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TOPIC: RACE USED AS A CRIME

HELLO WORLD,

MAY THIS FIND YOU ENJOYING ALL THAT IS PROBABLE AND BENEFICIAL TO YOUR OVERALL WELL-BEING. TODAY'S TOPIC IS HOW ONE'S RACE CAN BE USED AGAINST THEM AS A CRIME. THIS WAS A SUBJECT OF INTEREST TO ME, LAST SEMESTER, IN A CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY CLASS IN WHICH I OBTAINED THE FINAL GRADE OF AN "A". THE FOLLOWING IS ONE OF THE ESSAYS I SUBMITTED IN THAT CLASS:

RACE AS A PLATFORM OF FEAR

PRESIDENTIAL-CANDIDATE DONALD TRUMP PROMISED SO MANY THINGS IF ELECTED, ONE BEING "TO BUILD THE WALL" ALONG THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER. THIS RHETORIC ONLY CONFIRMS THAT WE ARE A DIVIDED NATION IS AN ALMOST UNIVERSAL COMPLAINT SURROUNDING THE BITTER 2016 ELECTION YEAR. HOWEVER, THE EXACT PROPERTY THAT DIVIDES THE NATION - RACE - THOUGH IT IS SAID TO BE, STILL REMAINS A MATTER OF CONTROVERSY IN "MAKING AMERICA GREAT AGAIN?!"

IN THE BOOK ENTITLED, "FRESH FRUIT, BROKEN BODIES" BY BETH M. HOLMES (2013), ONE OF HIS RESEARCH INTERESTS CENTERED UPON SOCIAL INEQUALITIES RELATED TO CATEGORIES OF RACE, INCLUDING IMPACTS ON SOCIAL CLASS, GENDER,

CITIZENSHIP, AND SEXUALITY. HOLMS CONCEDES THAT "MUCH OF THE STRUCTURAL VIOLENCE IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY IS ORGANIZED ALONG THE FAULT LINES OF CLASS [AND] RACE...." (P.43) AS WITH DONALD TRUMP WHO INDEED WON THE 2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ON THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PLATFORMS BASED UPON "FEAR"; A CORRELATION CAN BE MADE THAT, INCREASINGLY, THROUGHOUT THE NATION, A PERSON'S SKIN COLOR OR CITIZENSHIP CAN BE CRIMINALIZED. THIS ESSAY EXAMINES THE KEY THEORY OF ONE'S RACE AND HOW THE NATION'S TOUGH-ON-CRIME MOVEMENT IS CENTERED ON RACE AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, FUELED BY FEAR. THIS IS A CAUSATIVE FACTOR TO MY CURRENT IMPRISONMENT TO A THIRTY (30) YEARS-TO-LIFE "DEATH SENTENCE IN SLOW MOTION" UNDER CALIFORNIA'S THREE STRIKES LAW FOR A NONVIOLENT CRIME.

WHAT THE AVERAGE AMERICAN IS UNAWARE OF IS THAT MOST PRISONERS ARE INCARCERATED NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE REPEAT OR CAREER CRIMINALS; BUT BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF BREAKING ONE OF AN EVER-INCREASING NUMBER OF LAWS DESIGNED TO EXERT TIGHTER SOCIAL CONTROL AND INCREASE GOVERNMENTAL REPRESSION USING THE PLATFORM OF FEAR. FOR EXAMPLE, THE NATION'S "THREE STRIKES AND YOU'RE OUT" SENTENCING SCHEME AND LAW CAME INTO FRUITION DURING THE APEX OF THE U.S. LOCK THEM UP MOVEMENT THAT SWEEP THE NATION IN THE EARLY TO MID-1990'S. COINCIDENTLY, THIS MOVEMENT ALSO CONCURRED WITH THE "CRACK COCAINE 'EPIDEMIC'" WHICH RAVAGED URBAN INNER CITIES ACROSS AMERICA. I, TOO, FELL VICTIM TO THE HIGHLY-ADDICTIVE CRACK COCAINE THAT FLOODED THE MEAN STREETS OF LOS ANGELES, AND WHILE CAUGHT IN THE WEB OF ADDICTION, I COMMITTED MY FIRST FELONY OFFENSE (AT THE AGE OF 30), WAS CONVICTED, SENTENCED, AND SENT TO PRISON FOR AN EIGHT YEAR TERM. I SERVED EXACTLY

