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Fall 12-6-2018

Society's Perpetuation of Oppression

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Julianne Hewitt. Society's Perpetuation of Oppression. Dec 6 2018

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SOCIETY'S PERPETUATION OF OPPRESSION

By: Julianne Hewitt

“In order for any social system to survive, the condition of production must be reproduced in the individual psyche (Althusser 1). The success and continuation of societies are dependent on and effected by the individuals that make it up. The views and beliefs held by those individuals are reflected back into that setting. The setting is a product of its inhabitants and they are a product of the setting. When the masses collectively hold a belief it then turns from an internalization to an externalization. The externalization of beliefs is what is strong enough to create oppression within American society. When people see others who have the same view it reinforces normalization of that view, for example if people hold oppressing or discriminaory opinions. Normalizing a view subconsciously makes people feel like it is okay to continue that thinking pattern.

source: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/evolution-the-self/201205/what-brain-science-can-teach-you-about-sex>



source: <http://www.scencyclopedia.org/sce/entries/segregation>



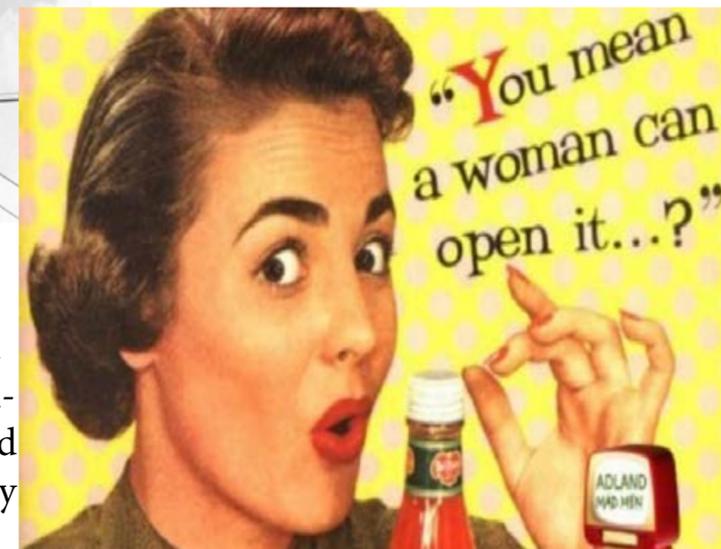
African Americans did not gain legal protection under the law until 1868. Legally, politically, and ethically they were disregarded unless they were being dehumanized by society. The many laws in place to restrict them were put put into place because of society's attitudes. Things were outwardly discriminatory in every way without any reprecussions.



source: <https://highschool.latimes.com/grossmont-middle-college-high-school/is-the-american-dream-becoming-a-nightmare/>

The idea of social mobility was the goal and driving force of the American dream. It was the idea that people can move up in the class system. Oppression defeats this idea; it restricts people to certain categories and tries to limit what they could achieve. The restriction and limitation of others only benefits those who created the oppression.

Attitudes about women and men were very different. It was believed women could not do the same things. They were very much confined to specific ideas and categories of what a woman should do and be. Most often they were portrayed and very much assumed to be as the typical gender stereotypes portrayed. The beliefs of the time did not allow society to hold progressive views on gender equality.



<https://www.um.edu.mt/think/havent-we-had-enough-of-gender-stereotypes/>



<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/thisday/may28/indian-removal-act/>

Native people originally settled all over the country before the colonization era occurred, which was lead by white Europeans. They did not want to share the country and only had one goal in mind; expansion of their empire. Natives were not included in the new American empire that was envisioned. The Indian Removal Act forcefully, even though some did leave by their own will, removed them from their homes. This unethical act was ultimately a violation of citizens legal and political rights and later deemed unconstitutional.