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14 October 2018

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Race has never been about one specific topic; it has been more on the domination of one group over another, superiority. The role of race, in the western history was determined by social class, with the white men having a feeling of superiority over others whom were not the same color, spoke the same language, had the same culture or in the same social standing. Throughout history social classes were used to justify racial discrimination. This way of thinking allowed western territories to treat other nations badly. In a man made society, the white American's saw only their way of life, and the ability to assimilate others into the white mans society, if the people did not fit into the white mans categories, they were discriminated against, relocated or eliminated.

In the western history, race discrimination can be seen through the wages given to different racial groups. The Mexicans were paid a lesser wage then the white American. These men worked in the mines, fields and ranches throughout the west. Many performed the same jobs as the white man, but still received a lower wage. The white man with his superiority complex believed he deserved to be paid a higher wage. In the book *The Great Arizona Abduction*, Linda Gordon says, "Not only were the Mexican's paid much less, but white workers had been able to win wage increases over the copper-mining era, doubling their average wages from \$2 to \$4 per day between the 1870's and 1910, while Mexican workers had increased

their wages from approximately \$1.50 to \$2.50 at most" (Gordon, 214). The white man considered the Mexican inferior to them, and they did not deserve such money, with low morals and a tendency for dinking, the Mexican would only through away their wages if they were given more. The white man deserved the higher wages to take care of his family and provided quality supplies that the family may need and be an upstanding member of society.

White Americans justified the lower wages by putting the Mexicans into a lower class than themselves. A description of the Mexicans that pertained to all of them, no matter the ethnic background or culture. The Mexicans are described as being, lazy, cruel to women, drunkards and not very smart, on the other hand white men considered themselves to be above the Mexican, they were schooled, therefor smart, they treated their women with respect, they were not drunks, and they worked hard. Gordon says, " Mexicans were cruel, to animals, women, and other men; they were cowardly and treacherous and could triumph only through betrayal and a knife in the back; they were natural thieves and had no respect for property; and they were indolent" (Gordon, 152)." The Mexicans are described as a low class citizen with all of their faults. White men consider themselves to be the up most citizens with morals and values way above the Mexicans', making them the superior race.

The Mexicans were not the only ones to have wages less than the white man. Chinese were paid even lower wages than the Mexican men. In western history, The Chinese had migrated from California to the mining towns to work in the mines, they would take lower wages and often did work no one else would do. The white

Americans and Mexicans believed the Chinese depressed wages and often kicked them out of the mines. Gordon says, "Miners staged armed uprisings against the Chinese in every western mining state and most of the companies capitulated, expelling them from the mines and employing them only as cooks, servants or laundrymen"(Gordon, 50). The Chinese Exclusion Act (1882), this prohibited anymore-Chinese immigration into America. The Chinese that were all ready in America were allowed to stay, they worked in hard conditions and took jobs nobody else wanted, and were discriminated against by all other races.

White women in mining camps showed no remorse for their feeling towards the Mexican race. The white women believed the Mexicans to be a lower class of people; they were dirty and always treating their women without respect. The white women and the Mexican women were not all that different, they shared community, schools and neighbors, each wanting respectable children and men, the one feature they did not share was their skin color. . Gordon states, "The women's clubs, like the men's, enforced racial boundaries. The segregation seems not only sad but also ironic in hindsight, because the Anglo women shared most of their values and priorities with Mexican women" (Gordon, 192). The white women turned down their noses to the Mexicans and used them when it was convenient or necessary. To say the races shared the morals would be unjustifiable, when one is placing themselves in higher class due to the color of their skin.

Culture and ethnics confused with race and creating new race out of them the Anglo Americans set standards which each must meet, the standards depended on the area in which you lived, living in New York you were considered Irish, German,

Italian, yet going west your skin color could change your race, from Irish to Anglo American because the color of the skin was white.

In the west the native Americans and the Mexican Americans were absorbed by settlers and split by their differences, they spoke a different language, had different cultures, and social standings, compared to the white American.

-Native Americans and Mexican-Americans were inhabitants of a conquered west