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Racial Inequality and Some Examples

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Abstract. Racism is a movement which regards superiority to the biological and genetic characteristics obtaining from the birth. It grounds on the biological superiority in the cause and effect relationships of the social and politic instances. Racism emerged as color racism in its most primitive mean then evolved into skull and blood racism types. According to superior race approach, the humiliated races were born to give service to and help the superior race. We cannot declare that neither Enlightenment and Humanism movements from the though movements developed in West nor human rights ideology was successful to eliminate the racism in the world. We observe that racism which is the effort to create unphysical qualifications from physical qualifications is utilized for colonial empires of Europe. It is well known that European countries started colonization fights for Africa, America, Asia and Oceania in order to handle the raw material need which was increased after the Industrial Period in the 19th century. The countries had used to think that colonization was the justified result which was derived from the management right of “superior race” to which they belonged. Additionally, this idea was not only adapted by state governors but also adapted by religion people, science people and thought leaders while they regarded this situation as a natural result of the process. This view of point is clearly seen on their studies. According to the result of the “Conference of Defining Racism” organized in Paris, 1967 by UNESCO; racism is a movement which was created in order to justify the invasions, slavery and colonialism.

Keywords. Sociology of Economics

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1. Introduction

Racism and racist discrimination has always been one of the most important problems for humankind in various periods in the history. It is widely known and a realized truth with human-experience that racism, which takes ground on the approach of that a group members receive themselves superior and establish domination over other groups, bring human rights’ violations, cause insecurity and wars, and create serious problems for communities. Therefore, racism was a refused subject in the human rights declarations.

In the declaration which United Nations (UN) approved under the title of universal human rights declaration in the year of 1948, all people are free and equal was emphasized so that discrimination was refused. Likewise, all kinds of discrimination were refused as several times emphasizing of the equality among people in the various documents which were approved in the following years within the same contents by UN. In this framework, we can mention 1965 convention which refused all kinds of racist discrimination and likewise 1973

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convention which prohibited and envisaged punishment of Apartheid homicide. Racism was in particularly refused in these conventions.

We cannot declare that neither Enlightenment and Humanism movements from the though movements developed in West nor human rights ideology was successful to eliminate the racism in the world. Moreover, we observe that racism which is the effort to create unphysical qualifications from physical qualifications is utilized for colonial empires of Europe. In this context, we can state that Europe-centered white racism was practice and ideology of elite including traders, land owners and bankers.

It is well known that European countries started colonization fights for Africa, America, Asia and Oceania in order to handle the raw material need which was increased after the Industrial Period in the 19th century. The countries had used to think that colonization was the justified result which was derived from the management right of “superior race” to which they belonged; additionally, this idea was not only adapted by state governors but also adapted by religion people, science people and thought leaders while they regarded this situation as a natural result of the process. It could be seen that similar thoughts were located in the books of scholars including Locke, Kant, Hegel and Leibniz. Accordingly, we can state that the racism, which especially was rooted in Europe, had closely associated with the colonial history of these communities. Furthermore, according to the result of the “Conference of Defining Racism” organized in Paris, 1967 by UNESCO; racism is a movement which was created in order to justify the invasions, slavery and colonialism.

The colonial period which continued till the mid of the 20th century gave birth to such applications including racist discrimination and slavery in United States of America and Apartheid in South African Republic.

In 1930s, reflections were experienced not only in science area but also social areas in Hitler’s Germany and then went on as a political movement. Moreover, it was experienced as Slavic racism in Stalin’s Russia and Mussolini’s Italy. National Socialism in Germany and fascism in Italy became successful as taking benefit out of world political conjuncture of 1930s. Today, racism continued as examples of Helen racism in West Thrace, Bulgarian racism in Bulgaria, Arab racism in Iraq, color racism in South Africa (Erkal et al.,1997:136).

2. Race and Racism

Race puts forward peoples’ physical and biological differences which are similar to each other and obtained through birth. There are physical similarities among people as there are differences, too. Such differences including skin color, and face shape are said to create the concept of race by sociologists (Newman, 2013: 175). The concept of race is classified according to peoples’ physical and genetic characteristics and has been a subject of academic researches. It emerged as hierarchical structures in the relationships among people (for example; Master-slave, exploiter-exploited, developed-undeveloped, Western or Barbarian) (Sumbaş, 2009: 264).

