

## *“Black Lives Matter Article”*

### **“Six Decades of Being Colored - Negro - Black & African American!”**

(Includes: How to Change American Culture in 3 Short Years)

by

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Scholarly Writing is the documentation of creative, informative, and validated thought research. It includes the opinions of past, current, and future learned scholars. There is, in my professional opinion, an exception to the rule. That exception . . . “Empirical Knowledge!”

My introspections were developed from six decades of Colored, Negro, Black, and African American life. These perspectives, while similar to past and current thought, are values, biases, and beliefs based on “my” Cultural Lens . . . Only! As you peruse this article, there will be no documented research from other learned scholars. There will be no footnotes from unknown researchers. I’ll need no other researchers’ worldviews to validate what I’ve personally observed in this American country for many decades. This article is filled with opinions. My opinions. From “my” heart and “my” conscious only! I’ve decided to write this for me . . . and for all the silent voices who think as I do but have no platform to speak.

Millions have walked in our shoes. Millions have experienced examples of systemic exclusionary practices at every morning Sun. This “Black Lives Matter Article” attempts to give all American citizens an opportunity to gain a better understanding of negatively ingrained Colored, Negro, Black, and African American life. This document is also being written to stimulate positive agendas about our racial divide. Not suggesting that addressing racism is easy. But, instead, acknowledging that the other America I know has an astounding appetite for positive change. Therefore, and again, in my professional opinion only, adopting several “Principles of Change” should enhance America’s overall culture over a minimum duration of three short years.

Three years may sound subjective . . . maybe a bit arbitrary. It would involve 75-percent of American involvement – the elderly and the young. The number of years chosen are based on my ideology for measuring an ability for humanistic change. Three years of the following principles may (or may not) affect the change we seek. The noted years for minimal change is based on a measurement I’ve professionally suggested for corporate culture changes.

The first Principle of Change is communication. The second Principle relates to minority economic entitlements - both are issues affecting realities of culture change.

Communication (1) shares honest, objective introspections of “self” to enhance one’s perspectives of other cultures; and (2) as interested American mindsets are putting in the personal work to accept change, they should also become aware of business practices that have been economic barriers to minorities for years! Both are addressed within.

(Culture-Change principles noted 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 Change America's Culture 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, again in my professional 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 denominators may have been filled with hate, social blame, and non-humanistic discovery. Over 400 years of hate, social blame, and non-humanistic discovery actually! Black history, however, is never hard to rediscover. Never hard to re-acknowledge!

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

I'll begin my suggested process by sharing one of my secret adolescent introspections. I have never shared this introspection with anyone before this day. The special adolescent moment I'm referring to has since been personally titled, . . . "Why did James Nathaniel Brown (NFL's famous Jim Brown) have to die in that movie?"

"Five Colored, Negro, Black, and African American racially challenged males 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 was in a movie with 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 racist "white elephant" in the car was an actor. Mr. Jim Brown - a Colored, Negro, Black, African American actor - was surely gonna' get killed somewhere within the evening's storyline. We bet popcorn and licorice sticks on when this moment would occur. America's white audience would also witness the death of actor Jim Brown. After all, Hollywood made sure Colored, Negro, Black, and African American males never survived a movie's end.

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 moment the script eliminated Jim Brown from reality. Thus, this movie had subliminally placed a negative adolescent value on our younger abilities to successfully maneuver the world we lived.

The "Dirty Dozen's" cast included a plethora of well-known stars. "Why couldn't our Jim Brown have the chosen script that would survive that German raid?" we silently wondered.

But . . . No Sir-ree! A Hollywood Director demanded Mr. James Nathaniel Brown had to die before the movie ended. The movie's director knew it. The white audience at the drive-in theatre expected it. Our Chevy's audience, unfortunately . . . tried to keep hope alive! Silly thoughts indeed, huh?

For the record, the scriptwriters had stereotyped Mr. Jim Brown, anyway. He was already a military prisoner awaiting Death Row for killing a white-American soldier over a stupid racial issue.

His prison sentence mattered little. Our 16-year-old wide-opened eyes witnessed his unwanted demise. We bit our tongues as German guns blasted our very own Mr. Jim Brown as he "fumbled" his last grenade into the under-ground bunker. Thus, at that very moment, the script had destroyed America's one and only Black football hero. Gloriously, it took a boatload of machine-gun bullets to drop him.

