

“Black Lives Matter!”

Six Decades of Being Colored - Negro - Black - African American!

(Includes: How to Make America Greater in 3-Short Years!)

written by

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“Scholarly Writing is the documentation of creative, informative, validated thought research. It includes the opinions of past, current, and future learned scholars. There is, however, One Exception to the Rule . . . “Empirical Knowledge!”

My introspection has witnessed six decades of Colored, Negro, Black, and African American life. My perspectives, while similar to past and current Colored, Negro, Black, and African American thought, are values, biases, and beliefs based on “my” Cultural Lens . . . Only!

Millions have walked in my shoes. Millions have experienced examples of systemic exclusionary practices at every morning Sun. This “Black Lives Matter” article allows America a better understanding of ingrained Colored, Negro, Black, and African American life. It was written to stimulate more positive agenda about our great racial divide. I’m not saying addressing racism will be easy. Instead, suggesting America has an astounding appetite for change!

Adopting Several Principles of Change can make America Greater in three, short years. Initial potential issues were many. This first submission shall address two key issues. The first issue to be addressed is communication. The second issue addresses small minority businesses. Both shall address realities of culture change. They are: (1) Sharing Honest, Objective Introspections of Self to Enhance Learned Perspectives of other Cultures; and, as each American is putting in the work, (2) Address a Business Practice that’s been an economic barrier to “Black Lives Matter” for years!

(Culture-Change challenges listed can be implemented by: Researching Racial Inequality Histories, Identifying Elements of Social Buy-In, Implementing the Plan, Timely Evaluations, and Continual Process Improvements).

How to Make America Greater in 3 Short Years!

Can our nation achieve proactive goals of culture change in three short years? My professional experience acknowledges personal culture change as “generational.” America’s propensity to accept change, in my opinion, is based on early years of formative decision-making. Remember those late teenage to early adult years? When answers to formative questions eventually made you who you are today? Those racial denominators may have been filled with hate, social blame, and discovery. Over “400 years” of hate, social blame, and discovery actually! Black history is never hard to find. Never hard to acknowledge!

(1) Sharing Honest, Objective Introspections about Self and Others . . .

I’ll begin by sharing one of my developmental 1960’s adolescent memories. A special moment comes to mind. I’ve titled that moment . . . “Why did Jim Brown have to die?”

Five Colored, Negro, Black, and African American racially challenged mindsets piled into an old Chevy (with another friend in the trunk). We entered the local white drive-in theatre showcasing our best behavior. The movie that memorable night was “The Dirty Dozen.” The year, 1967. A well-known Negro Football star named Jim Brown was co-starring with current Hollywood mega-stars Lee Marvin, Ernest Borgnine, Telly Savalas, and many famous others.

Our eyes captured the giant Silver Screen as the movie progressed. The knowingly but racist “white elephant” thought in the car? Mr. Jim Brown, a Colored, Negro, Black, African American actor, had to die somewhere within the storyline.

We bet popcorn and licorice sticks on how long it took America’s white audience to witness the killing of Jim Brown. After all, America’s Hollywood made sure Colored, Negro, Black, or African American male actors never survived the movie’s end. Thus, a Chevy filled with few expectations to succeed in white America had to settle on Jim Brown’s inclusion in the movie. Not his ability to survive it.

Our interpretation of a successful Colored, Negro, Black, African American male was influenced the very moment the script eliminated Jim Brown from reality. Thus, the movie had subliminally placed a negative adolescent value on our youngsters’ ability to maneuver the world we lived. The “Dirty Dozen’s” cast included a plethora of famous actors. “Why couldn’t our Jim Brown be the chosen one to survive a German raid?” we silently wondered.

But . . . No Sir. Hollywood’s script demanded Mr. Brown had to die! The movie Director knew it! The entire white audience expected it. Our Black audience, unfortunately . . . tried to keep hope alive! Silly thoughts, indeed. For the record, scriptwriters had already stereotyped Jim Brown, anyway. He was a military prisoner awaiting Death Row for killing white American soldiers over racism issues. We watched as Nazi machine guns shot Jim Brown as he fumbled his final grenade into the bunker fortress. The script had killed our hero on that grey, cobblestoned road.

The audience honked their car horns with approval of Jim Brown’s death. “Oh, well,” we collectively thought. “This was a white drive-in Movie Theatre. And . . . This was the white

America we knew!”

Our young mindsets remained quiet about the social reality we’d witnessed on that Silver Screen. Remained extra quiet about Jim Brown’s demise. After all, “He was the Negro hero at the end, wasn’t he?”