In other words, race plays a separating role depending on the people’s genetic and inherited characteristics. However, the concept of race could not easily be simplified in this level. The fact that skin color of the people who live in Kalahari Desert in South Africa is black and also their eyes are slant-eyed same as the community of East Asia makes difficult to give an exact definition of the concept of race. As another example; there are three different races in Brazil as branco (white), preto (black) and pardo (hybrid); however Brazilian people define the concept of race in the usual race concept. According to Brazilians, race is regarded

as a phenomenon which can be lifted upper class depending on the education and economic successes. The concept of race lost its effects a bit because people have immigrated since the first human landed in the world. Because people constantly have had relationships with people in other races so that they hybridized. According to some researches, the phenomenon that at least 75% of the total human kind have one white ancestor is claimed (Newman, 2013: 175).

There are amplitude studies focusing on the classification of races in the world, made by researchers. Some of the authors determined that there are four or five human races while some of them claim that there are up to three dozen of main races. On the other hand, there are many exceptions which made the usefulness of these studies make disappear. For example, one of the most commonly used type is black race; the dark colored-skin of these are prone to be curly haired. However, the primitive locals found in Australia had dark colored-skins however they were straight and blonde haired. Because of these kinds of exceptions, the concept of race has never been clarified and be landed on grounds. Accordingly, many biologist, anthropologist and sociologist support that the conceptualization of race concept should be fully left (Giddens, 2010: 24).

It is stated that race has been experienced in many periods in the human history and also in every community at least in a limited degree. The basics of racism in terms of theoretical means were put forward in West by intellectuals. David Hume stated that “Blacks and other creatures are inferior to white people by nature” in his study named “Origins of Nations” in the year of 1748. Locke accepted the notion of slavery of innocent people in Africa and Hegel declared that black people are disgrace of people. Likewise, Montesquie stated that individual’s characteristics could differentiate depending on the environmental factors. As could be seen in these examples, racial inequality could be regarded as disgrace of enlightenment. If you ask the random person on outside about racism, they could define it as “the notion that people hate other people in different races or the attempts to have removing or excluding behaviors for other people in different races as attacking them” (Sumbaş, 2009: 265).

French sociologist, who carried out many studies about racism in the 20th century, mentioned four phases while trying to provide answer to the question of “Does country experience racism? (Somersan, 2009: 9):

- **Sub-Racism:** Rather than being communal, this phase includes relatively individuals’ behaviors, attitudes and ideas. Calling them racist could be wrong. Receiving them as attitudes and behaviors deriving from xenophobia could be more accurate.
- **Divided Racism:** This phase is more dominant comparing to sub-racism which is weaker and not mentioned well. In the divided racism, racism is regarded as a basic problem. It does not constitute an overall situation since a powerful political idea is not utilized.
- **Political Racism:** It is caused by launching of the political and intellectual discussions in terms of racism and by that politics forces give characteristics to the instances. It generally states that some of the problems are tried to be defined as tangibly and on the other hand, forms of structures are practically established.
- **Full Racism:** It is defined as a phase in which the state is formed depending on the racist principles. Slavery periods, not giving right to vote and to be elected for the back people lived in united States of America before the year of 1964, removing Romans outside of the territorial boundaries of France in the year of 2010, not regarding Kurdish people as citizen in Syria today, blacks in South Africa was only able to enter the city in which they worked via their passports before the year of 1990 could be given as example for full racism.

To simplify racism to some more extend, Wieviorka analyzed these four categories under two main titles as Politics-racist inequality in six phases and political racist inequality (Somersan, 2009: 9).

Racism is found in today's world generally in two ways: Classic racism (Physical Racism-Inequality) and new racism (Cultural Racism). Classic racism is generally depended on inherited, physical and biological foundations. Biology and genetic sciences bring forward that physical or biological discriminations among people cannot be made in globalization world. This depicts that discrimination cannot be applied and racism will end up. New racism emerged after those racist discriminations lost its roots in terms of scientific developments. Balibar created a concept as "racism without race". According to racism without race, racist signs and physical signs are very important. According to Castoriadis, racism is evaluated as "an idea of hating someone". Doubtless to say that racist inequality is a concept which has sharp and serious language in the world" (Sumbaş, 2009: 266).

