

REFLECTION ESSAY

Throughout the history of the U.S African Americans have continually shaped the idea of America and its truest meaning of the phrase that “all men are created equal” we see how African Americans have paved the way for minority groups in the U.S, as their contributions shaped the future of the U.S

Furthermore, African American’s action can be seen to have helped other minority group as seen from Nikole Hannah-Jones when she states “Centuries of Black Resistance and protest have helped the country live up to its founding ideals. And not only for ourselves” what this quote shows is that Black people’s struggle for their own rights as they were discriminated against caused other African Americans to become true leaders of equality for all and to stand for the rights of every human being not just a self-centered goal but a altruistic one where everyone can experience their freedoms. Additionally, she states “Black rights paved the way for every other rights struggle, including women’s and gay rights...” what this quote shows how African American struggle is how we have fought alongside other civil rights groups to bring about true equality and this demonstrates how we have supported other minority groups throughout the development of the U.S

Moreover, as the contributions towards the success of the U.S from African Americans have been doubted people forget about the struggles that the Black slaves underwent in order to build what we know today this can be seen in Hannah’s statement “They taught the colonist to grow rice. They grew and picked the cotton at the height of slavery the nation’s most valuable commodity” this shows how the contributions of African Americans was through their labor-intensive works teaching colonist how to grow rice and doing the agriculture although they were forced to do so it can’t be denied their labors have shaped the U.S economy especially during the popular demand of cotton. Another contribution stated by Hannah was “They laid the foundations of the White House and the Capitol, placing their unfree hands on the Statue of Freedom” what this quote shows towards African Americans contributions is that they were the ones who built the buildings for the U.S that the American people hold dear and even going further to point out that they built the statues of freedom that romanticize the idea of freedom but the people creating them were people who had no freedom at all. Additionally, she states “They built the plantations of George Washington... And James Madison, sprawling properties that today attract thousands of visitors across the globe” this quote shows how even the history of the U.S that is regarded as the best democracy was laid by African Americans and their works are celebrated as precious historical places but African Americans never get recognition for their works, lastly she states that “ They lugged the heavy wooden tacks of the railroads that helped take the cotton they picked to the Northern mills” what this quote shows is that even the transportation that the African American slaves had to use to transport the cotton they picked that they were the ones that had built the railroads and the ones that allowed for the transportation revolution that the trains provided showing how their works helped the economy in both the agricultural means and the ways that they would have to sell their goods that they wouldn’t be compensated for or remembered for.

Lastly the author's main idea that Black people have continued to shape and pave the way for the true ideas of the U.S can be seen as true when you understand the full history of what African Americans have offered to the U.S despite not coming here of their own will and their freedoms being taken away from them. We continue to see that African Americans at the height of agriculture helped the South when they were in demand for cheap labor sources they had turned to African American labor because without it they wouldn’t have been able to sustain or at the least not been as successful in their lifestyle without African Americans labors. We further see that in their own fights for their rights they have made a precedent for fighting and upholding the true ideas of America as through their actions of fighting for other marginalized groups that without African American support would have been much harder as they would not have had precedent to follow as to how to fight for change.

In conclusion, the above evidence shows how the intense struggles of the African American people have not only been a major help to the entire U.S but they have been a help to other marginalized and discriminated groups.

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There have been many true fighters throughout American history but African Americans are the true fighters of the American ideal of "life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness" Because of the hardship they faced throughout the history of the U.S. African Americans helped pave the way for other marginalized groups such as the women rights movements, and in the article "The Idea of America " by Nikole Hannah-Jones she states that "Black rights struggles paved the way for every other right struggle, including women's right's movement" their contributions towards women's rights show how impactful African Americans are to other movements.

Furthermore, African Americans are true fighters because of the contributions on the rise of the industrial revolution and in the article "The Idea of American " Nikole Hannah-Jones states that "they picked to the Northern textile mills, fueling the Industrial Revolution" which help bring success to the united states economy overall. Another contribution that African Americans had to the united states is they helped build a great agricultural system for America and according to the article "the idea of America "They grew and picked the cotton that at the height of slavery was the nation's most valuable commodity, accounting for half of all American exports and 66 percent of the world's supply." this helped the united states to have a very reliable agriculture system which led to the United states building a great economy. African Americans also contributed in the building of our nation's capital as Nikole states "They laid the foundations of the White House and the Capitol, even placing with their unfree hands the Statue of Freedom atop the Capitol dome." which is one of the most beautiful and important buildings in our national capital.

In conclusion I agree with the main idea represented in the 1619 article "The idea of America" because it shows the importance of black Americans in the united states history.

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The African Americans are considered the true fighters for the American Ideal of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” because they went through centuries of Black resistance and protests to get what they deserve. African Americans fought for freedom, equality, and democracy and paved the way for other marginalized groups by resisting and protesting. In the article, it states “Black rights struggles paved the way for every other rights struggle, including women’s and gay rights, immigrant and disability rights”. Also, “Without the idealistic, strenuous and patriotic efforts of Black American, our democracy today would most likely look very different – it might not be a democracy at all”.

