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Unjustified Racial Injustice

Unjustified racial injustice seems to be a problem that is getting worse as the years pass, people are continually being discriminated against because of the color of their skin, religion, or ethnicity. There are two kinds of racial inequality including both justified and unjustified. Justified inequality is necessary in order to protect social norms such as underage drinking or the treatment of someone with a mental illness. Unjustified inequality is unequal treatment of individuals by institutions. It is unjustified due to the fact that it causes some sort of harm to innocent victims and are products of oppression. Malice, or prejudice. The main issue is the issue of unjustified racial inequality and those who are being discriminated against due to their skin color. Among the many historical issues, the biggest was slavery. Slavery sent America into an inevitable downward spiral once it started, in which we never fully recovered from. A major turning point in history was during the Civil War and the Lincoln presidency. In the last few weeks of his presidency, he was able to pass the Thirteenth Amendment which abolished slavery and was the start to a new era. The Lincoln movie was the perfect example of concepts like natural law, natural rights, and the moral compass.

The main focus of the Lincoln movie was to show the struggles that the President had in his last few weeks as president. Since he was a young kid, Lincoln had believed that slavery was wrong and that "If slavery is not wrong, nothing is". Lincoln felt that there was a

clear injustice to people of color and that there was flaws within the constitution allowing people to have them. Lincoln saw slaves as human being that should have rights defined by the constitution. The problem that the president ran into was that his counterparts saw slaves as property, which had its own protections within the constitution. Throughout the movie, Lincoln struggled with the issue of both swearing an oath to protect the constitution, but also being the President and having the power to do something but at the cost of defending what the constitution was supposed to be.

Natural laws are “sanctions that regulate the behavior of individuals, on the basis of universal traits and common experiences”. Natural laws were believed to be laws that God himself created and are laws that everyone should follow because they define our morals as human beings. The main focus for natural law was that they are there to guide us toward a greater good. Lincoln believed that in order to be able to achieve a greater good, we need to look toward the greater good and realize that everybody is essential to the process of moving forward. This was the basis of Lincolns drive toward ratifying the Thirteenth Amendment which would grant natural rights.

Natural rights are rights that we gain simply by being human. These are rights that grant humans the ability to be individuals, and include rights like life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. These rights allow people to be treated equally and fairly regardless of economic status, social class, or political siding. Lincoln used natural law as a means to be able to define slaves as people and not property, which would automatically grant those natural rights, most importantly freedom. Lincoln also believed in a true democracy, one in which everyone was to participate including slaves because this would be the best way to contribute to the progress of the country. The president thought it was very important to be knowledgeable to run a

democracy, and that those who were not reasonable or knowledgeable could not properly make decisions to better others.

Although not really mentioned in the movie, the moral compass was something that seemed to be a major issue within the movie. The moral compass is simply someone's ability to judge what is right and wrong by moral standards. In the movie, it seemed that Lincoln was struggling with this more internally than externally. The president at some points would question his own morals and his own will to do well, while at others try to question the morals of his cabinet and trying to get them to see things the way that he does.

Overall, I do feel like human and civil right are more relevant today than they may have ever been. I feel like the issue is such a big deal because of the fact that we now live in 2019 and should have moved passed this years ago. We still struggle with issues such as police brutality and racial profiling among officers, and almost everything you read in the news has something to do with race and discrimination. I also believe that racial bias still is relevant because African Americans are much more likely to be in jail that whites. As Mr. Stevenson stated, about 50 to 60 percent of young African American males are or have been in jail or prison. He also stated that in the state of Alabama, almost 34% of the African American population has lost their right to vote due to a criminal conviction, and this number is projected to continue to grow. These numbers should be shocking and should prove the level of inequality we are currently experiencing in this country. Unfortunately there is no real way to be able to determine true prejudice within the system and doesn't seem like something that can be combatted easily and will take years of work.