Cultural racism is a replay of justification efforts, which were spent on the racism in the 19th century utilizing scientific foundations, in cultural respective. Here, rather than emphasizing the idea that "white" is superior over others, but the idea that "Europe culture" is superior over other is emphasized (Karaşahan, 2010: 22).

3. Racist Inequality Examples

Racism, in general speaking, is generation of a notion that people regard their nation is superior over other nations. Racism was given birth with Pharaoh in Egypt in the ancient periods. People encountered various racist discourses throughout the history. It is very difficult for racist communities to live in other communities since they receive themselves superior over others. No country in the world has ever been established by sole race and sole ethnic group. Black-White struggles in United States of America, Jewish massacre of Nazi's Germany, attempts of Israel to Philistine and racist movements of Chinese to Uygur Turkish community which still continue can be given examples of racist inequality which causes many people to die in the world (Bulut, 2011: 4).

3.1. Racism in USA: Black-White Separation

Such products including sugar, tobacco, cotton and spices had quite high effects on the world economy in the 16th century. A small colony like Saint Domingue (Haiti) composed of 40% of total foreign trade of France in the year of 1789. The products which were very important for world trade gave rise to migration movements. Firstly British, Scandinavian folks and French people moved to America. Following times German, Middle Europe folks, Slav and Italian people migrated to America. It was observed that Portugal and Spanish traders attempted to follow a trade operation which was crime against humanity. Not only they sufficed to buy and sell cotton, wood or ivory, they also turned people out a tradable object. They carried black people which were collected in Africa to America and sold them to their American white bosses like a commodity (Alexander, 1968: 1). According to Hobsbawm, overseas colonization and focus on the underdeveloped countries; likewise a successful battle for not to lose these to any other countries were the main factors of the industrial revolution (Hobsbawm, 1998:50).

During 50 years following the revolution, slaves were not regarded an important labor force. Land owner intellectuals preferred trusting labor force provided by white people who worked with a contract. However, over times, the price of slaves and the amount immigrant who wanted to associate to an employer with a contract

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declined. With the reduction of the slave labor force price, slavery increased constantly. The children of slave women were accepted as a slave. Slave owners were given right to kill their slaves while punishing them. After slave trade was prohibited in America in the year of 1808, the total amount of slave reached to 1,2 million. Before civil war, the amount was suggested as up to 4 million. Slavery which brought African to America eliminated the chance of taking benefit of freedom which European-based Americans enjoyed. Slave trade was lasted about 200 years. In solely these 200 years of slave trade, approximately 2 million 600 thousand slaves were brought to America (Friedman, M. J., 2010: 5).

Black slaves who were brought to America were forced to work on the most difficult and harsh works. They cleaned the roads, built the railroads and moreover they were not only forced to work but also they had to participate to the wars. They were soldiers for the wars of French-American, American-British, and American Independence Wars which were happened in the slave trade periods. In the American Independence Declaration in July, 4, 1776; "Every people are equal. They have certain unalienable rights given by their creators. These rights include life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness (Şenel, 1993: 54).

A letter of Abraham Lincoln, who fought in political level for abolition of slavery, written in 1858 is as follows: "I believe that the physical differences between blacks and whites will not cause them to live together in communal and political equality." Actually, the main reason of abolition of slavery is rooted to independent labor requirements of industrialized North. Once black people were considered as in freedom, more than 5 thousand black people were killed in South as a reaction to Reconstruction Act which was distributed by North in 1867 as opposed to South's "black laws" which were used to limit black people rights (Şenel, 1993: 54).

As being lynching "Jungle Laws", which were opposed to the equity targeting laws Reconstruction Act in 1867, were applied over black people. White people were killed in an amount more than black people in 1880s however this situation was altered to blacks' disadvantage over the years. Between the years of 1882-1888 595 white and 440 black were killed through lynching and the numbers changed as 650 black and 61 white during the period of 1906-1915. In 1930 when unemployment increased and economic difficulties arose, 241 different occurrences were experienced. Majority of the occurrences were happened by lower classes. The "equality" issue of Federal Law with the Jim Crow law in 1875 "was interpreted as to offer equal public service for black people and concedingly, Supreme Court regarded them to equal but separate so that racial inequality in America was restructured with legal manners. The example of a university in Oklahoma placed the seats of black people, who were accepted by the university by force, outside of the classes as implementing this law shows the way of utilizing the equal but different rights (Şenel, 1993: 83-84).

