Capitalism and Racism

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Introduction

“You can’t have capitalism without racism.” These were the famous words spoken by Malcolm X during a speech in 1964(Gonzalez, 2005). As we have progressed some 50 plus years later that sentiment that he expressed which was nothing more than his own opinion seems to hold as much if not more weight than ever before. As we seem an ever-changing economy that seemed to be shriveling up the middle class to the point where there are only two ends of the spectrum. You are either lower class or upper class. No longer is there an in between. The interconnection of racism and capitalism perpetuates inequalities and injustices against people of color as evidenced by a criminal justice system that results in Black incarceration rates higher than any other demographic group, or any other industrialized country.

Statement of Issues

A capitalist system is said to be greed driven. It is a system where a small portion of the population substantially benefits where the majority is left to fend for itself. To become a major beneficiary of the capitalist system you must possess means and assets. The hindrance to this is when this same system is limits access to these means through prejudicial tactics that are orchestrated through the justice system. These prejudices are usually displaced upon minorities. Vogel’s (1983) study found the following: “In terms of correctional control, the percentage of black men under correctional is four times higher than white men in every age category with highs approaching 30 percent for black men in their prime years of twenty to thirty compares to less than 8 percent for white men in the same age group. Buried in these aggregate statistics is the fact that when the adult probationary population in the United States is broken down by race, we find that currently only 35 percent of the probationers are black in contrast to prison populations where they make up almost 50 percent of all inmates. These statistics indicate that it is almost as difficult for white men to get into prison as it is for black men to stay out (Vogel, 1983).” This leads to the question of how am I supposed to actively participate in, competitively compete in, thrive or prosper in a system that functionality is based upon my lack of availability and lack of knowledge and assets to contribute to?

Analysis of Issues

It can be categorized in the simplest terms by this metaphor: If there is a relay footrace, and at the beginning of the race I must wait 5 additional seconds before I can take off and at every turn as I am gaining ground my baton is mishandled. Start minorities behind and as they gain ground keep them behind by creating a stumbling block. Examples of these stumbling blocks can be found with the disproportionate leniency on sentencing for white males as compare to black males in relation to drug related offenses. The punishment falls disproportionately on people of color. Blacks make up 50 percent of the state and local prisoners incarcerated for drug crimes. According to Sledge (2013), “Black kids are 10 times more likely to be arrested for drug crimes than white ones — even though white kids are more likely to abuse drugs (Sledge, 2013).” This constant prejudicial treatment of one segment of the population continues to put them as a competitive disadvantage when it comes to the capitalist system. They are inevitably always behind the figurative eight balls.

Root Cause Thereof

This is a problem rooted in the establishment of this country’s inception. Dating back to the times of American slavery it has always been suppressed one group for the betterment of another. This issue continues through the times of segregation, Jim Crow & the civil rights era. Although there has been constant progression, the pillars of foundation have remained. We have moved on from the times of outlandish in your face racism to systemic racism. The following states:

“Systemic racism is both a theoretical concept and a reality. As a theory, it is premised on supported claim that the United States was founded as a racist society, that racism is thus embedded in all social institutions, structures, and social relations within our society. Rooted in a racist foundation, systemic racism today is composed of intersecting, overlapping, and codependent racist institutions, policies, practices, ideas, and behaviors that give an unjust amount of resources, rights, and power to white people while denying them to people of color (Cole, 2017).” This is a direct correlation to the times of slavery and oppression in America. So cosmetically we have progressed but at the root of our very foundation and the things we were built upon we were still a nation with an enslaved race. The chains now weren’t physical, but mental and on paper.

