

Reason 5

Racism Worse Than Slavery

“The war on drugs has been more detrimental to American minority families, individuals and culture than slavery.” (1)

Whites commit the crime (87% of the drug users), while blacks do the time (74% go to prison).

“Blacks only constitute 13% of all known drug users, but represent 35% of all arrests for drug possession and 74% of all those sentenced to prison for drug possession [and] it only takes 1/100 as much crack cocaine [preferred by blacks] as powder cocaine [preferred by whites] to trigger mandatory minimum sentences.” (2)

African-Americans, and especially black children, teens, and families, pay the biggest price, with the most devastation, incarceration, and death in this incredibly racist drug war. Racial oppression and injustice are alive and well in contemporary America.

Decisively Worse Than Slavery

“During and after the years of slavery, there was a great bond among African-Americans. There was love and respect for one another based on common experience. This ‘brotherhood/sisterhood’ has sadly diminished in the last two decades. The drug war is the insidious cause of the cultural retrogression. It has succeeded because minorities have embraced the war. The drug war is (intended or not) an ingenious ‘divide and conquer’ scheme. It is so brilliant that most people support it as it tears society, freedom, and democracy apart.

“The drug civil war has been an effective vehicle to brainwash the public through fear and intolerance. ... Enlisting minority Americans to work as drug warriors makes them enemies of others. Families are broken by the drug war. Prison is accepted as a normal part of life for many minorities. ... The saddest thing about the war on drugs is that most minorities support it! They are afraid of the ‘enemy’ (drugs). What they don’t see is that the problems associated with drug use are made worse by the mentality of the drug war. Because of the insidious nature of the war on drugs, inner city people tend to cling to it as their only hope, while it is actually this century’s instrument of their destruction.”(3)

The historic 1974 book, *Time on the Cross, The Economics of American Negro Slavery* cites documents and records from the slave period that support a sweeping reexamination of slavery and dispel many of the myths about it. This book documents that slave owners acted in their best economic interests. Buying a slave was generally an expensive investment that yielded rates of return comparable to other investments, such as manufacturing. Thus, although it was and is immoral for one individual to own another and the owners took care of their slaves for the wrong reasons, they nevertheless basically took reasonable care of them.

Another myth the book dispels is that free agriculture was more efficient than slave agriculture. “Economies of large-scale operation, effective management, and intensive utilization of labor and capital made southern slave agriculture 35 percent more efficient than the northern system of family farming.”

This illuminating book goes to point out that “The belief that slave-breeding, sexual exploitation and promiscuity destroyed the black family is a myth. The family was the basic

unit of social organization under slavery. It was to the economic interest of planters to encourage the stability of slave families and most of them did so (emphasis added).