Black-white discrimination was lasted in America for long times and it is a doubtless truth that many innocent black people were killed. According to white people, black people created praiseworthy conditions in the lands they were not even considered as of humankind (Friedman, M. J., 2010: 67).

On the other hand, Barack Obama as being a son of Kenyan father and mother from Kansas City was elected to the president of the United States of America in 2008. Barack Obama stated about the discrimination issue of the United States of America in an election campaign speech: "The answer of slavery problem is embedded in our constitution. A constitution which carries equality citizenship principle in legal manner; a constitution which promises unity feeling to become perfect and also must be perfect within freedom, justice and time. He stated the followings in the election celebration evening: "For those who doubts the

possibility of anything in the United States of America; who questions the power of democracy and wonders whether the dreams of our ancestors are alive or not; this evening is an answer for you.” (Friedman, M. J., 2010: 67).

3.2. Racism in Germany and Holocaust

Modern hierarchic structure which industrialized countries have and advanced technology gave a new level to racist inequality in the ruler-ship of National Socialism since 20th century. Hitler’s presidency in 1932 was very important for Germans. “Nazification period” can be used for Germany to call the era for the Hitler’s government. As being one of the main principles of National Socialism became the dominant factor determining the policies including health, marriage and population planning areas (Asker, 2012: 81).

Hitler announced a declaration consisting of twenty-five articles in the presidency of National Socialist Party and with this declaration; the foundations of the party were clearly defined. Some of the articles of this declaration are as follows (Con 2008: 26):

- *Racism in National Level:* Emphasizing the superiority of German race comparing all of the other races, discrimination was made for advantage of the people who carry German blood and it is announced that only German blood carrying people would be accepted as citizen.
- *A real German media would be established:* Removing the Jews activities in German media was emphasized and the necessity of establishing German media was brought forward.
- *Roma Law should be replaced by German Law:* The Law should be in compliance with the nations’ thoughts. Hitler used the law as a propaganda tool for his politic.
- *Religious Believes:* Religious believes which were not dangerous to German State existence and German race would be free.
- *Territory should be expanded in order to meet the demands of German race and employ the increasing German population.*

Additionally, Hitler excluded the “heterogeneous politic factors” (Socialists and communists). Besides of these implementations, he used military methods and mobilized the workers. Germans, who used to normally accept working with very low rates, gladly registered to battalions which were structured based on war discipline. By Hitler, German economy experienced a growth. An opportunity to buy cheap goods for even the poorest people was provided. Strowsky declared that “German nationalization is a big threat for the World” (Yüksel 2004: 299).

Additionally, the items defined in the law came to force in the year of 1992 for public servants in Germany were classified into two as being Arian-kind and not Arian-kind. With not Arian-kind, Jews were targeted. Word of foreign was used for Gypsies and other races from Europe, except Jews. Johannes Ruppert was illegitimate child of an Ottoman soldier named Ali Rıza who was in German during the First World War and of a German lady named Pauline Mann. He applied for gymnasium teacher positions in the organizations to which he was a member. Rupert was suggested to leave the Hitler youth organization since his father was Turkish and so that he was not a pure Arian (Asker, 2012: 87).

National Socialist Party made its first attempts to damage Jews financially in 1933. Doctor Herha Nathorf stated about what she saw in April, 1933: I brandingly scratched that day to my heart. I could not believe those happening in the 20th century. Young boys took a line in Jewish stores, bureaus and restaurants with posters written do not make shopping with Jewish, do not go to Jewish doctors, Jewish are liar and fraud” (Bruchelt and Levine 1999: 18).