Proposed Action/Resolution to the Issues

There is no way to inherently remove instructional or systemic racism, therefore racism in some form will always be a part of the capitalist system. There have however been suggestions as to ways to minimize and equalized things across the board so that minorities aren’t at such at vast disadvantage. The following list highlights actions that can be taken to help alleviate these issues:

• Police stops and arrests. Controlling for suspect demeanor, offense severity, presence of witnesses, evidence at the scene, prior record of the suspect, and other factors, minority suspects in one study had a 30% higher chance of being arrested than white suspects. In predominantly White neighborhoods in St. Louis, traffic stops were more likely to include a search in stops of Black drivers than of White drivers, especially by White police officers, controlling for characteristics of the officer, driver, and stop.

• Punishment outcomes. A study using data from New York, found that Black and Latino (but not Asian) defendants are disadvantaged compared to Whites when it comes to pretrial detention, plea offers, and sentences of incarceration. This effect is particularly strong for Blacks charged with felony violent crimes and drug crimes (Vera Institute of Justice, 2014).

• Disproportionate incarceration of men of color. “Of African American young men who dropped out of high school, 37% were incarcerated in 2008, compared to less than 1% of the general population (Harvard University, 2009).” Columbia University’s Spatial Information Design Lab and Justice Mapping Center have mapped “million dollar blocks:” neighborhood blocks that have such a high concentration of residents incarcerated that states are spending over a million dollars a year to incarcerate residents from a single block. (On average, it costs $28,000 a year to incarcerate someone in state prison).

• Innovate policy solutions post-release. Post-incarceration, employment is a major determinant of whether people end up back in prison. One policy solution that has been getting a lot of traction in select states is “banning the box.” This would allow prospective employees to make it beyond the initial application without having to disclose felonies or misdemeanors, reducing discrimination based on prior offense history.

• Health and health care services Institutional racism in American health care services brings about racial and ethnic minorities confronting lopsided boundaries to mind and in addition bring down nature of care. Cost barriers greatly affect groups of blacks than on Whites. Terminations of doctor's facility injury focuses expanded travel time for crisis mind in ranges with substantial Black population more than different zones, amid a period when injury related mortality expanded for this population. Provinces with a higher extent of Black occupants are more improbable than different regions to have substance mishandle treatment offices that acknowledge open protection. While a more noteworthy extent of Black patients live close excellent doctor's facilities than white patients, Black patients are more probable than Whites to have surgery in bring down quality healing facilities. Most Black postal divisions are additionally more probable than other postal divisions to have a deficiency of essential care doctors. Black, Latina, and Native-American moms might probably have pointless cesarean conveyances, racial and ethnic minorities are underrepresented in clinical trials, bringing about medicines that have not been demonstrated compelling for non-White patients. At the point when health care services suppliers hold certain inclinations, Black patients rate their doctors bring down on measures of patient-focused care and correspondence than do White patients. The areas of suppliers, cost of care, verifiable racial inclination in medicinal school graduates and avoidance from treatment investigate all add to disparities in well being results for ethnic minorities.

• Housing-US loaning practices in the mid-twentieth century manufactured an issue despite everything we're living with. In 1935, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board appointed the making of an arrangement of maps to direct speculation open doors for lodging in the coming years. The maps that rose isolated 239 American urban communities into 4 sorts of regions, positioned from most-to minimum alluring for improvement openings. The Fair Housing Act of 1968 intended to amend this. Be that as it may, that missed the mark regarding taking care of the issue; late court cases keep on confronting unfair advancement arrangements. One potential arrangement is portability vouchers. The Clinton-era Mobility to Opportunity (MTO) program, which gave vouchers empowering low-salary families (most of them headed by Hispanic or Black single mothers) to move to low-poverty regions, has for some time been viewed as a net disappointment, at any rate as far as financial and execution picks up. Children who moved didn't have essentially more noteworthy school execution, and their folks didn't see a great deal of development in their salaries. A recent study, however, uses a newly available outcome measure to probe success – the earned adult incomes of those kids who moved, versus those who didn’t – and finds that in this longer view, the program was more successful than originally thought. Kids who moved to low-poverty areas before the age of 13 earned 31% more than adults than those who didn’t (Chetty, Raj, Nathaniel Hendren, and Lawrence Katz.2016). Housing segregation is both a class and race issue, and this new evidence suggests that this approach shouldn’t be dropped too quickly.

