

Aiyana Henson

Reaction Paper 2

March 24, 2021

References

Schwalbe, M. (Ed.). (2014). Roots of Inequality. In *Rigging The Game* (Second ed., pp. 4–14).

https://canvas.longwood.edu/courses/1299672/files/56167679?module_item_id=12864243

Summary

Schwalbe's writing discusses a great amount of information that pertains to inequality and how it originated. He also goes into detail to explain the reason why individuals are affected so highly by a societal driven standard. According to the reading, inequality is a concept that was formed by regulating an agenda that was created to benefit one group over another. Economics also plays as a great factor when discussing the history of inequality.

Review

Some key takeaways that I found interesting included Schwable's description of the meaning behind "Exploitation" on page 9. He describes the action as, "to exploit a person or a group of people is to use them unfairly," and this goes directly in hand with the theory of inequality. It's influence in America goes as far back as the discovery of the country. Natives were undoubtedly exploited by white Europeans who believed they were better due to their "superior way of living." Something I believe the author did well in explaining was how gender also plays a role in the issue of inequality. In the same manner race was intended to rank individuals, the sex of a person mattered when defining who held more power. The question I pose is how can one white man's opinion be so influential, that it forms and shapes the way we

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all live as a country. Race and sex are both such irrelevant concepts which shouldn't decide how people should be treated.

Reflection

Overall I believe a great racial disparity in regards to inequality includes the fact that racial stereotypes are often pushed on the African-American community. You often hear black men being called aggressive and thugs when stories about the person's arrest are being broadcasted; While in recent news a white man was arrested for killing 8 Asian women for "just having a bad day." I strongly believe the incarceration system is modern day slavery. One can only assume that it's to keep black men off the streets of America and encourage the agenda that they are dangerous criminals. Something doesn't add up when the majority of prison populations are black men and Hispanics when whites make up the vast majority of the country. Inequality is meant to keep the privileged on top even in circumstances of wrongdoing.