

Racism Reflected in Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad

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Abstract

This paper deals with the concept of racism, which is considered as a dark topic in the history of the world. Throughout history, racist ideology widespread throughout the world especially between black people and white people. In addition, many European countries started to expand their empire and to get more territories in other countries. Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness which is his experience in the Congo River during the 19th century dealt with the concept of racism, which was clear in this novel because of the conflicts that were between black and white people and it explained the real aims of colonialism in Africa, which were for wealth and power.

Keywords: Heart of Darkness, Joseph Conrad, Racism, Black and Whites, Colonialism

Introduction

This paper deals with the idea of racism and colonialism in Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness. Racism changed into taken into consideration because the darkest subject matter inside the history of the arena which crated many conflicts among societies. From the 17th to the nineteenth century there has been an boom in racial violence and racist ideologies, additionally there were unique religions and different theories that supported racial

worldview. Racist ideologies and views, giant legally and illegally, within the United States however also in Europe were deeply entrenched within the values of many societies, in their ideologies and the religions, political and cultural sides. As a wellknown rule, racism and discrimination were used to guard the political and economic hobbies of those who discriminate. Racism spread during the world in particular within the nineteenth century and many racist corporations attempted to impose their civilization and their values due to the fact they believed that that they had specific capabilities and exceptional characteristics, so the racist powers used special techniques or ideologies so as to positioned down the electricity of the opposite races making them less human.

Heart of darkness

Heart of Darkness is Joseph Conrad's enjoy in the Congo River and Joseph Conrad used Marlow as a individual with the intention to recount his real story .The writer depicted terror due to the fact Heart of Darkness put mild at the colonial generation and on colonizer's ambition to electricity and uncooked materials and wealth .Joseph Conrad gave an excessive amount of importance to the hypocrisy of the colonial efforts that become inquisitive about fabric sides. Heart of Darkness gave the excessive amount of importance to the pretexts of civilization which have been used with a view to hide the actual targets of colonialism while the colonizers advised that the actual dreams of colonialism had been to help the black Africans who were considered as a backward human beings.

How racism reflected in heart of darkness

Heart of Darkness is a notable and powerful depiction about as I said before .It became set in the Congo within the ninetieth century. at the same time as Britain changed into the finest strength because it managed an increasing number of territories within the global and mainly in Africa. The Congo became the best example in which Joseph Conrad advised his revel in and it's miles a incredible instance of how much the colonial energy have

been racist due to the fact Heart of Darkness discovered the hypocrisy of the colonial missions in the Congo particularly and Africa in preferred. Joseph Conrad in his novella used powerful snap shots about how a great deal colonization broken white colonizers souls because of their bad remedy and greed in the direction of black Africans. Racism in Heat of Darkness is clear from the start of the novel. Marlow commenced recounting his revel in with the aid of saying to his fellows I do not want to bother you a lot with what occurred to me individually. Racism is an movement of showing distinction between people in line with their race; so a selected race is superior to so a specific race is advanced to the other race and this unwell-remedy occurs whilst a racist organization locate it important to position down the other institution's race in an try and reinforce their very own. In addition, racism unfolds in the course of the sector especially throughout the 19th century and plenty of European powers attempted to invade different territories and began to manipulate the entirety. So, Europeans need for raw materials and wealth or even for energy led them to compete with every other with the intention to colonize more and more territories mainly in Africa. So the Europeans' need of uncooked substances and wealth or even for electricity led them to compete with every other to be able to colonize increasingly territories mainly in Africa. In addition, Europeans believed that Africa was a dark continent wherein there was no civilization or even no religion and that they used this pretext to get an increasing number of wealth, additionally they unwell-treated the black Africans who had been taken into consideration as slaves. Britain and France have been the maximum active colonial powers in Africa they competed with every other so that it will get extra territories .These two energetic powers have been very aggressive in their growth due to the fact that they used excessive military forces in opposition to the natives who have become sufferers of their ambition to power and wealth. So, racism in Africa was used for monetary functions and it helped the Europeans loads to get greater wealth and to bolster their empires.

Chinua Achebe comments-An Image of Africa: Racism in “Heart of Darkness”

Chinua Achebe was a Nigerian novelist redefined the way readers understood Africa in his first novel. "The language of description of the human beings in Heart of Darkness is irrelevant, says Achebe. “I realized how terribly wrong it was to portray my people or any people from that attitude.”

According to Achebe, Conrad has an obsession with skin color and he describes a person as being black, having lengthy black legs and lengthy black fingers. Achebe mentions a scene within the novella in which after Kurtz dying, the supervisor's boy is defined as putting his insolent black head inside the doorway. He similarly rejects the concept that Conrad is not racist because he's merely describing what Marlow thinks and sees this concept is ridiculous because there is no alternative reference and the readers ought to take what the characters say as the truth considering that nobody is disputing them. If Conrad desired to feature some other layer to the novella he would have performed so, Achebe concludes

An imperative point in Achebe’s grievance is that Conrad thinks the whole lot should be in their right vicinity and how tragedy occurs when best Europeans journey into the heart of darkness. Cannibals are fine humans while they're of their region. Africans are defined as savages with wild eyes using an unrefined language including grunts and brief phrases sounding like a violent babble. Africa is proven as the other world with bestiality contrasting the intelligence and refinement of Europe. The Africans are on occasion known as specimens, Marlow remarks on how one African is a progressed specimen because he can fireplace up a vertical boiler. The point is similarly exemplified within the discussions of the two rivers in Heart of Darkness. How journeying at the Congo River is like going returned in time to the “earliest nine beginnings of the arena” and how Thames has additionally as soon as been a darkish place but is now in mild and peace.

The description of Africa includes it being a prehistoric earth with prehistoric guys acting in a black and incomprehensible frenzy. The Africans are howling and jumping and are defined as not inhuman, meaning he did find them inhuman at one point. It is probably at this point Marlow realizes that the tribesmen are in truth human, although he still doesn't forget them as brute savages. He mentions how they have faces like fantastic mask, sturdy muscular tissues, electricity and a wild energy. According to Achebe, this is Conrad describing things of their location.

Conclusion

As a conclusion, many readers had classified Joseph Conrad as racist and others had labeled him as a realist. Chinua Achebe believed that Joseph Conrad become more racist in his novel *Heart of Darkness* because of his unpleasant description toward the Congolese and he believed that his novel supported the white colonizer's behaviors towards the natives. However, other readers had categorized Joseph Conrad as realist due to the fact they believed that his novel depicted the white colonizer's sick-treatment towards the Africans and revealed the real targets of imperialism which advised that colonialism become for the gain of the Africans and Joseph Conrad taken into consideration it as a lie for enlargement.

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