The contributions of enslaved Africans to the overall success of the United States by growing rice and cultivating cotton which made white people wealthy by enslaved Africans doing the work and slave owners sell the rice and cotton and makes money. They built railroads so the rice and cotton could be transported to the North. They also built the White House so the president could have somewhere to live. Enslaved Africans have contributed so much for this country and never got the recognition that they deserve.

I agree with the author’s main idea, which is: Black Americans should be proud of the American flag. The reason why is because African Americans have fought long and hard for justice and did more for America than any of our “founding fathers”. Enslaved Africans have been ruthlessly punished for things they were being forced to do while the founding fathers knew this was happening and didn’t care to stop it because they liked having slaves. Although, yes, founding fathers did some good things like Declaration of Independence but they have also committed some atrocities such as continuing slavery and having slaves.

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African Americans are the true fighters for the American Ideal of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”.

African Americans are considered the true fighters for the Ideal of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness because they had so many contributions to America. They created the foundation for America. African Americans made America so much money and created the systems America needed to get things done.

African Americans created railroads which made the trading system evolve. African Americans picked cotton and a few other things that earned America money and created the biggest trade system. African Americans built many important buildings such as the White House and The Capitol Building. African Americans helped create universities and create wall street which is America's financial capital.

In the beginning she could never understand why her father was so proud of the flag when he knew everything it stood for. When she was growing up, she didn't know about everything African Americans did for America. So, when she did find out she started to share the pride that her dad had. Yes, I do agree with her when she changed her mind because before I learned everything, I now know about the contributions that African Americans gave, I was kind of proud of the flag also.

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African Americans are considered the true fighters for the American Ideal of “life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness” because they had contributed to making what the U.S. is today and had to fight harder for the idea and promise of democracy and freedom, more than any other race. African Americans fought for their rights of freedom, equality, and democracy. They fought alongside the Union army in the civil war and even inspired other marginalized groups to fight for their own rights. “Black rights struggles paved the way for every other rights struggle.”

The enslaved Africans made the overall success of the United States with their contributions. Some of their contributions are, one, working in plantations. Enslaved Africans built and farmed plantations making the owners very rich. The second contribution was making railroads, they lugged heavy wooden tracks and fueled the industrial revolution. Another contribution was paying off the nation's war debts and financing some prestigious universities by their free/cheap labor. With products of their labor and relentless selling of enslaved Africans it made the young nation rich. The last contribution was they laid the foundation of the White House and the Capitol, building it with their own hands. Enslaved Africans laid the foundations and even placed the Statue of Freedom atop the Capitol dome with their unfree hands.

The article's main idea was about how the African Americans contributed in many ways to make this nation what it is now. No other people have a greater claim to the flag than the African Americans, because they helped make America what it is today. I agree with this article that African Americans have a greater claim to the flag than any other. Without the enslaved Africans, America wouldn't have the railroads or the plantations, America wouldn't have the wealth we have today. African Americans developed a new culture because of their forced migration and never got paid any money for all their work. African Americans deserve to claim the flag and fly it whenever with no embarrassment because they made the young wealthy nation we know of today and worked hard to get the freedoms promised by the Declaration of Independence of “Life, Liberty, and Happiness” that was promised to all men.

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African Americans are considered the true fighters for the American ideal of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Their struggles for their own civil rights paved the way for other marginalized groups such as woman, gays, immigrants and even people with disabilities. Their many contributions ultimately helped build this democracy we live in today. African Americans fought for freedom, equality and democracy, they played very prominent roles in advocating for change in our democracy. Some of the contributions of enslaved Africans would be their forced work/labor such as picking, growing and transporting cotton, which was the nation’s most valuable commodity at the time. The forced labor of the enslaved Africans also helped pay off the country’s war debts and helped finance some of the most prestigious universities, the product of their labor also made Wall Street into a thriving banking, insurance and trading sector. African Americans also laid the foundations of the White House and the Capitol, and they lugged the heavy wooden tracks of the railroads. These contributions of enslaved Africans led to the overall success of the United States. In the 1619 article it states, “Black rights struggles paved the way for every other rights struggle, including women’s and gay rights, immigrant and disability rights”.

I agree with the author’s main idea represented in the 1619 article “The Idea of America” because of the acknowledgement of the overlooked contributions that enslaved Africans made, which led to the formation of the democracy we live in today. Their contributions and sacrifices helped build a significantly vast number of fortunes for White people, without the idealistic, strenuous and patriotic efforts of African Americans there would most likely be a totally different look to the democracy we have today. It might not have even been any democracy at all if it wasn’t for our African American people and their efforts to stop the injustice treatment and harsh conditions they faced. The article also talk about how the Declaration of Independence proclaims that “All men are created equal” but the White men who drafted those exact words also lacked the consideration of those words applying to the African American community.