

Ef 3.3.4

SACOD

N3

P. 27

3rd. Lagaall

SPEAKERS NOTES NO. 6.

RACE AND INTELLIGENCE.

What is "Race"?

The term is loosely and unscientifically used. Broadly we may distinguish certain major races on the basis of skin colour, hair etc. It has never been proved that there is any difference in the average inborn mental qualities of races. All "races" are very mixed, some more than others. There is no Jewish, American, English, German or Russian "race". Even White South Africans are very mixed and many of them have coloured ancestors.

Environment and Heredity.

Both these factors influence the behaviours of people. All people have a social environment (which can be changed) and which makes them think, speak and otherwise behave in a characteristic way. When the social environment changes, as a result of alterations in education, mode of life (industrial, rural etc.) the behaviour of social groups also changes.

Heredity may be responsible to some extent for differences in individual capacity (genuine, mediocrity or idiocy) but variations in human capacity are found among all groups. The more intelligent black is superior to the less intelligent White. Many blacks are highly capable, as is shown by their performance in mathematics, literature, music, science etc. These outstanding black people have often been able to show their ability because of favourable circumstances denied to the majority of their fellows. Examples in South Africa are the Jabavus, Tijo Soga, Mrs. Maxebe, Dr. Molema, etc. etc.

The 2000 Years Myth.

It is often said that the African blacks are 2000 years behind the Whites and that it will take them something like that period to catch up. This is based on the fact that about 2000 years ago the English, Germans, etc. were living under tribal conditions similar to those of rural Bantu to-day.

Jerome, in the 4th century wrote: "When I was a boy I saw the Scottish people in Britain eating human flesh." Cicero declared that Anglo-Saxons "were worthless even as slaves." Nevertheless, individual White barbarians who were absorbed into the Roman system became as civilised as the Romans. In the same way individual blacks can and have been absorbed into the modern western system and have become as civilised as the Europeans. If opportunity is offered to the blacks as a whole they could in a generation or two completely absorb western culture. This is because social influence is based on environmental, not on hereditary factors.

Considerable evidence is available of how the environment (lack of education, poverty, slums, poor housing, disease, poor food, colour bar, etc.) operates to hinder the advance of the African.

How is Intelligence measured?

By means of intelligence tests. These tests are of some significance in determining relative ability of members of the same social group, but lose their value when applied to members of different groups. Thus rural Whites usually prove inferior when tested to urban Whites, not because country people are inherently inferior, but because living in a town stimulates people in such a manner that they do better in the tests. If there are racial differences in intelligence these could only be proved by subjecting members of the differences to an identical environment from birth. An experiment on these lines has never been carried out.

The "Blood" Fallacy? There is a common myth that blood is connected with race. The S.A. Blood Transfusion Service accepts volunteer blood donors only from the ranks of the Europeans, because White patients would object to receiving transfusions of "Native" or "Coloured" blood. Actually it is impossible for a scientist to determine the racial origin of an unlabelled sample of blood. There are a number of different blood groups (O, A, B, AB, etc.) but people with these different blood groups are found among both Europeans and non-Europeans. A European of blood-group A would die if he received a transfusion of B blood obtained from another European, but would benefit if the blood came from an African of group A.

Advance in Industry.

In spite of colour bars, the shortage of labour is compelling an increase in the employment of Africans in industry. Many skilled and semi-skilled jobs are now coming their way. Realistic employers have no illusions regarding the African's ability to do jobs requiring a high degree of skill and reliability. This may be quoted as concrete evidence against the race inferiority/superiority theory.

Unesco's View.

A group of leading world scientists, appointed by Unesco, reported unanimously against forms of racial discrimination in various parts of the world and declared there is no scientific basis for theories of race inferiority used to justify such practices.

Who Benefits?

Theories of racial inferiority or superiority are usually "rationalisations" used to justify the exploitation of an alleged "inferior" race by an alleged "superior race". If the facts are examined it will usually be found that the "superior" race has an economic interest in maintaining the inferior status of the other race. This is obviously true in South Africa.

Collection Number: AD1812

RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961

TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand

Location:- Johannesburg

©2012

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of the collection records and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a private collection deposited with Historical Papers at The University of the Witwatersrand.