

Race 3 Ture and Hamilton on Black Power and Institutional Racism

Please read the selection from Ture and Hamilton's *Black Power: The Politics of Liberation*. Consider the following questions as you read:

1. What is institutional racism? How does it compare with individual racism?
2. Why are “‘respectable’ [white] individuals” still responsible for racism even if they would never personally bomb a Black church?
3. How do people who have long enjoyed “opportunities for getting wealth, for exercising power and authority, and for successfully claiming prestige and social deference” view those advantages?
4. What do Ture and Hamilton mean by the “white power structure?” How do Blacks experience this structure “in very concrete terms?”
5. Why do some Black leaders “play ball” with the white power structure? Why do Ture and Hamilton reject this approach?
6. Why does the white power structure perpetuate institutional racism? What motives do Ture and Hamilton suggest?
7. Why do Ture and Hamilton reject the justification for colonialism, including slavery, that it was done to civilize Black and other colonized peoples?
8. In what ways do Ture and Hamilton claim the situation of Black Americans is similar to colonialism?
9. What slogans or excuses do white people use to escape blame for the condition of Black Americans? Which ones do Ture and Hamilton mention?