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TOPIC: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF RACISM AND ITS ORIGIN

*Racism is the belief that groups of humans possess different behavioral traits corresponding to physical appearance and can be divided based on the superiority of one race over another. It may also mean prejudice , discrimination , or antagonism directed against other people because they are of a different race or ethnicity . Modern variants of racism are often based in social perceptions of biological differences between peoples. These views can take the form of social , practices or beliefs, or political systems in which different races are ranked as inherently superior or inferior to each other, based on presumed shared inheritable traits, abilities, or qualities.*

*Racism has been defined in many different ways, but four features of these definitions are most significant. First, racism is a form of dominance in which one racial group enjoys control over the outcomes of another racial group. The dominant racial group exercises its power to the persistent disadvantage of the subordinate group. Second, the beliefs that sustain and rationalize group dominance presume the superiority of the in–group and the inferiority of the out–group. Third, racism is a multilevel phenomenon that is expressed by individuals (micro level), is critically influenced by institutions (meso level), and deeply embedded in the entire culture (macro level). Influences among the levels are bidirectional and evolve and change over time. Fourth, racism contributes directly and indirectly to persistent racial inequality. Individual–level racism is most similar to racial prejudice and is based on persistent in-group preference. It differs from prejudice in that dislike or discomfort with out–group members is further complicated by feelings of in–group superiority. At the individual level, negative attitudes, feelings, or behaviors are directed at the targets of racism. These negative expressions of racism may be intentional, as in dominative racism, or unintentional (or without awareness) as in aversive racism. Discrimination is an aspect of individual–level racial dynamics in that it captures the disparity in behaviors directed at members of one’s own and another racial group. The most common forms of discrimination involve more negative or less positive behaviors directed at out–group members relative to in–group members. Prejudice is usually linked to negative stereotypes held about an out–group and applied to behavior directed at members of that group, regardless of whether or not they fit the group stereotype Racism has been—and unfortunately still is—such a prominent feature of so many human societies that it might be tempting to think of it as somehow "natural" or "innate."*

*Indeed, this is the conclusion that some evolutionary psychologists have come to.*[*Evolutionary psychology*](https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/evolutionary-psychology)*tries to account for present-day human traits in terms of the survival benefit they might have had to our ancestors. If a trait has survived and become prevalent, then the*[*genes*](https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/genetics) *associated with it must have been "selected" by evolution.*

HOW DO RACIST PEOPLE THINK?

*We can already picture the discrimination and of a certain type of people over others in our environment. Take for instance tribalism in Nigeria, most Nigerians have certain prejudice towards other tribes before or even they meet them. This is due to the environment they live in, their family background or cultural history and also certain factors. This pent up prejudice that people have has created a certain discrimination among races in the world. Racist people often think that they have more superiority to some race.*

*The white people who enslave the blacks’ certain years back is still registered in some of their existing generations in the modern age, in which they still see blacks as nothing but a mere slave, such prejudice has been imprinted and may likely be passed down to future generations. “Racism is the color of the mind not the color of the skin” is a quote that explains the word race itself. We all evolved from the homo sapiens that existed in Africa but genetic variation and certain adaptation has separated humans into races. But the fascinating thing is that why are people still racist even after all the books, videos, articles being made for antiracism, it is because of the way we take on the views of people around us, we only move or hang out with people of our kind, we are quick to judge and we blame others for our own problems.*

*In conclusion there is no reason or excuse on why a person should discriminate or look down on other races cause of their skin color or language. I believe we’re developed enough to move past racism.*