We kept quiet for several years . . . until 1969. Then came a blockbuster . . . Not! It was titled . . . “100 Rifles!” . . . another Jim Brown movie. Jim Brown had a larger role this time. We assumed his character would last well into the movie script.

But guess what we never imagined? Although Burt Reynolds was the white, star, male-actor, the movie featured . . . “Raquel Welch!” . . . one of the world’s finest white “chicks” in Hollywood (I apologize for using “Chick!” It was, however, a socially unacceptable - accepted descriptor back in the day!).

Our mindsets never gambled popcorn or licorice sticks on whether this movie would allow a relationship between a dark-skinned Jim Brown and a white Raquel Welch. Then, it happened! Native Americans were trying to stampede the cattle herd or something like that (Notice my political correctness?). Just before a confrontation of guns and arrows, Raquel Welch poked her head out from behind a large tree trunk, a huge rock, or similar. Ms. Welch’s hair was a total mess. Her twisted lip-gloss and bright blue eyes stared at the magnificent Jim Brown. Did so with a thoroughly satisfying smile.

The smirk on Jim Brown’s face was priceless! His physical demeanor, as he sat on top of that brown stallion, said it all. Yes! It was 1969! Hollywood had uncharacteristically, subliminally allowed for the only assumption an audience could make!

A recently waxed, burgundy, 4-door Chevy Impala filled with Colored, Negro, Black, and African American mindsets realized Jim Brown’s role in the film was coming to an end. After all, he had touched a white woman in full view of white America!

Yup! A Chevy Impala of influential mindsets agreed on two things that night. (1) White people would never, never, never, ever, ever nominate Jim Brown for an Oscar for his role in “100 Rifles!” And (2), Jim Brown would surely hang from the highest Orange Tree in downtown Hollywood! Yet, Jim Brown survived!

(The Great Jim Brown demonstrated how to superbly handle racist and discriminatory practices in life, professional football, and Hollywood! God Bless You, Mr. Jim Brown, for showing America the way!)

I’ve shared this story for a specific reason. Slavery in America had been documented since 1619 – over 400 years ago. The introspection I shared occurred in the 1967 . . . 348 years after slavery.

So . . . “What’s my point?”

The point I’m making is, after 348 years . . . Colored, Negro, Black, and African Americans were still searching for an identity of fairness, racial equality, and humanistic empathy! The current year is 2020! We’re still searching!

I'm sharing this story with all who aren't afraid of sharing a truthful introspection. I'm referring to individual introspections that might have shaped the development of America's racist realities. Honestly doing so may assist questionable attitudes to better understand racist inequalities still ingrained within us a short 60 years later. My specific introspection was simply an attempt to remain honest and objective.

I'm asking, well . . . pleading, for America to follow my lead. Together, as a nation, we can agree to sacrifice more about ourselves to learn more about others. We "should" do it for a better America! We "must" do it for a better America!

A Humanistic Action Plan of Communication, Listening, & Empathy! . . .

This remedy has no boundaries. No barriers. Offers no restrictions to good, better, best solutions to Racism and Inequality! Not one American can legitimately refuse small gatherings of social distancing (5 citizens or less – 6 feet apart) to openly discuss important issues affecting current racist overtones! Sharing honest interpretations of what "Black Lives Matter" really means to a specific culture? Listening . . . Acknowledging . . . Discussing social fears and/or misinterpretations within different mindsets? Introducing honest reality by Communicating, Listening, and Empathizing with neighbors, co-workers, and other interested mindsets? Last, but not least, group members should take an Oath to discuss subsequently learned information.

There should be an American mandate to further address family-related questions about racism in which sincere answers become a prerequisite! Let's face it. There's absolutely no reason America can't responsibly fulfill this Remedy of Communication, Listening, and Empathy!

Now comes the toughest part. The toughest part of any Principle for Change or any upcoming principles is . . . Starting the Process! Three years of Communicating, Listening, and showing Empathy will change America . . . and the World! Let's begin this process, now! Yes?

(2) A Racist Business Practice affecting "Black Lives Matter" for Years . . .

America should be realistic about aspects of economic survival affecting "Black Lives Matter!" How many times have we heard about an inability for Black businesses to succeed? Is said inability to succeed the result of higher Black business loan denials? Are subsequent loan denials based on a bank's demand for higher Black interest rates and higher collateral versus other businesses? Or . . . are Black business failures caused partly because of a significant, less documented, business exclusionary issue? I'm going to talk about the latter.

Transparency is desired. I'll use my attempt at small business success as an example. It's not a secret. Local bankers utilize Black deposits to invest elsewhere. The best Black business plan possible means absolutely nothing unless you have enough collateral to protect the loan if you fail.

