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Professor: Dr. Nathaniel B. Perez

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1: In the book “A Different mirror” I learned about the history of African Americans. “African Americans has been the central minority throughout the America’s History”¹ even after 50 years of their life in America they still were the minority. When English elites start taking labore force from Africa they made the new workers to be enslaved and they were prohibited form owning arms. Later the African population increased, and slavery spread all over the country, African Americans workers were unpaid laborers and dehumanized, as property till the time of civil war. These labors start fighting for their rights, they marched and sang “we shall overcome”. The history of African Americans is not only their history, but it is tied with the history of America itself.

I learned about Asian Americans history in the united state. Before this class, I had no idea when the Asian Americans have been arrived to the united state and what was their struggles and accomplishments. But in this class from the book A Different Mirror I learned that they came to the united state before many European began arriving here. In this book there was written about the chinses exclusion act in 1882 that congress passed and according to this act, entering of immigrants based on nationality was banned. Beside chinses people Japanese also found out that their accomplishments are not welcomed in the united state. Today Asian Americans are among

¹ Takaki, Ronald. A Different Mirror, Little, Brown and Company, New York, Ny, 10017

those ethnic groups that are growing faster than ever, and research shows that by the year 2050 they will represent 10% of America's total population.

Asian Americans refers to any groups such as southeast Asian Americans, Chinese Americans, Japanese Americans, and many other groups that have different histories. They are not refugees that Vietnamese Americans and Cambodian Americans are, because they have a particular history. Asian Americans are about 6% of the country's population and their struggles were that they historically racialized as foreign. In the 1960s Asians were not allowed to immigrate to the United States in large numbers they were also excluded from having U.S citizenship²

I read about Afghan Americans and their lives after the 9/11 tragedy and the view they were looking "were they an American or terrorist"³.

Latino Americans arrived to the United States in 1565 that predates Jamestown in 1607. 100 years after Columbus' arrival in the new world, Spanish conquistadors and priests pushed into the North America. In 1610. They established Santa Fe, New Mexico and they spread to the North to build out a Spanish civilization. By the early 1800's Americans moved to the west driven by the belief that God has given them the right to expand across the continent and their vision was tied to the vision of liberty and democracy. They spread out to Mexico, and those who were Catholic, went to the Texas and many other places. Tens of thousands of people immigrated to the United States from Puerto Rico. One million came from Mexico and they brought copper and silver to America. Also, half a million Mexicans and Mexican Americans were deported during the Great Depression. Then

² Jane Hong: *Asian Americans and U.S civil Rights Movements*, video, YouTube

³ Takaki, Ronald. *A Different Mirror*, Little, Brown and Company, New York, NY, 1989

America planned to take the power over Cuba and that is why later it declared war against Spain. The Spanish American war lasted 13 weeks and Spain surrendered. Then America entered Santiago and Cuba as Liberators. In this time racism against Cubans raised and they were considered to not have self-government and gun power, but all was for Americans. In December 1898 the representative of America and of Spain negotiate the end of war and the spoils of war without the presence of the Cubans, Puerto Ricans, and the Philippines, and having their participation in this negotiation. Puerto Ricans had no senator in the government, and they had no right to vote. In 1900 there was 3,000 to 5,000 Mexican and Mexican American residents by 1930 about 150,000. In Los Angeles Mexicans were viewed as the second-class citizens. In 1930s between 300,000 and 500,000 Mexicans and Mexican Americans forced out of the United States.⁴

So, I learned about Mexican Americans that they have an immigrant root to the United States. They have a different experience in the United States than any other races and ethnicities here. They immigrated for the job opportunities and fleeing from the poverty. Still, they are crossing the border for the same reason and are totally 12 million “illegal immigrants” Mexican.

And the most important was that I learned about Native Americans during the semester. Before I thought all the population would be immigrants and after living for a long time, they call themselves Native Americans from what I remembered from school teachings but now I see that they have no root of immigration. Native Americans, or the indigenous people of the Americas, are the pre-Columbian inhabitants of North and South America and their descendants. Native Americans migrated into the Americas much earlier, up to 40,000 years ago. These Paleo-Indians spread throughout the Americas, diversifying into hundreds of culturally distinct nations and tribes.

