



Along the Color Line

by Dr. Manning Marable

Dr. Manning Marable is professor of sociology and political science at Purdue University. "Along the Color Line" appears in over 140 newspapers internationally.

Racial Conflict in Europe

Part I of a Three Part Series

I was invited to travel to Europe for several weeks by the University of Amsterdam's newly-established Center for Racial and Ethnic Studies. My original purpose was to lecture on the state of Black American politics and U.S. race relations. Although my audience has been highly receptive and remarkably well-informed about current conditions inside the U.S. for Black people, the dialogue has been a two-way affair. Because throughout the past several days, in my travels both in France and the Netherlands, it has become strikingly apparent that the ugly spectre of racism and ethnic intolerance is being cultivated and revived all over Western Europe.

In Amsterdam, there are numerous signposts of the devastating effects of intolerance and ethnic bigotry from previous generations. There is a large Holocaust museum in the city, marking the fact that at least 107,000 Dutch Jews fell victim to Nazi terrorism during World War II. Only one block away from the Center for Racial and Ethnic Studies is the famous Anne Frank House, a tall and narrow, typically Dutch residence where the Jewish family, the Franks, hid in silence for two years under the Nazi occupation. Anne Frank's diary, saved by accident from the Holocaust, remains a stirring testimony of a teenaged girl's resolute commitment to humanism and to the struggle for freedom.

Today's racism in Holland is far more subtle, but it has an explosive potential for tearing the entire fabric of society apart. About one in ten residents of the country are ethnically non-Dutch. These people of color can be subdivided into two, eclectic groupings. The first were the emigrants from Holland's former overseas colonies in Curacao, the South American nation of Surinam, and Indonesia. Some of these Black and brown emigrants were refugees from their colonies' middle classes, who could not accept political independence and the social instability which it caused. Others came from the working classes, drawn by the potential promise of higher wages and a superior social welfare system established by the government. The second group, which generally doesn't hold legal citizenship rights, are the "guest-workers" from Turkey and northern Africa, whom the bulk of the Dutch treat even more harshly than the Blacks and browns.

The Dutch pride themselves on "liberal" racial attitudes, and the government assumes a public posture of ethnic tolerance. There is little overt school or housing discrimination against nonwhites. However, nonwhites suffer much higher unemployment rates, and have virtually no representation in the nation's political, economic or cultural elites. Increasingly in Amsterdam, Surinamese and Indonesians comprise a very high percentage of the menially-paid, marginal labor force in hotels and businesses. Moreover, in the past national election, a small rightwing political party was formed which campaigned under the racist slogan "Holland for the Dutch" and called for the forced expulsion of nonwhites from the country.

In France, the tensions of racial conflict and crisis are even more readily visible. The "problem", according to French conservatives, is the rapid influx of emigrants from the dismantled "empire." From former colonies in Indochina come Laotians, Vietnamese, and ethnic Chinese; from north Africa arrived Algerians, Tunisians and Moroccans; from sub-Saharan Africa came workers, students and others from such countries as the French Congo, Mali, Senegal, Guinea, and the Ivory Coast; from the Caribbean came settlers from Guadeloupe, Martinique, and French Guiana. In the post-World War II period, France required a pool of lowly paid, semiskilled and unskilled laborers, a subgroup which could be easily discarded when economic or political conditions changed. But as Malcolm X might have put it, the "Chickens came home to roost." For a century and more, the French overseas empire committed mass acts of brutality, rape and economic exploitation against millions. Now the unwanted sons and daughters of the bloody process of imperialism have come to the metropole.

The most overt manifestation of racism in France today is the neo-fascist movement of the National Front, led by demagogue Jean-Marie Le Pen, which has captured the support of about 10 to 13 percent of the electorate. To date, French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac has cynically accommodated the rise of racism, calling for a pragmatic "union of the right" between his own conservative political party and Le Pen's National Front. When Michel Noir, Minister of Foreign Trade under Chirac, denounced Le Pen's group as Nazi-like and racist, members of his own party called for his resignation. Even the liberal opposition party, the Socialists, have not taken the racist threat of Le Pen seriously, and have done next to nothing to recruit or to elevate nonwhite leaders inside their own party.

On my last day in Paris, I encountered a particularly vicious graffiti slogan scrawled on a subway wall in the city's fashionable center: "The Blacks are dangerous! The Blacks must be forced out of France! National Front, Le Pen." Such slogans may soon become national policy.

Legal Journal

Are You Being Given Proper Legal Representation?

by Omari Kenyatta, J.D.

How much do you know about the Constitution of the United States and the way that your rights are affected by this document?

What is a Constitution?

A constitution is a body of existing rules made for the purpose of controlling the states' or the federal government's actions. "Constitution" also means a document in which these rules are written.