Mr. James Nathaniel Brown died on that lonely, grey, cobble-stoned road. The lesson learned was one of culture. We, a group of Colored, Negro, Black, and African American males, should aim to be the best at something . . . but not expect a level playing field with life in these United States of America (another simple example of being deemed . . . "less than")

The drive-in theatre's audience honked their car horns approving that "uppity" Jim Brown's well-executed death. "Oh, Gosh Darn It!" we collectively thought. We then quickly and quietly remembered . . . "This was a white drive-in Movie Theatre . . . in a suburban all-white town . . . well within the white America we kinda' knew about!" Our young mouths 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 of the picture show . . . Wasn't he?"

We kept our opinions about this particular movie quiet for several years . . . until 1969! Then came another blockbuster . . . Not! It was titled, "100 Rifles!" . . . another Mr. Jim Brown movie. Mr. Brown had a starring role because the font in his name was bigger than the others. We assumed his movie character, this time, would last well into the script.

Guess what we never imagined? Burt Reynolds was the featured male actor in the movie. Yet, there stood "Raquel Welch!" - one of the finest white "chicks" in Hollywood, It turned out she was the real star of the show (apologize for using "chick!" It was a socially unacceptable - acceptable descriptor back in the day).

We never gambled our licorice sticks on whether a movie producer would allow a relationship between a dark-skinned Jim Brown and a white Raquel Welch.

Then, it happened! Native Americans were trying to stampede a herd of cattle or something over Jim Brown's cowboy crew (Notice my political correctness?). Just before a confrontation of real guns versus fake arrows, that Ms. Raquel Welch poked her head out from behind a large rock, tree or some bushes. Raquel Welch's hair (ahem) was a total mess! Her lip-gloss was twisted. And her bright blue eyes stared at our own Mr. James Nathaniel Brown with a smile of satisfaction.

A sneaky camera angle quickly zeroed in on Jim Brown. His returned smirk to that Welch lady was . . . priceless! His physical demeanor, as he sat on top of that huge brown stallion, said it all. That's right! It was only 1969! Hollywood had subliminally allowed for the only assumption a racially divided audience could make! Our mindsets were too young to believe it. The audience wasn't too pleased of that assumption either.

The recently waxed, burgundy, 4-door Chevy Impala, filled with Colored, Negro, Black, and African American minds all realized one thing. Jim Brown's acting career on the Silver Screen was coming to a screeching halt! We knew this because James Nathaniel Brown had touched a white woman in full view of white America!

Yup! A Chevy Impala filled with influential youngsters agreed on two things that night. (1) White people would never, never, never, ever nominate Jim Brown for a "Movie Oscar" for his role in "100 Rifles!" And (2), Jim Brown was surely gonna' hang from the highest Orange Tree on Hollywood's Rodeo Drive! Yet . . . Jim Brown survived! We still don't know how that is?

(The Great James Nathaniel Brown (Jim Brown) demonstrated how to superbly handle racist and discriminatory practices in life, professional football, and on the Hollywood Silver Screen! 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! The introspection I shared occurred in the 1967 . . . 348 years after slavery.

So . . . "What's another point to my story?" The point is that, after 348 years, Colored, Negro, Black, and African Americans are still searching for an identity of fairness, racial equality, and humanistic empathy! The current year is 2021! And . . . we're still searching!

I'm also sharing this story with all who aren't afraid of acknowledging a truthful introspection of themselves. I'm referring to a single example of individual introspection that may have shaped your or America's current racist realities. Honestly doing so might assist questionable attitudes to better understand racist inequalities ingrained within our community a lengthy but short 60 years later. My introspection was simply an example to remain honestly objective.

I'm asking . . . pleading . . . for America to follow my lead. Together, as a nation, we should 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 future 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 social distancing (6-feet apart) to openly discuss issues affecting current racist overtones. To share honest interpretations of what "Black Lives Matter" really means? Listening . . . acknowledging . . . and discussing social fears and/or misinterpretations within different mindsets? Introducing honest realities by communicating, and empathizing with neighbors, co-workers, and other interested communities? And last, but not least, each group member should take an Oath to discuss subsequently learned information within family.

There should be an American mandate to address family-related questions on the topic of racism. Sincere answers must become prerequisites. Let's face it. There's absolutely no reason America can't handle remedies of Communication, Listening, and Empathy. Now comes the toughest part. The toughest part of any Principle for Change is simply . . . Starting the Process! Three years of Communicating, Listening, and showing Empathy will change America . . . and the World! Let's begin this process, now! Shall we?

