

The Strange “Conflicting Viewpoints,” & Why US Does Not Share This Reflection

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1. US treats slavery with sensitivity. Any form of force, coercion, or fraud that seeks to diminish another’s humanity, dignity, sovereignty, or autonomy, or that abuses a human being through labor, psychological or spiritual exploitation, is recognized as slavery.
2. “White,” as described by historians both modern and old, is often framed with a sincere bias. There is an assumption that because one is white, they will never suffer as a black man or woman has suffered. This is simply not true. Being white does not make one less human. It is this argument, that because one is white they cannot suffer as much, that becomes one of the least humane positions and contributes to racial division today. Injustice is either excused or amplified based solely on the color of one’s skin.
3. Erasure, suppression, and the forfeiture of parts of history occur in order to amplify the suffering of others. However, history stands. Slavery was not owned by one race, nor was human suffering. A skilled academic recognizes logic, or the lack of it, in writing. One subject of human suffering is not exclusive of another. Multiple truths may exist and be discussed without threat or judgment. No human’s suffering should be elevated above another, but rather all should be approached with dignity and respect.

The Narrative:

“The narrative of ‘Irish slavery’ in the United States is often described as a myth that conflates seventeenth century Irish indentured servitude with the hereditary chattel slavery of Africans. While many Irish endured forced and exploitative bonded labor, it was not lifelong or inherited in the same way.

Key differences and context include:

- Indentured servitude involved contracted labor, often lasting four to seven years, sometimes under coercive conditions.
- Unlike African chattel slavery, this system was not permanently inherited across generations.
- Some historians argue the narrative has been used in modern contexts to diminish the severity of African slavery.
- In later periods, some Irish immigrants participated in and benefited from existing social hierarchies in America.

While early Irish laborers faced horrific and miserable conditions, historians maintain distinctions between these systems.”

We critique this AI summary, though we also use it to express historical analysis. In this writing, we can learn, but we can also adapt modern understandings. US tends to view

slavery directly, without dismissing it based on the identity of those who suffered. Indentured servitude is, in fact, a form of slavery in that it involves coercion and exploitation.

In this AI passage, we can observe how white suffering is often diminished. Rather than being addressed on its own terms, it is frequently placed alongside another subject and then reduced in significance. The structure itself reflects this. The suffering is acknowledged, but quickly softened or redirected. This creates a pattern in which certain experiences become less visible over time.

Entire populations have endured ethnic cleansing, forced labor, and displacement, yet their histories are less widely recognized. The truth remains that suffering is real regardless of identity. When history is not fully acknowledged, it risks repeating itself.

Slavery has long been connected to broader systems of abuse and violence. It has contributed to wars, social conflict, and generational trauma. These patterns are not isolated to one group, and they should not be treated as though they are.

This AI summary states that “Irish slavery” is largely seen as a myth, while also acknowledging that Irish individuals endured severe and exploitative conditions. A subject cannot be entirely dismissed if elements of it are historically documented. For those who study slavery, especially within US, it is understood that slavery in various forms has not been fully eradicated and has caused profound human suffering.

The argument that there is confusion between Irish servitude and African chattel slavery does not require dismissal of either experience. These are distinct historical realities. Suffering belongs to the individual who experienced it. Even if only one person is subjected to slavery, then slavery exists. It is that simple.

The term “indentured servant” can function as a sugar coating of reality. It raises the question of why certain histories are presented in less direct language. Slavery, in any form, remains a profound moral wrong. Historical events such as ethnic cleansing and forced displacement demonstrate that the full record of the past is complex, underexposed, and deeply uncomfortable. We often learn of Acadian and Irish suffering on our own and independently, as these realities are not discussed or *historically hushed in Western classrooms.

Today, we ask, what else did the inhumane English government achieve?

Furthermore, I feel it should be stated that as an Acadian with Irish ancestry, I am not seeking “retribution” against the US government, though I do recognize retaliatory patterns within other spheres of society and across the world. Rather, I acknowledge a historical wrong that can be addressed in the present day through self accountability and the eradication of abuses and the behaviors of slavery, once and for all. I see this not as a fight against a government or its people, but as a stand against human slavery wherever it presents itself today.

In summary, we no longer accept the idea that white suffering can be dismissed or erased. We remain committed to acknowledging all victims of slavery and offer prayer and peace to every life affected. ♡ ♥