FOUR YEARS, ONE MONTH, ONE DAY AND SIX HOURS OF THAT FIRST FELONY CONVICTION. BUT, BECAUSE OF MY SKIN COLOR, I WAS SENTENCED TO A PRISON TERM FOR MY FIRST FELONY, WHEN OTHER WHITE MEN AND WOMEN WITH SIMILAR OFFENSES RECEIVED "DRUG DIVERSION TREATMENT PROGRAMS." GO FIGURE? AS A RESULT, CALIFORNIA TAXPAYERS' SPENT \$25,000 ANNUALLY (OVER \$100,000) TO IMPRISON ME WHEN THE TOTAL COST FOR DRUG TREATMENT COSTS WERE ONLY \$4,000. THIS EXEMPLIFIES AND COLLABORATES HOLMES HYPOTHESIS THAT "THE POWERFUL TEND TO BELIEVE THEY DESERVE THE SUCCESSES THEY HAVE HAD AND THAT THE POWERLESS HAVE BROUGHT THEIR PROBLEMS ON THEMSELVES." (P.44)

I WAS RELEASED FROM CUSTODY IN 1994, AND I RELOCATED TO MONTEREY, CA, WHERE I RESIDED AND WORKED FOR TWO YEARS. IN 1996, I RETURNED TO LOS ANGELES AND WAS EMPLOYED AT PARAMOUNT PICTURES IN HOLLYWOOD AS A COMPUTER SUPPORT TECHNICIAN. HOWEVER, TO MY DEMISE, AS I NEVER ADDRESSED MY ADDICTIVE IMPULSIVENESS; WORKING IN L.A.'S MOVIE INDUSTRY WHICH IS ALCOHOL AND DRUG FRIENDLY, I QUICKLY FELL BACK INTO HIGH-RISK SITUATIONS AND ADDICTIVE BEHAVIORS. SOON THEREAFTER, CRACK COCAINE ONCE AGAIN, DERAILED MY LIFE AND WHILE HIGHLY INTOXICATED ON THIS MIND-ALTERING DRUG, I COMMITTED A NON-VIOLENT ROBBERY OF A RESTAURANT, WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ARRESTED AND ON JANUARY 28, 2000, I WAS CONVICTED OF THIS OFFENSE AND SENTENCED UNDER CALIFORNIA'S HORRIBLE "THREE STRIKES LAW", EVEN THOUGH THIS WAS ONLY MY SECOND FELONY CONVICTION. I HAVE BEEN BURIED ALIVE EVER SINCE. HAVING SPENT THE PAST 18+ YEARS IMPRISONED (I WAS ARRESTED IN APRIL OF 1999), I HAVE AN UNIMAGINABLE 11 MORE YEARS TO DO BEFORE I REACH MY EARLIEST POSSIBLE RELEASE DATE (EPD) FOR THIS NONVIOLENT, DRUG INDUCED CRIME THAT NORMALLY CARRIED 2, 3, OR 5 YEARS

WITHIN EVERY OTHER JURISDICTION IN THE UNITED STATES.