## **(2) Racist Business Practices 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 the result of higher Black business loan denials? Are subsequent loan denials based on a bank's demand for higher interest rates and collateral versus other businesses? Or . . . are Black business failures caused partly because of a significant, less documented, business exclusionary issue? I'll discuss the latter.

Transparency is desired. I'll use my attempt at small business success as an example. It's not a secret. Local bankers utilized Black deposits to invest elsewhere. The best Black business plan available means absolutely nothing unless you have enough collateral to protect the loan. The question becomes "Should you risk the equity in your home - your children's college fund - or your retirement pension to follow that highly sought-after economic dream?"

Here's another 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 a Black businesses' first attempt or the family's life will change to the negative . . . forever!

Risky decisions were adopted as we sought attempts for a more successful life. Financial capital was introduced, and the implementation of our new business proposal began. We've made life-changing decisions because we thought we were smarter . . . thought we were better than our competition. We're the best at what we do until the unexpected becomes reality.

Vendors' "Accounts Payable" Personnel easily placed our unpaid invoices on the bottom of the "to be paid later box!" This unforeseen action represents a tremendous detriment to the strongest part of any previously approved business plan.

Our contract demanded a 30-day turn-around for invoices submitted. Yet, 60-days had passed. No paid invoices have arrived in the mail. Our personal back-up savings have kept your small but excellent business plan afloat.

Our over-due invoices have finally arrived. They are 90-days late and only 50-percent of unpaid invoices submitted were honored. We're grateful for the 50-percent of invoices honored and we've move forward. Unfortunately, the unpaid percent of invoices represented our working capital and profit level. Too bad.

Another 30-days have left the calendar. Thus, another 60-days of unpaid invoices. We, vendors, have transferred our 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 before only 50-percent of our past-due invoices are paid. Account Payables now overlap our Account Receivables by at least 6-months. Payroll and the cost of doing business becomes questionable. We, minority vendors, have unreasonably been labeled as inept, under-capitalized minority troublemakers.

Our impatience for payment provokes an official complaint to the Vendors' upper level executives. Vendor management explains to their bosses that our Colored, Negro, Black, or African American business plans should've been better capitalized from the start. Better capitalized in case our designated monthly invoice money was needed to pay a vendor's more important business partner's debt.

Six months of our back-up capital have vanished. We've failed. Nobody wants to hear our pathetic inability to properly manage money. Thirty years of our hard-earned pensions are down the drain. Future college funds have vanished. Our spouses won't accept any more excuse. Our better than average product stalls. The Vendor's newly appointed Minority Contract Supervisor doesn't like our failed business relationships. Readily identifies another (unsuspecting) Minority Businessman to perform the same function for a lesser contract.

We've witnessed the process first-hand. White Minority Business invoices were paid on time. Well, we've gotten the picture. We're labeled a failure by all who warned us of failure before we accepted the risk. We've squandered our financial lives away . . . simply because we desired to become a more successful member of society! The American Dream!

Based on the lowest level of business deceit, we've become a Black business failure. We've become a statistic for reasons not well documented. Do all the research you want. It's almost impossible to secure documentation on how many Black Minority Businesses failed because they were demoted to the "bottom" of the Accounts Payable Chain.

An excellent Business Plan? Decent capital in reserve? The best product on the market? Throw these three basic positives out the window.

Our financial life changed for the worst because of the unforeseen. A vendor's racist control over our business success placed our invoices on the bottom of the payment pile. Not because we deserved it . . . but because (1) racism felt entitled to do so; and (2) we had no economic recourse, whatsoever! Our complaints about Accounts Payable practices would be minimal - at best.

Black Business plans must now expect the unexpected. Unless you possess an honorable Government Contract, never underestimate needs for unforeseen capital. Three to six months of back-up funds may and do fall short of real business realities.

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White Small Businesses have access to more start-up capital than Black Small Businesses. White Small Businesses have possible 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 may come from a previous family business example of successful entrepreneurship. Previous Black business ownership has not grown to any significant 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 time and energy.

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

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### 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 the American Online Bookstore for more Sir "Wolfdogg" Lanier-French's Scholarly writing!*

*Mercy!*

*Sir "Wolfdogg" Lanier-French*