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Yugoslavia was conquered by Germans in 1941. Nearly 80,000 Jewish were living in Yugoslavia. After the conquering, Germans made Jewish people work by force and destroyed their belongings. Mass arrestments started in August, 1941 and majority of Serbian Jewish people were killed. Only a few hundreds of Serbian Jewish left alive in 1942. Croatia made an alliance with Germany in the Second World War. Jewish people were forced to carry a yellow star symbolizing psalmist and their belongings were seized. Thousands of Serbian and 20,000 of 30,000 Jewish were killed in Jasenovac concentration camps. 60,000 Yugoslavian Jewish were killed in the end of the October, 1941. Greece was conquered by Germany and Italy. Jewish lived in safe under Italian conquer till 1944. Nearly all of the 50,000 Jewish in Thessalonica, one of the regions Germany conquered. More than 750,000 Jewish used to live in Romania when the war begins. 200,000 Jewish were killed in the end of the 1942, in Romania. Nearly 300,000 Jewish barely managed to be alive in the middle regions of the country. Almost 6 million Jewish were killed at the end of this racism whose effects were felt throughout the Europe (Bruchelt and Levine 1999: 31).

In today's perspective, xenophobia emerging in Europe and violence being its by-product depict the situation that a new kind of racism was born. The industrialized Europe gives rises to migration movements. As firstly Turkish immigrants in Germany, anti-immigrants movements fastened in Austria, England, Denmark, France and Italy after 1970. Arsons which the last example was occurred in 2008 and resulted in Turkish people death as continuing for years, suburban riots experienced in France, bad and humiliating attitudes and behaviors to Muslim people under the applications of safety following 11th September, acceptance of successively new immigrant laws by parliament could be evaluated as a symbol that racism still exists in the World (Sumbas, 2009: 262).

4. Conclusion

We could state that racism already existed in practice much before nationalism which racism is generally confused with, in the historical periods. Nationalism movement was emerged as a result of French revolution and applications related to racism could be found in Ancient Greek and medieval age Europe.

Racism is an ideology which has always existed in new and different statements in the direction of capitalism in modern or post-modern periods and with parallel to capitalism's changes and transformations, and has been able to turn discrimination to sophisticated shapes according to demands on time (Karaşahan, 2010:21).

In the study of Hardt and Negri, named "Empire" argues that racist ideologies do not decrease in practice. According to them, the change in the shape of today's racism is the indicator of transformation from modern sovereignty to imperial sovereignty. First of all, we have to state that it is getting more difficult to determine the general scheme of racism. Indeed, politicians, media and even historians argue that racism movements decrease in a fast pace in the period from abolition of slavery in modern communities to human right movements and effort against colonialism. Unique traditional practices of racism decreased doubtlessly. In this context, removing apartheid laws in South Africa could be seen as a symbolical closure of racist discrimination era. However, racism is not reduced on the contrary racism de facto develops in terms of both scope and violence in modern World (Hardt and Negri, 2012:200). It is widely known that racism and its practices which were applied in different ways created huge effects in Europe and also America, Africa, Asia and Oceania which Europe had dominant influence over. However, we observe that racism, which was used to be heavily centered in

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Europe, still exists despite of the laws in force and also spreads into different regions in the World.

Industrialized Western countries met their increasing labor demands in parallel to industrialization as employing slaves. However, this application resulted in that white workers could not find a job to work and broke the labor market balance. We could state that the main dynamic abolition of the slavery was this side-effect. We observe that racism turned out to be “xenophobia” when the imbalance situation of labor market became quite obvious in the 20th century and this phobia and discrimination were experienced over immigrants.

Politic cultures of countries should be democratized for the solution of racism problem. Once the main factors in the political system start democratization, this will help people to have democratic characteristics in the same level (Yılmaz, 2013: 329). Therefore, it is very important that political system educates people with a democratic political culture in order to handle the racism problem. Over the time, the people who are affected by the democratic political culture might adopt more tolerant attitudes to “marginalized” people and give up the idea of assigning superiority to a race.

Another important tool on handling with the racism is to research the ways of other countries used for dealing with racism. In this context, it is important to analyze the countries with comparison methods. A country which has possibility to have racism problems would have knowledge through this kind of comparison results so that it would have had alternative solutions even before having racism problems (Yılmaz, 2014: 225).

Humankind should take lessons from the history on dealing with this important problem and should have virtue to behave together against these kinds of issues.

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