

17.

DHS 67

I

RACE

Are Some People Inferior? What is "White Civilisation"?

INTRODUCTION

It has been shown in these lectures that South African Society is based on the oppression of many by a few. That the mines and industry and farming flourish because they benefit from a system of cheap labour, that the Non-European, by being kept landless and restricted to the unskilled and poorly paid jobs, is the main source of cheap labour.

The cheap labour policy and the discrimination against the Non-European to keep him suppressed are necessary for economic reasons. But they are justified by arguments of the "racial" inferiority of the Non-European. The colour bar policies of apartheid, or segregation, or separation, are necessary, their supporters say, because Non-European are "different", "inferior", "at a lower stage of civilisation".

The vote, the right to do skilled work, elementary political rights, are denied the Non-European because, it is argued, he is not yet ready for them. He is not allowed to share in the government of the country because he is said to come from an inferior race.

The Dutch Reform Church, the South African Bureau of Racial Affairs (SABRA) who expound the theoretical side of apartheid, say the Non-Europeans (of an inferior civilisation) must be kept in their place by apartheid, if "white supremacy" and "white civilisation" are to be preserved.

Are the Non-Europeans inferior? Are intelligence and ability related to "race"? What is "race" anyway? Is civilisation the monopoly of people with white skins?

This lecture attempts to answer these questions.

ONE HUMAN RACE.

The Bible story of Adam and Eve, father and mother of the whole human race, told centuries ago the same truth that science has shown today: that all the people of the earth are a single family and have a common origin.

The fact of the unity of the human race is proved in its anatomy, also by the close similarity in what all races are physically fitted for. No difference among human races has affected limbs and teeth and relative strength and brains, so that one race is biologically outfitted like a lion and another like a lamb.

Science believes that from the part of the world (somewhere in Asia, it is thought where the human race was cradled, early man spread to all corners of the globe.

R. Dorman DHC

PEOPLES' PHYSICAL DIFFERENCES. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THEY?

The world had a small population then, and many of these communities were for centuries separated as though they lived on different planets. Slowly, they developed physical differences. For example, those who settled nearer the equator, whether in Europe, Asia or in the Americas, developed a darker skin colour than those who settled to the north of them. Peoples' Hair is often the same over great areas: frizzy hair, lank hair, wavy hair. Some peoples retained quite a lot of body hair, in other parts of the world body hair almost disappeared. Blue eyes appeared in the north. In some places in Asia a fold of skin developed over the inner corner of the eye and produced what we call a slant eye.

But despite these differences, all human beings are much the same. For example:

HEIGHT: There are tall and short people almost everywhere in the world. Near the sources of the Nile the shilluk and Negroes are 6 feet 2 inches; their neighbours, the brown pygmies, are 4 feet 8 inches.

SHAPE OF HEAD: In West Africa there are more long heads; in the Congo more round. Among the American Indians as well as among the populations of Europe both the longest and the roundest heads are found. Or the

BRAIN: (Because the brain is the thinking organ, some scientists have tried to find differences in the size and structure of the brain among different groups of people). The average size of the brain is different in different groups, but it has been proved and over again that the size of the brain has nothing to do with intelligence. Some of the most brilliant men in the world have had very small brains. And the world's largest brain belongs to an imbecile.

BLOOD: Modern science has revealed that the belief that by mixing people's blood you mix also their physical and mental characteristic is pure superstition. All human blood is the same. Except for one medically important difference. There are four types of blood grouped in groups called O, A, B, and AB, and though blood typed O can be mixed successfully with the other three, none of these three can be mixed with one another without causing blood clotting. These four types of blood are inherited by each child from its ancestors. But Whites, Negroes and Mongols, all races of man have all these blood types. The colour of their skin does not tell to which type they belong.

HOW RACES ARE CLASSIFIED. THREE MAIN RACES

Scientists classify people into three races: The Caucasian (inhabits Europe and a great part of the Near East and India), the Mongolo Race (from the far East, though American Indians are part of this group), and the Negroid. The classification of people into these three race groups is a classification based purely on physical characteristics such as shape, type of hair, skin colour, etc. It has nothing to do with their native intelligence or culture or history.

More crimes against whole communities have been committed in the name of race theories than of any other superstition, so remember that this division is based only on physical characteristics.

And you should also know:

There is no such thing as a Aryan race. (Hitler set about exterminating the Jews because they were not members of his "superior" Aryan race). Who speak a certain group of languages.

The Jews do not form a separate race. The Jews are people who acknowledge the Jewish religion. There are Jews with white skins and Jews in India and Abyssinia who have black skins. The Italians, the French, the Australians, are all nations, not race. The Americans from the United States, who include among themselves probably every racial type in the world, are a nation. The South Africans, of all colours and different histories, are today growing to be a nation.

