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**Racism has embedded itself in the United States:**

**A firm grasp on politics and power that continues to plague us all.**

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It is the land of the free, so to speak, unless you are Black, Latino, Asian, Pacific islander, or Indigenous. Jumping through the hoops to be accepted by a society whose foundation was born on rejecting your identity and culture, but will continue to gentrify, gaslight, and deny the truth of your history is an unfortunate pastime. The United States' history was built on the base of racism. Entitlement, and the ability to appropriate the lives of another because they are ultra militaristic, superior and “fear nothing” yet, denied literal people basic human rights. Racism is rooted in power because it gave the United States full control of the narrative well before 1776. A contribution towards the disenfranchisement of voting, discriminatory practices, political violence, and further inequality has silenced voices all across the country. Efforts are calculated not misplaced—it is a form of control that creates unease within people to not make their voice heard. Not a singular person should fear retaliation for wanting to exist in a country that respects them.

**Politics and Voting is tied to racism, power, and ability to control voter turnout.**

The 15th amendment granted Black men the right to vote in 1865, though by 1877 not even 12 years restrictions were placed on voting. June 2nd 1924 was the year that Native Americans were given the right to vote. In 1952, Asians received the right to vote. For Latinos, it was the 1975 extension to the Voting Act signed by then president Gerald Ford after Lyndon B. Johnson originally signed it in 1965. The United States was established in 1776 and everyone else got the right to vote more than 100 years later; a slow burn that contained both suppression and oppression for years to come. People were criminalized and their votes were silenced because of racial identity that did not only appear in the South of the United States. According to the Center for American Progress, an independent nonpartisan site for news and strategies on improving the nation writes “After the war, the state’s lawmakers rejected the 15th Amendment and went on to

deny suffrage to most people of color until the mid-20th century. In fact, Oregon did not ratify the 15th Amendment until 1959—almost 90 years after federal certification (Solomon, D., Maxwell, C., & Castro, A. (2019, August 7).” Racism knows no bounds and states such as Oregon willingly deciding to oppose ratifying the 15th amendment display as both a political and metaphorical representation of its own racism towards identifying as Black or Chinese. Another form of political and voter suppression is The Wilmington Massacre that occurred on Election Day, November 8th 1898. As stated by the Equal Justice Initiative, an organization committed to ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment writes “From Thursday, November 10, until Saturday, November 12, mobs of up to 2,000 armed white men occupied the corner of Fourth and Harnett Streets. They unleashed terror, indiscriminately shooting at Black men, women, and children in the street. Black residents had no meaningful government protection (*political Violence and Racial Inequality in America*. (2021, January 19).” People cannot exercise their right to vote without having to fear that they would be mobbed, threatened, or worse... killed. Ignorance will not concede in the face of truth, but watching someone’s baby die because they took their child to go vote with them is not something to stand up for?

**It was never a prelude; this has always been the United States.**

Institutional racism is beneficial for White people to continue to stay in power. After all, it feels like this never ending escape from the wrongdoings of those who have a strong interest in making people’s lives a living nightmare that does not end. Terry Jones, MSW, professor at California State University and author of “Institutional Racism in The United States” writes, “After the Federal Government passed the Fair Housing Act of 1968, the passage of this act prompted many cities to adopt stringent zoning ordinances designed to keep low-income people and low income housing out of the suburbs.” Those who were impoverished got a clear message,

do not come where you are not wanted. This is crucial to the playbook of politics and power in the United States. Poor people are deemed to be undesirable, dirty, and uneducated. Forcibly pushing people into densely populated areas that do not accommodate for much puts people into an uncomfortable position forced to survive. As a result keeping those who are socio-economically despaired at the bottom where there is little to no social mobility. Racism, power and politics are all culprits to housing discrimination. Based on an article by Health Affairs "Police violence is a leading cause of death for young Black men in the United States. Approximately 1 in every 1,000 Black men is killed by police." The systemic problems facing the black community have existed since America was founded, and various acts of social stratification have always been built into the framework in which America ascended the corporate ladder in which colonizers used the disenfranchised to make the world in their image, proclaiming it was their burden to do so, valorizing the atrocities that have been committed which is reflected in the unfair treatment of minorities from police.

### **A Manifestation of Racial Resentment as a result of power and politics**

The United States has constantly used capitalism to enact oppression upon the disenfranchised groups of the United States of America, using the inequality of economic disparity to control who reaches financial success, furthermore the late stage capitalism body of the United States government has created walls in front of the middle and lower class to supply for the lifestyles of those within the upper-class. The unfair taxation of the working class, that have been perpetuated, and reinforced by the corporate overlords of America and their desire to have all encompassing wealth has caused resentment to grow amongst the classes of America, feeling spite towards one-another despite the fact that we have more in common with one another, then that of the mega-rich. UC Berkeley News wrote, "When policies aimed at

producing racial equality and justice are proposed, the opposition is, in part, due to racism or prejudice,”” ... “many white people also dislike distributing rewards or changing merit systems on the basis of a criterion they cannot benefit from.” The polarization of the classes as a result of greed contributed to the creation of racist insults aimed at the black community, such as “well-fair queen” which was used to target and berate impoverished communities, and individuals who received government assistance as a result of outstanding financial burdens that the United States made over the course of hundreds of years of oppression, and racial inequality. The resentment being created by those who are forced to exist in the low class, as opposed to those who have existed their entire life in financial prosperity.

The history of inequality that exists with America’s shadow, behind the “valor” and the “justice”, and the “freedom” exists a long, bloody, shameful history of racial inequality, and persecution of communities that are different from what the people in power always tend to look like. These inequalities existed in the sense of removing people’s rights to decide their future, and cast their vote in decisions about their future. People are also often ignorant about the state America is in, and attempt to preserve the vision of what America is believed to be, but upon looking at the history, they can see how racism has molded the world experiences we have in our everyday life. The everyday ways communities experience racism, and intolerance effects the dichotomy different groups of people have with one another, and with zero real efforts being made, cause animosity and resentment to form amongst them.