⁴ PBS The Latino Americans documentary, two episodes

When Europeans arrived to America in the 15th century there was 50 million people already living in America. ⁵

2: The events that I studied during the semester reshaped my ideas about different ethnics and races in the united state. I learned about the history of different ethnic, their struggles and accomplishments. I learned how different groups of people have been faced with racism during the time and how to fight with racism. As I have been raised in a country that has no diverse people and is not multiethnic as a state of the united state. And I had no idea about what is struggling in a place where you are among minority. Before the class I had no idea how different ethnics have fought for their rights and how they cope with racism. I thought before that, there would be no act of racism in the united state as is the highest society in the world. I had no idea how slavery had started to the united state, and it ended but still there are signs of racism against Asian Americans, African Americans, and any other ethnics. The semester reshaped my opinion about how religion impacted the societies in the united state, and it also reshaped my opinion about racial reconciliation.

3: The 1619 project is a series of essays, short stories, poems, and photography about the year 1619 that marks the first Africans were sold into the colony of Virginia. The author Nikole Hannah-Jones says “ I wrote 1619 project to all Americans because I don’t care if you are an immigrant who got here yesterday or your family goes back to the Mayflower or you are indigenous and you people were the first people here we all benefit from having a better understanding of the centrality of slavery and black people in the country because you can not separate those two. We treat these as segregated histories the American history and the histories of other people, but its one history.”⁶

In the late August 1619, a ship arrived in the British colony, Virginia bearing 20 to 30 enslaved

⁵ <https://www.history.com/topics/native-american-history/native-american-cultures>

⁶ The 1619 Project, and interview with Nikole Hannah-Jones

people from Africa. Their arrival starts the beginning of slavery in the united state nearly 250 years ago. This book also explores the legacy of slavery in the present-day America, beside key moments of struggles and resistance. This book also points out that slavery did not end with emancipation but continues to shape modern Americans life.

Slavery was already going on among African chiefs and merchants, even before European slavers. Like any other products merchants were selling and buying enslaved people that were captured during wars or villages rids. “Like else where in the world, “a ready system of servitude” already existed.”⁷ They had no rights especially females and they were between 15 to 25. American slavers also entered to the trad but much later than the other slavers. They were trading with England and were using slaves to produce rice, tobacco, and cotton. Sugar is being considered as the slavery crop, nowadays by Americans.

“The doctrine of discovery emerged from an externalized worldview by the European Christians powers that become institutionalized in the European colonial powers and would become internalized by the world conquered by the European powers. The Doctrine of discovery serves the social system the western world.”⁸ In the united state the central them that support the dysfunctional system is the narrative of white supremacy. Slavery institution fulfilled the narrative of white supremacy, but still even after the demolishing of slavery the dysfunctional narrative of white supremacy was continuing. That is how a new dysfunctional system Jim Crow laws took the place of slavery. When this dysfunctional system was demolished through the Civil Rights movements the narrative of white supremacy was still going on that later was replaced with the New Jim Crow that kept alive the narrative of white supremacy.

⁷ Hannah-Jones, Nikole. The 1619 project: A new origin of story, New York Times Company, 2019

⁸ Charles, Mark, and Rah Soong-Ghan. Unsettling truths, Inter Varsity Press, 2019

The model minority is based in stereotypes and is a group whose members are perceived as successful, hardworking, and determined. The members of model minority are being seen as suitable models for other minorities. From the end of WW2 minority model about Asian American and the perceived success about them has been used as a racial wedge for the aim to minimize the role racism plays in the struggles of other minority groups, such as Black Americans, and Asian Americans.⁹ Model minorities such as Asian-Americans and African Americans have been used as tools for many years.¹⁰ Also, immigration act that was signed in the 1924 limited the number of immigrants who wanted to immigrate to the United State. The civil rights movements happen between 1950s and 1960s for the aim of brining justice for all social classes and races especially black Americans to have equal rights in the united State. Till the time that civil rights movements happened black people were suffering from racism, though civil war had ended slavery, but racism was still going on.