THE RACES MIXED AND SHARED

The history of the human race is the history of their contacts with one another as the early tribes moved about the earth looking for new pasture lands and new fields to cultivate, and the history of their sharing of the things they had learned to do (their methods) and of their tools and inventions and discoveries. (This can be called culture contact).

First man travelled by foot; later they tamed the horse; then they build great boats rowed by hundreds of men. (The Phoenicians on Mediterranean trading expeditions; the Romans went to Spain, to the British Isles; the Huns swept in through Asia and destroyed the Roman Empire; the Tartars came in from the East. The Mohammedans captured all of North Africa; thousands of Negro slaves have been brought to Europe at various times).

Always the different races and groups moved about and intermarried and exchanged cultures.

The Coloureds are referred to as a mixed race. But all of us have ancestors who came from regions far apart. No group is "pure". The movements of Peoples over the face of the earth inevitably produces race mixture and has done so since before written history began.

CIVILISATION IS THE PROPERTY OF ANY ONE GROUP OF RACE

History proves that progress in civilisation is not THE Monopoly of one race or sub-race.

When the Europeans of Europe were living in the Stone Age, the civilisations of the Babylonians and the Egyptians had already flourished and been eclipsed.

There were great Negro states in Africa when Europe was a sparsely settled forest. Negroes made iron tools and made fine cloth for their clothing when fair-skinned Europeans wore skins and knew nothing ~~xxxxxxx~~ of iron smelting.

What accounts for the different rates at which cultures develop? Since the beginning of history a collection of circumstances has been present first among one people then among another.

The richest cultures have been those most in contact with, and therefore able to be influenced by, and learn by, other surrounding and passing cultures.

Africa's backwardness in methods and techniques is largely accounted for by her geographical isolation.

In the history of the human race there have been many great centres of civilisation and each has had its day and then given way to another. The people change, but the tools, arts and discoveries of their culture pass into the common heritage of mankind.

Inventions, too, Pass from one continent to another. out of the combined knowledge of all peoples, who have passed on ideas and inventions as they mixed and traded with one another - have come the great inventions of the civilisation of the world: massive building, the arts of chemistry, writing, medicine and mathematics, transportation on wheels, printing and gunpowder, power engines. All races have made their contributions to common knowledge.

"White" CIVILISATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

To talk of South Africa owing all to "White civilisation" is inaccurate.

All cultures and civilisations have made their contribution to the civilisation of the people of South Africa, to so-called Western civilisation.

Take just a few instances:

The Chinese first used gunpowder;
To North American Indians we owe maize (mealies) and tobacco;
To the Arabs we owe our system of numbering and counting (1, 2, 3);
First to use alphabets and writing were the Babylonians and Egyptians (they would be called non-Europeans by Malan);
The Africans in the forests smelting iron long before the ancestors of Huguenots and Hollanders who settled here after Van Riebeeck.

In the early Cape the first craftsmen were the Malays. The first cattle were owed by the Hottentots. South Africa's greatest art achievements are the little Bushmen drawings on the walls of caves. The Afrikaans language has borrowed from the Malays, and from English, as English before it borrowed from French, Italian, German and so on.

OUR country would be the poorer in every way if in every phase of its civilisation different cultures had not come together here, sharing and learning from one another.

ARE SOME PEOPLES INFERIOR IN INTELLIGENCE?

An important argument from people who believe in apartheid and race oppression is that some groups are mentally inferior to other.

Differences in the customs of different people are not a matter of race.

One group is not "born" to build skyscrapers, and another to build mud and straw huts.

One group is not "born" knowing how to speak Xosa another English or Afrikaans.

All these things that make up our culture are called Learned behavior. If we are not taught them after we are born, they will not be part of our achievements.

Now, the question is can some be expected to reach greater heights of achievement because of a superior native intelligence?

As far as scientists know today, as a result of years of work on this question of intelligence, All races and groups have their shares of more and less intelligent people. How people score in intelligence tests has a good deal to do with the conditions under which they have grown up, differences in their family income, their education, culture advantages and other opportunities. It has never been proved that people with black skins are mentally inferior to those with yellow or white skins.

As we learn from our culture after we are born, people not given opportunities to learn and develop will in turn be able to use and contribute to their cultures later (The accusation is often levelled that the Reserved are denuded, etc., because the Africans do not farm properly. If they were taught centaur ploughing with tractors and other up-to-date farming methods, their land would no doubt produce more. But Europeans who sue these up-to-date methods were not born knowing them. They had to be taught, and the methods they were taught were not the monopoly of their culture but had been handed down over the years and from the cultures of other groups).

If South Africans want to build a great South African civilisation, then all its people must share fully in it today, so that all can together advance it to new heights.

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