The question becomes "Should you risk equity in your home . . . the children's college fund . . . or a 25-year retirement pension to follow that highly sought-after economic dream?"

Another important systemic consideration? Colored, Negro, Black, and African American heritages have acquired little to no wealth over 400 years of being occupied properties. Black investors have no financial back-up plan if failure instead of success comes a-knockin'! Success, therefore, must be captured in the Black businesses' first attempt or life will change to the negative . . . forever! Risk decisions are rendered. Financial capital decided. Implementation begins! You're smarter . . . better than the competition.

Until the unexpected becomes reality. Vendors' "Accounts Payable" personnel place your invoices in the "to be paid later box!" This unforeseen action represents a tremendous detriment to the strongest of any business plan. Your contract demanded a 30-day turn-around for invoices submitted.

Yet, 60-days expired. Nothing arrives in the mail. Personal back-up savings have kept your small business plan afloat. Invoices finally arrived after 90-days . . . but only 50 percent of invoices submitted were honored. You're grateful for 50 percent and move forward. Unfortunately, the unpaid 50 percent of invoices represented your working capital and profit level.

Another 30-days have left the calendar. Another 60-days of unpaid invoices. Vendors have transferred your over 400 years of Colored, Black, Negro, and African American invoices to a permanent 90-day pay cycle . . . if not longer. Yes. Another 90-days or more to go before only 50-percent of past-due invoices are paid. Account Payables now overlap your Account Receivables by at least 6-months. Payroll and the cost of doing business becomes questionable. Vendors, thus, have unreasonably labeled you as an inept, minority, uncaptialized troublemaker.

Your impatience for payment provokes an official complaint to the Vendors' upper level executives. Vendors simply explain to their bosses that your particular Colored, Negro, Black, or African American business plan should've been better capitalized just in case they, white vendors, used your monthly invoice money to pay other, more important business partners.

Six months of back-up capital have vanished. You've failed. Nobody wants to hear about your pathetic inability to properly manage money. Thirty long years of a hard-earned pension is now down the drain. College funds are gone. Your family won't accept excuses. Your product stalls.

The Vendor's newly appointed white Minority Contract Supervisor doesn't like your failed business relationship. Readily identifies another Minority Small Business to perform the same function. You've witnessed first-hand as white Minority Business invoices were paid on time . . . every time! Well, you get the picture. You'll be labeled a failure by all who warned you of failure before you accepted the risk! You've squandered this life away . . . simply because you've desired to be a success!

Based on the lowest level of business deceit, you've become a Black business failure statistic for reasons not documented. Do all the research you want. You'll find it very hard to secure any documentation on how many Black Minority Businesses failed because they were demoted to the bottom of the Accounts Payable Chain. A pretty good business plan. Decent

capital reserves. The best product. Throw all three positives out the window. Your life changed for the worst because of the unforeseen. A Vendor's racist business decision placed your invoices on the bottom of the pile. Not because you deserved it . . . but because (1) the white vendor felt entitled to do so; and (2) you had no economic recourse whatsoever! Your complaints about Accounts Payables would be minimal – at best.

Black Business plans should expect the unexpected. Unless you have an honorable Government Contract in-hand, never underestimate needs for unforeseen capital. Three to six months of back-up funds may and can fall short of business realities. White Small Businesses have access to more startup capital than Black Small Businesses. White Small Businesses have financial safety nets within the family when needed. Banking institutions take more risks with white start-up businesses because of long-standing family rapport and association. White small business ownership comes from a previous family business example of entrepreneurship. Previous Black business ownership has not grown to that level.

Collecting Accounts Receivables as promised is key to any business survival. Black Businesses are no different – if not more reliant on timely invoice processing. Capital intensive Black businesses must prepare for unexpected invoicing procedures. Initial contract wording should address payment schedules. If a Vendor has an unreliable Accounts Payable structure, that Vendor may not be the best choice for your product.

Unknown Racist Business Practices and Decision-Making are Systemic Caveats. Don't underestimate dangerous effects that compromise levels of success and/or failure. Coloreds, Negroes, Blacks, and African Americans will only get one opportunity to succeed in business! We must make the most of it!

Up-coming Segments?

(3) Anti-Racism Educational Safety Nets for All Americans! (4) Practicing Communication with Respectful, Inclusionary Pronouns!

Thank You for Reading this Segment of "Six Decades of Being Colored, Negro, Black, & African American!" Please Share with your Social Network wherever possible! Take a moment. Peruse American Online Bookstore for more Sir "Wolfdog" Lanier-French's Scholarly writing!

Mercy!