

POWER
TO THE
GRASSROOTS
By RICK HOPTON
DOUBLE – CONSCIOUSNESS

What is double-consciousness? Is it restricted to just black people alone?

In simple terms what does this concept mean to a black man in racist America?

Double-consciousness simply means the two-ness a black man feels in America; the two-ness of being a so-called Negro and a so-called American. This Double-conscious then becomes the unreconciled striving of the black man in America to be both a Negro and a so-called American without being hated and looked down upon by white America.

First let me make clear to you that both these values are erroneous misconceptions. There is no such thing as a Negro, or a black man for that matter. We must restrict ourselves to deal with specific ethnic groups and not the color of their skin. The words Negro and black are used merely for identification purposes - it merely illustrates a group of ethnic people that have been stolen from their country.

Where is this place called "Negro-ville"? I have yet to find it! Secondly, if we believe that we are Americans, we are in desperate need of a psychiatrist. How can we be Americans in a land that was not ours to begin with. And if there is a black man out there that really believes he is an American he is just as sick and brainwashed as white America. We are pseudo (false) Americans and nothing more. That is the reality we will not face and yet that is the very reality we must deal with if we ever expect to be unified under one common goal for progress.

Double-consciousness is believing that just because we are so-called Americans it is possible for us to also attain equality and justice in a country that was built on inequality and injustice.

Black people with this double consciousness will say I am lying when I state that "Justice for the black man in America is merely a mirage, an un-obtainable "Utopian" goal that will never come to pass. Not as long as we continue to toy with the external workings of the so-called American civilization. It must be remembered that true strength for any race of people can only come from within their own social structure and not from the misguided conceptions of another people who use greed and exploitation as their means of survival.

Total black consciousness and progress can only come if there is a constant and never ending strength from the internal functioning of a human organism.

This simply means that we must become committed to our self-identity, which is African and to our role toward progress, which is unity. We must see the reality, that if we continue to accept white American tokenism and the subordinate role of the "Good Nigger" that goes with it, we will, in the final analysis destroy our mighty people.

The double-consciousness, if we go back in history, is a direct outgrowth of the so-called Emancipation Proclamation that never really freed blacks, it merely took us out of one form of slavery into another. White America tells us we are free, and we believe it. The Panther political prisoners are very good examples of what freedom is not! They told us we would have an equal education and we have gotten an inferior education instead. They told us we could have justice under the law - but what they didn't tell us was that there is a "white law" and a "black law." And if you don't believe it you can ask Martin Luther King, but he's not alive. In white America's courtrooms, I'm afraid "black" ceases to be "beautiful".

We have no choice then but to destroy this double-consciousness before it destroys us.

THE OLDER GENERATION

Shall we give up on the older generation? I should hope not! We must learn to understand all facets of our population in order to bring about a meaningful relationship for our people as a whole. After all, if it wasn't for the strength of the older generations we would not be yelling black power or any kind of power. However, the final victory lies in the hands of the young black man who confronts the dangers of double-consciousness and who is positive and not negative to the reality that ours is a "Mighty Race" that will never accept defeat.