How and Why Was the Federal Constitution Adopted?

The federal constitution that we now have was adopted in order to form a stable national government. Under these Articles of Confederation, the Congress was without power to enforce its own laws; and this could not be remedied, for the consent of all the states could never be obtained to any amendment.

What does Article 1, Section 10 of the U.S. Constitution State?

This is the important part of what is stated in this article: "No state shall make anything but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts."

Do You Know How Article 1, Section 10 of the U.S. Constitution Was Applied If It Was Applied In This Case?

Lane County vs. Oregon, 7 Wall 71, 74 US 71 (1869): It's stated in the case as: "Thus any citizen can voluntarily give anything to the state he or she wants to, and the state can accept all the citizen wants to give without technically violating the law. If the citizen does not object to assessment, levy fines, etc., in anything but gold and silver coin, regulated in value by Congress, then the citizen has waived his or her rights under Article 1, Section 10, Clause 1 for that particular transaction, and no constitutional questions arise."

Do You Know How Article 1, Section 10 of the U.S. Constitution Was Applied in the Case of People of Ypsilanti vs. Franklin Cit. Case No. TY-19676

This is a case that deals with a traffic ticket where there would be a fine to be paid by Dave Franklin. See the MSJ Volume 1, No. 12, Page 9. What happens in this case is that on the 22nd of November, 1982, Dave Franklin was to appear in court to answer the charge that he had been traveling 55 MPH in a 45 MPH zone. Franklin pleaded no contest to the

charges. However, he asked the court to allow him to explain to the court how Article 1, Section 10 of the U.S. Constitution should be applied to his case. The court gave him permission to do so and listened to his explanation about how this Article in the constitution should be applied to his case. After he finished explaining to the court, the case was dismissed by the presiding judge.

Within five days after the case had been tried, this court's Judge Fink signed this order: "It is hereby ordered that citation No. TY-19676 is hereby dismissed with prejudice due to the fact that the plaintiff has failed to state claim upon which this court can grant relief."

This is Another Case that Happened in Kansas In October, 1981

However, Judge Larry E. Moritz, a municipal judge in Spearville, Kansas, believed in the U.S. Constitution as well as the Constitution of Kansas. He has said that he will continue to read to people their money rights when they appear in his court if there is a fine involved. What this judge is talking about is Article 1, Section 10 and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 5 of the U.S. Constitution. This information goes right over the heads of most people in this country. The reason being is that they have not read the U.S. Constitution, nor have they read the book called "Miracles on Main Street" by Frederick Tupper Saussy, plus they have not tried to find out the three following things:

- 1) Is Article 1, Section 10 of the U.S. Constitution still binding on the State of Oregon or on their own state?
- 2) If Article 1, Section 10 is still binding, can a citizen be forced to pay his or her debts in present federal reserve notes if they are objected to?
- 3) What is the money of account of the United States that the court must conform to at Title 31, Section 371 of the United States Code?

When you finish reading this article, you should put your thinking cap on, because what you have read is very important.

Take the case of Marbury vs. Madison: Chief Justice Marshall based his opinion on the grounds that the court was bound by its oath to support the Constitution of the U.S.A., and, therefore, as the Constitution was superior to any set by Congress, the court must follow it and not the inferior law.

Oregon

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by William E. Davis
Chancellor of the Oregon
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Extension: Like Having A University At Your Fingertips

A frantic mother who called the county Extension Service office in Portland told agent David Adams her 20-month-old son had become sick after eating a plant.

The agent calmed the woman on the phone, then drove to her home, identified the plant as a calla lily and called the Poison Control Center.

The Oregon State University Extension Service, with offices in all 36 counties, does more than help people with questions about gardening, food preservation, cooking and sewing.

Some agents, like Adams, even make house calls. Celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, Extension offices are prepared to teach citizens in areas ranging from spraying home orchards to preparing venison.

For Oregonians, it's like having the resources of a major research university at their fingertips.

Oregon's Extension agents deliver useful education to farmers, homemakers, 4-H youth, foresters, fisherman and seafood processors, home- and business owners (weatherization information), and communities (for issues of land, economics and leadership).

These are only a handful of Extension projects improving the state's livability and Oregonians' livelihoods:

- Oregon sheepraisers are saving an estimated \$100,000 annually as a result of Extension helping to introduce "livestock guarding dogs" into 23 counties. The guarding dogs, which have lived among livestock in the Old World for centuries, protect the sheep from coyotes and other predators while reducing the need for traps and poisons.

- A shrimp-peeling technique that significantly increases yields, developed at OSU and taught by Extension, is saving West Coast shrimp processors an estimated \$50 million a year in meat that was previously lost.

