

We the people are all so deeply unaware of the ugly roots of racism that plague America as a nation. I did not say Americans, although there is an embarrassing amount of people who still believe in the archaic belief that superiority is based on skin color. In society, there is only one race, and that is the human race. If there is one thing I want you to take away from reading this is that it is not enough to be not racist, you must be anti-racist. You must hold your friends accountable, hold your family accountable, hold yourself accountable, but most importantly you must hold our authorities accountable. In my opinion, voting is how we are going to get through the ugly mess. Vote for the people who you think will speak up against racial injustice and will get the leadership and guidance we so desperately need. Attend protest, make your voice heard and if you are white, weaponize your privilege to help further better society.

1865, the 13th amendment is passed stating that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction. In short, you are free unless you're a criminal. The best way to legally keep African Americans as slaves is by criminalizing them. This term has been coined mass incarceration and the statistics show it. The U.S holds 25% of the world's prison population but only holds 5% of the world's population. Additionally, 34% of the U.S prison population is African American, so one in three African American men have the chance to go to jail, and it's one in seventeen for white men. According to these statistics, African Americans are incarcerated at more than five times the rate of white men.

Ever since the George Floyd incident, there has been such a disconnect between what's being broadcasted to the media and the news, and what's happening on the streets. Much of what is being broadcasted is just a dumbed-down and less genuine version of the sheer complexity of racism and what's happening and I feel that is a disservice to the end-user. In my opinion, misinformation is one of the biggest instigators of evil right now. Currently, both the left and the right are only pushing one side of the story to promote their political ideology and agenda. Certain people on the right place blame on Antifa and thugs while staying clear of white supremacists and violent cops. Certain people on the left place blame on violent police while staying clear of opportunistic looters and anarchists. This situation has escalated to the point where it has gotten so political and people on either side point fingers without focusing on the problem that started this in the first plays. This kind of behavior where people on either side are driving hate messages only serves to further drive division in this nation.

I hope this essay has educated and inspired you to push for change and opened your eyes to how tightly nestled racism is in our society and how complex the system is. I was certainly appalled when these events first unfolded. Knowing all of this, America's racially-charged

background, its inability to truly treat all humans equal, I encourage you to spread this wisdom with others to push for systemic change.