ONE NEEDS NOT TO BE A ROCKET SCIENTIST TO SEE HOW THIS FORM OF STRUCTURAL AND SYMBOLIC VIOLENCE PROVIDES A FRAMEWORK FOR THE WAR OF SOCIAL CONTROL AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF COLOR IN AMERICA. SADLY, A PERSON'S RACE CAN, AND WILL BE, USED AGAINST THEM IN OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM TO SCAPEGOAT AND CRIMINALIZE THEM. A PRIME EXAMPLE IS TO SIMPLY WITNESS THE INCREASED NUMBER OF AFRICAN AMERICANS, HISPANICS, NATIVE AMERICAN AND ASIAN YOUTHS NOW DETAINED PURSUANT TO JUVENILE CRIME ACTS AND "ANTI-GANG" LAWS, OR THE INCREASED NUMBER OF FOREIGN NATIONALS (EXCLUDING MOST EUROPEANS) WHO ARE IMPRISONED DUE TO HATE/FEAR INSPIRED IMMIGRATION LAWS. WHAT ABOUT PRESIDENT TRUMP'S U.S.-MEXICO BORDER MILITARIZATION DISCOURSE, OR THE ON-GOING "WAR ON DRUGS" IN WHICH HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED FROM THEIR COMMUNITIES BY LOCAL POLICE. THROUGH THE NATURALIZATION AND NORMALIZATION OF THESE SOCIAL CONTROL LAWS, THIS EMBODIES AND EMBOLDENS AMERICA'S SOCIAL HIERARCHIES TO CREATE MORE POLICIES TO CRIMINALIZE AND DECIMATE THESE TARGETED DARK SKINNED DEMOGRAPHICS AND TO KEEP THIRD WORLD AND WHITE WORKING-CLASS WAGE LABORS INCARCERATED BY THIS FORM OF STRUCTURAL AND SYMBOLIC VIOLENCE. THEREFORE, MOST PRISONERS, INCLUDING MYSELF, ARE IMPRISONED BY VIRTUE OF THEIR ETHNICITY AND/OR CLASS STATUS, AND ARE INDEED THE VICTIMS OF ETHNIC CLEANSING POLICIES.

IN CONCLUSION, BY NARROWLY FOCUSING ON THE EFFECTS OF ETHNICITY AND CITIZENSHIP HIERARCHIES; HOLMS OVERLOOKS THE MUCH DEEPER PROBLEMS OF RACISM IN AMERICA WHICH IS CONSIDERABLY MORE VICIOUS SINCE PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP TOOK OFFICE. NOT TO MENTION HOW THE NATION'S

CITIZENS ARE MORE CONFUSED THAN EVER ABOUT RACE, RELIGIONS, OR SOCIO-ECONOMIC CLASS STRUCTURES, AND CONSEQUENTLY THE LEVELS OF SOCIAL ATOMIZATION IN AMERICA HAVE NEVER BEEN GREATER. PRESIDENT TRUMP'S PRIMARY MECHANISMS FOR ISOLATING US FROM ONE ANOTHER AND THE WORLD IS "FEAR". AND THE FEAR OF CRIME IS THE GREATEST FEAR OF ALL, WITH NO OTHER DOMESTIC SEGMENT OF SOCIETY MORE DEMONIZED THAN THE ONES CONSISTING OF "DARK SKINNED" CRIMINALS. YOU SEE, THE REASONING IS SIMPLE: THE ALLEGED CRIMINALS ARE NO LONGER A PART OF "US", BUT HAS SUDDENLY BECOME ONE OF "THEM", OR THAT "OTHER" PERSON UPON WHOM ANY EVIL CAN JUSTLY BE INFLICTED. NOT ONLY ARE THESE DEMONIZED PEOPLE POLITICALLY AND SOCIALLY DISENFRANCHISED AND IMPRISONED UNDER "CONSTITUTIONALLY - SANCTIONED" CONDITIONS OF MODERN DAY SLAVERY, THESE HAPLESS CRIMINALS OF SKIN COLOR ARE ALSO SUBJECTED TO ENDLESS FORMS OF TORTURE. SO ALWAYS REMEMBER, "MINDS ARE A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE", BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, MINDS ARE LIKE PARACHUTES, THEY ONLY FUNCTION CORRECTLY WHEN OPEN...