Ending segregation in schools is another real thing that connects with the point. American schools are still to a great extent isolated by race. Indeed, even in the wake of representing contrasts in the racial synthesis between neighborhoods, schools remain racially isolated because of White understudies' enlistment in private, magnet, and charter schools. Steady racial isolation detrimentally affects the academic performance of understudies of color, yet integration has no critical impact on the scholarly work of White understudies. Treating understudies of color better is another key issue. In the classroom, understudies of color are lopsidedly punished with higher severity. Recent study of sociological writing proposes that the issue is both more across the board than already accepted and has huge outcomes that reach out past the classroom. School suspension clarifies around one-fifth of disparities in scholarly accomplishment between Black and White understudies, restricting Black understudies' chances after graduation. Different teach in schools likewise adds to Black over portrayal in the adolescent equity framework.

• In business, Blacks are twice as prone to be jobless as Whites, and the profit of the two Blacks and Hispanics keep on lagging great behind those of Whites. While work separation in light of race was prohibited by the 1964 Civil Rights Act, exploratory review thinks about concentrating on employing choices have reliably discovered solid proof of racial segregation, with appraisals of White inclination extending from half to 240%. Segregation has an impact in clarifying the Black-White wage hole, and late examinations have demonstrated that racial separation Affects College taught Blacks – paying little respect to what school they moved on from. Obviously, racial segregation has a considerably more noteworthy effect on Blacks without a higher education and those with a criminal record. Separation even influences specialists in a similar activity, in a similar organization, and with level with scores on execution assessments.

• Credit and obligation ending institutional racism expects thoughtfulness regarding lessening racial riches disparity while likewise checking and attempting to end segregation in credit markets. Diminishing riches imbalance requires handling obligation issues. Ruthless loaning and unequal credit expenses and obligation accumulation designs are mainstays of institutional prejudice in credit markets. While credit has expanded for everybody, minorities pay higher financing costs than Whites for lodging and have been liable to mishandle from savage banks. As people, we observe that claims for the reimbursement of customer obligation are bunched in black neighborhoods.

• Immigration plays a role as well, if the president will handle institutional racism, he or she should handle movement arrangement. Immigration law has truly been utilized to group and avoid individuals in view of race (for instance, the Chinese rejection laws). The present immigration strategy is the same. Government exercises have been expanded lately to target Latinos: for instance, after the fortress of the US-Mexico fringe in the 1990s, Mexicans are criminally indicted for wrongfully crossing the outskirt and can confront jail time and criminal records. Recent research has discovered that for Latinos, immigration law is progressively intertwined with criminal law, bringing about more serious risks for those intersections the outskirt and expanding dread among migrants that relatives will be extradited.

• Voting rights progress against institutional racism in the appointive framework endured a genuine blow on account of the Supreme Court in 2013. There is little uncertainty that confinements on voter get to – particularly those established over the most recent couple of years – are driven by Republican fanatic governmental issues and racial legislative issues. The impact is probably going to be less minorities voting and more Republicans chose. One voter confinement that merits exceptional consideration is the strategy in many conditions of forbidding previous detainees from voting. The impacts are solid and quite racial. One needs just think back to 2000 to see that George W. Shrubbery wouldn't have been chosen if previous criminals in Florida could have voted (Lykke et al., 2016).

These suggestions by this group of individuals are not new and have been proposed repeatedly. It comes down putting the processes into place and following through with them.

Conclusion

It is obvious that Capitalism cannot thrive without racism, essentially institutional and systemic. The very premise for which is based upon does not allow it. There must be a clear majority of a population of people shut out or ostracized for it to fundamentally be successful. If all individuals have access to the same assets, benefits, and resources then that takes away from the disproportionate minority of individuals who rule the capitalist market therefore leading us away from a capitalist system.

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