

Post Invasion Reflection

Out Group Signaling

One experience I have had in recent years, since the invasion, is what is called “out-group signaling.” I may be grocery shopping or walking in public when I experience what I call “the foreign stare.” At times, it feels as though I am traveling in another country, yet I am here, in America.

I will be adding several new educational documents to Armor Up. Yes, it is uncomfortable. No, I do not feel that it is right or acceptable. I am doing my best to reason with the reality that American whites may face a frightening future if our country continues to absorb large numbers of foreigners who are not accustomed to whites, or who hold racist views toward us. In many areas of the South, we are already a minority.

This is deeply sad to me. After studying slavery, subjugation, war, and genocide, I cannot ignore the realization that this is now becoming part of the “white” experience. For the American Black population, they may also encounter this experience, as it often occurs with foreigners who are of Hispanic descent.

Long stares are more normalized in this culture, but out-group signaling, paired with normalized language such as “gringo,” and normalized racism, creates unnatural human interactions and distresses American cultural norms. I feel strongly that we must call for American tradition and culture to be respected, and that we must set very clear and firm boundaries with all newcomers.

When individuals travel in groups often undocumented and documented Hispanics alike, and stare at US, especially at single white females, it can feel aggressive and like a power grab, an act of racism, or an act of fear. Regardless of whether the motivation is intimidation, isolation, domination, or even simple curiosity, group staring directed at White Americans is not acceptable behavior.

Long periods of staring is considered aggressive behavior.