments.

In the modern society, the race is regarded as the outcomes of populace exchanges and the flow of genes. While there are numerous races among the humans, technically, *Homo sapiens* is a subspecies of animals, though an advanced one at that. The races are divided geographically, mostly, but not to an extent where the reproduction between the members of different races is impossible. The humans are considered to be expressions of variance of bodily characteristics

and therefore a race can be defined a group of people who can be distinguished by their physical appearance. (Banton, 2014).

### Race as an Aspect of Human Biology

Subspecies as a feature of social biology is often considered as a myth. There are suggestions that every human belongs to a similar species and that a race is never a natural reality but somewhat a myth. There is adequate evidence in support of this assertion. Scientific studies on anthropological variations indicate that there are no biological races that are in existence among humans.

Racial prejudice is embedded in people's cultures. Racism is experienced in schools, places of work, social interactions, legal systems, and healthcare structures. Common prejudices relate to intelligence, economic practices, birth rates, sexual behavior, work ethics and brain size.

There seems to be no biological realism to the human race. Moreover, there is no direct relationship between behavioral patterns that can be regarded as human racial features. There is no systematic research that has shown any meaningful association between economic performances, academic prowess, deviance, and race. Neither is there a link between blood type, height, ear size and any regular human conduct (Banton, 2014).

### Race Manipulation and its Consequences

Racial biases have been evident over a significant amount of time. However, there have been divided opinions about racism with one group believing that such issues belong to the past with a few isolated cases. Others agree that there are still some notable aspects of racial prejudices that mostly relate to skin color. For instance, on average, an African American earns

less than their Caucasian counterpart. The Africans are also considered to be less academically endowed. This perception leads to unequal job opportunities, poor economic development, and slow career growth. A common sight is a so-called Ghetto, where African Americans reside. These blocks usually have rather poor living conditions and an alarmingly high crime rate, not to mention low security and mediocre health care facilities. (Banton, 2014).

Racial manipulation is socially created, and thus deliberate efforts should be employed to curb the negative trends. As a result, there will be an equal society that amicably coexists. These measures will promote sustainable development in the American society.

References

Banton, M. (2014) Ethnic and Racial Consciousness. Routledge.

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