

Introduction to American Ethnic Studies

Name

Institution of affiliation

Date

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Question 1

There is evidence of the “other” in the modern conceptualization of race. The US is largely identified as a “white” society. This is despite the statistics noting the significant number of non-white races in the US. However, this identity provides for the self-conceptualization of the US as a white man’s country. This thus, fuels the notion that non-white populations such as blacks, Hispanics and Mexicans constitute the “other” part of the American citizenry. There is evidence of this in the US, noting the continued stratification of resources based on race. Where individuals from the “white” race receiving a proportionately higher divide of resources while the “others” share the rest.

Question 2

The concept of “Double Colonization” refers to the colonization of the Mexican populace first by Spain and the United States. The colonization by Spain resulted in the citizenry acquiring the cultural and social norms of the Spanish colonizers. The same was reflected by the colonization by the US. Double colonization forced Mexicans to adapt to living and existing in a multi-racial regime. This phenomenon is evident in the contemporary fabric noting the dual cultural nature of the populace. Where there are some mannerisms that are reflective of the Spanish and American colonial heritage.

Question 3

This begins from the conquest of the Western and South Western US. White settlers establish dominance over the native population through force. The result is the annexation of the native races. The Mexicans are a key part of this population. The treaty of Guadalupe

Hildago is drawn up to protect the rights of the Mexicans (Delay, 2007). They are to receive equal rights as citizens of the United States. However, only white Mexicans are regarded as equal with people of color being regarded as inferiors. This initiates and catalyzes the racialization of the Mexican population. This legacy is still evident in society noting Mexicans are still subject to racial profiling and diminished potential for opportunities for progression.

Question 4

Race affords individuals social, political and economic privilege. This is particular evident where individuals are white or white skinned. They are less likely to be victims of racial profiling, economically they are viewed on average as worthy of credit by financial institutions, higher likelihood of employment, and homes in predominantly white neighborhoods demand higher buying prices on average. Race also informs crime; where whites are on average deemed as less 'criminal' while the statistics disagree. Race also provides certain race with an advantage where it come to being elected to political positions.

Question 5

Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers (UFW) provided a platform for which workers could air their grievances. This grievances while tied to higher wages and better working conditions reflected the racial, social, and class unevenness inequalities. They provided a forum where workers could organize themselves politically. Further, the platform allowed them to negotiate with the growers who often were from different races and class. This ensured that workers received fair wages for their work and were not unjustly exploited. It is important to work towards social justice to ensure that all US citizens have equal access to opportunity regardless of their race, social standing, and class.

References

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