

In chapter three, Allan Johnson presents the question “If race is socially constructed and doesn’t exist otherwise, and if human beings don’t have to be afraid of one another, then where does racism come from” (Johnson, 41). He goes on to explain “white racism hasn’t been around for very long...its appearance occurred right along with the expansion of capitalism”(Johnson, 42). In this passage, it’s explained that capitalism is the basis of white racism. Capitalism, the idea of a free market and property ownership, eliminated the middle class creating a large gap between the high class and low class. In addition, while writing about the first slaves introduced to Virginia Takaki writes “Though they had been sold, the first Africans in Virginia probably were not slaves, persons reduced to property and required to work without wages for life. In 1619 Virginia had no law legalizing slavery”(Takaki, 52). In this instance, the Plantation owners (capitalists of their time) exploit Africans in order to lower costs or wages of their workers. Plantation owners were hesitant to buy/use blacks in the beginning because they were different in appearance.

The second major argument that Johnson makes is the idea of a matrix of domination. Patricia Collins states “each particular form of privilege is a part of a much larger system of privilege”(Johnson, 52). Johnson goes on to state that there are 4 ways that connect the dimensions of domination. “First, one form of privilege can defend or reinforce another. Second, access to one form of privilege can affect access to others. Third, access to one form of privilege can serve as compensation for not having access to another. Finally, subordinate groups are often pitted against one another in ways that draw attention away from the system of privilege that hurts them all”(Johnson, 52/53). These criteria are the basis of domination. In order to break down the idea of racism, sexism, classism, and other ostracizing categories we

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place people in, we must first look at ourselves and compare the inequalities of power. I personally don't think human kind will be able to stop categorizing people for what they have or who they are. Humans like to create an idea of people before they get to know them. People will always judge and be judged by others. In addition, our economical structure is built around exploitation. People exploit others everyday as a living.