- In northeastern Oregon's Umatilla County, a computer-assisted project helps farmers efficiently schedule irrigation. Farmers can phone or call up a "computer bulletin board" for satellite-transmitted weather information. One grower says this is saving him \$18 an acre in yearly water costs, which would amount to close to a million dollars when spread across 50,000 acres.

Incidentally, as a result of this project about 50 farmers in the area now own computers.

- Programs in Douglas, Linn and other counties are helping at-risk youth, including those who abuse alcohol and drugs, stay in school, get jobs and join youth organizations (such as 4-H, Scouts and Camp Fire). Parents have told of successful children who otherwise would have dropped out of school, including some who

have gone on to college.

- Sherman County farmers are taking Extension-led stress classes aimed at helping them cope with long hours, machinery costs, trade policies and other unpredictable factors that can contribute to heavy smoking, alcoholism, insomnia, family problems and accidents. One farmer told an Extension agent the class gave his family what it needed to ride out a tough year, and that a subsequent bumper crop put the farm in the black for the first time in a decade.

- Hundreds of parents enrolled in Master Parenting classes in 14 counties are learning skills in discipline and other child-rearing issues. One teen-age mother in Portland, for example, told a volunteer that in the future she will try not to hit her child.

- Fishermen's wives groups organized by Extension trained supermarket meat workers in how to buy, handle, display and promote bottomfish, increasing retail demand for the seafood. A wives' group in Newport successfully promoted serving locally caught bottomfish in the Lincoln County schools' cafeterias.

Clearly, these are programs in which Oregonians are helping themselves.

First, Extension's financing comes from a combination of county, state and federal dollars.

Second, more than 22,000 Oregonians volunteer annually (including 8,000 in 4-H alone) to help their neighbors learn about gardening, home economics, energy conservation and woodland management. All those volunteers add up to more people than the combined populations of Pendleton and Redmond.

Third, Extension's philosophy is to educate citizens to undertake projects for themselves rather than doing tasks for them. By teaching citizens, Extension provides lifelong skills they can put to use to improve their lives.

Extension offices offer hundreds of free and low-cost publications on subjects ranging from pruning and potato storage to controlling carpenter ants and raising chickens.

Whether Extension agents and volunteers are making house calls, answering phone calls or calling on farmers, it's clear why Extension has been called the most successful adult-education movement in history.

I urge you to support Extension, to volunteer your skills, and to learn what it can offer to you, your family and community.

Oh, and that 20-month-old lad who ate the poisonous calla lily? He survived.



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A NEWS SERVICE
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COMMISSION FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

A Salute to Justice Thurgood Marshall

He is like the old soldier who has fought many a war and is now coming back for one more, necessary battle. Such is the image of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, a man, who, in the sunset of his years, has shown that plain, outspoken courage is not just the purview of the young.

The Reagan Administration had hoped to use the Constitution's bicentennial to enshrine and therefore to stagnate that document. The Constitution, thus defied, was to become yet another tool in Reagan's attempt to illegitimize the progressive gains made before Reagan took office. But this was not to be. Justice Marshall, the lone African American on the highest bench in the land, saw to that. While President Reagan and his cohort, former Chief Justice Warren Burger, praised the Constitution as a perfect document and its framers as "giants," Thurgood Marshall brought a little reality to the situation.

In a recent speech Justice Marshall noted that he did not, "find the wisdom, foresight, and sense of justice exhibited by the Framers particularly profound. To the contrary," he added, "the government they devised was defective from the start . . . When contemporary Americans cite 'The Constitution,' they invoke a concept that is vastly different from what the Framers barely began to construct two centuries ago." One of the defects to which Marshall was referring was the matter of slavery, a subject which Reagan carefully omits in his speeches. And so he must. For by discussing the imperfections of the Constitution, Reagan would also have to admit that a strict interpretation of the Constitution would put African Americans back in chains. As Justice Marshall reminds us, "Moral principles against slavery, for those who had them, were compromised."

One of the reasons this country has never been fully exorcised of its racism is that it never truly admitted the racist underpinning upon which this country was built. You cannot repair a wrong until you have admitted it. By revealing the flaws in the lofty, yet imperfect, Constitution, Justice Marshall has validated the continuing struggle for change that will make that document truly democratic. As he himself notes, the credit for progressive change in this country ". . . does not belong to the Framers. It belongs to those who refused to acquiesce in outdated notions of 'liberty,' 'justice,' and 'equality,' and who strived to better them . . . [T]he true miracle was not the birth of the Constitution, but its life, a life nurtured through two turbulent centuries of our own making."

Justice Marshall has reminded us that the rights of the oppressed should never be sacrificed for the so-called greater good of maintaining order or political cohesion. This country has yet to repent for slavery and until it does, we will continue to reap harvest after harvest of racial turmoil.

We salute Thurgood Marshall for his valiant continuing efforts towards the cause of justice for all people.

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