4: In the video of “The Black Church by Dr. Charles Galbreath I learned that “Black Church was an institution for African Americans that was stablished during 1619 – 1874 in the purpose of having a place for gathering and doing their rituals. These churches were in three different states that later they became the first sources of the historical black colleges and universities in the united state.”¹¹ Other importance of their accomplishments in the united state was that they had a great role in the economy of the united state in the first years that they come to the United State Black church has been foundational to the growth of America and its economy. Enslaved people have a

⁹ <http://www.npr.org/2021/05/9998s>

¹⁰ Jane Hong: *Asian Americans and U.S civil Rights Movements*, video, YouTube

¹¹ The Black church by Dr. Charles Galbreath. mp4

great role in the U.S early infrastructure and produced lucrative commodities such as cotton and tobacco. They have been crucial in industry, agriculture, and service. From the early years till African Americans have been faced with discrimination. The New York state currently has provided a racial justice commission to provide equal right for each person in this state if it is power or sources¹². But it is important to know how to fight racism and how to provide social justice to all races of the society especially who have been faced with racism for a long time. racism is a nationwide and worldwide problem, and anyone could be involved in it if they fight racism or support it, actively or passively. The important is how to fight racism and provide racial justice. There is a model that is called “ARC that is awareness, relationships, and commitment. For fight against racism, we should be well familiar with racist strategies to effectively counter them.”¹³

Asian Americans also have been faced with racism and still they are faced somewhat with this issue, as I learned through the semester. They have been excluded from immigration to the United state and becoming citizens of the United State, but still they have struggled and immigrated to here. Though they were counted as minority groups they have influenced other minority groups. The most important is that all Asian American, have not struggled in the same way. Asian Americans have done many movements for the purpose of immigration and rights of other Asian Americans to the united state.

Native Americans who have not been immigrant to the America and they have played a great role in the saving of the native culture of the America from the beginning of immigration of different

¹² NYC’s Racial Justice Commission with Jennifer Jones Austin an interview

¹³ How to fight Racism by Jemar Tisby, handout, a sample chapter

racess to here. Native Americans have served armed force in a large number than other groups. They have guide other immigrant groups of people to do better with the law, arts, public services and going forward. They have impacted the agriculture and the way of life in the united State. They were first to cultivate certain plants, including corn, avocados, and potato.

Latino/ Hispanic Americans have enriched the American experience and excelled in business, law, politics, education, community service, arts, science, and many other fields. There are three times Hispanic Americans that owned business compared to any other groups in the united state.

⁵: Racial Justice is considered one of the most urgent matters of faith and public witness. The cross of the Christ is not just a bridge to gets us to God but it's a sledgehammer that breaks down walls that separate us. "It is being said that reconciliation is not saying I'm not seeing colors in people but is to see colors and appreciate the diverse nations, tribes, and tongues"¹⁴. Racial reconciliation teaches us to communicate and listen to others even if we find it difficult. It calls us to understand the history of racial oppression experienced first by native Americans, slavery that experienced by African American people and any other discrimination that other classes are faced with. "Reconciliation can't happen without us lamenting together."¹⁵ The sad thing about nowadays life is that we avoid seeing our pain and other's pain. If it continues like this if we can not understand other's pain it would be impossible that the reconciliation work. Our ethnicity that would last with us through eternity according to the book revelation that is why it is better to accept ourselves. Gospels are not solving the differences, but they help us to accept them and celebrate them. Racial hostility has a deep root in our spirituality of our prayers, and we are supposed to give more time

¹⁴ Racial Reconciliation May Not BE What You Think It Is, By Rich Villodas, October,10,2016

¹⁵ Racial Reconciliation May Not BE What You Think It Is, By Rich Villodas, October,10,2016

to prayers. So, I learned that religion has a great impact in the American society among different races and ethnics.

6: I have learned a lot from visiting museums that have added more knowledge to what I learned in the class. I learned many things about the population of America that are immigrants, minorities, and native Americans. In the museums I watched their culture and artifacts that were remained from different cultures. I understand more about the history, life, struggles and the progresses that different cultures and ethnic groups had in the United States during the passage of time. Three museums that I visited opened my mind to different cultures compared to what my culture has. For instance, when I visited the Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA) I found out that how much we had a shared culture. There were artifacts in the mentioned museum that I remembered using them in my country such as irons that were used for working with coal, the cloth of their prince and many other artifacts. I would never know about the Burial Ground Museum if it was not because of the class and I learned a lot about the history of New York, slavery, African Americans, their culture of entombing of their dead ones. I also learned about native Americans from a documentary in the museum of The National Museum of the American Indian beside their culture, customs, clothes, and many other information.

Note: I have learned more than these 9 pages, I hope I could have answered the required questions correctly. Thanks.