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Racism: The Home Front and Combat.

“I hate Jews because they breathe, I hate Jews because they eat, and I hate Jews because they live”, a Kul Klux Klan member said at a rally for white power I was watching on the history channel one day. The KKK is not the only racist group in America these days. For example, neo-Nazis (White American dominant), black panthers (African American dominant), the Black Guerilla Family (African American dominant), Los salidos (Latino dominant), the KKK (white American dominant), the Aryan Brotherhood (white American dominant), are just some of the few this paper mentions. So what is this curious thing we call racism? Well the Webster’s Dictionary states that, “Racism n. 1: a belief that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race. 2: racial prejudice or discrimination”. So if you wanted to break it down into simple terms, an individual or group of individuals of the same ethnic background extremely dislike with a fiery passion another individual or group of individuals of a different ethnic background, i.e. whites vs. blacks. However with changing times and ways there comes a new race in the world of racial hatred, the Arabic culture. Some of the men that I served with in Iraq called many of these people different names. Such as, towel heads, sand maggots, sand Negroes, hajjis, and little brown monkeys. That was in Iraq, but when we came home, I listened a little closer to what some Americans truly thought of the culture. For example, I overheard two old ladies calling the Islamic and Arabic culture a people of devil worshipers. I will admit I did not like some of the Iraqi’s I dealt with, however, just because one or three are bad does not mean you need to judge the entire faith or population based on those few individuals.

The battlemind is something only soldiers and other military persons’ understand. From the time that a civilian enters basic training we are told how to think, when to eat, when to sleep, and what to do in our spare time. However, we are also taught how to “hate” our enemy through the eyes and words of our drill sergeants. Much of what my drill sergeants told me of Iraq is that, “it’s really hot, it really stinks, there is sand everywhere, and you just might see two Iraqi men doing something very naughty”. But this still leads me to an interesting question, who’s to blame for the mindset of what or who these people are? The media constantly tells us all the negative things about Iraq and how the U.S. military has messed it up somehow, not taking into account all the good that we had done there since the capture of Saddam. I have personally seen both views on the faces of children in Iraq and the upset adults. However, in the time that I was there, a unit up north got a rail road system working after being dismantled during Saddam’s reign, we also heard of both contracted Iraqi’s and Americans built a massive coal and steel mill that created over a million jobs, and last we also got an international airport in Mosul working again. Now what is that connection with racism? Well the two main sects of Islam in Iraq are Sunni and Shiite. These two sects of Islam have been fighting each other for hundreds of years, and with much bloodshed due to just a simple hatred in each other’s ideas of religion. By linking the country with the airport up north and the railroad, it is my personal theory that we have brought these two faiths one step closer to tying the knot between each of them.

Now that we have taken a considerable look at a few examples of racism and how it affects cultures, let us see where it comes from. Back in the 1800’s when slave traders were bringing back Africans from the Atlantic African coast, many saw them as cowards and inferior to understand the white man. So many white men thought them ignorant. Therefore, many cotton and tobacco farmers in the south needed a fast form of getting their crop from the fields and into the market, the incoming slaves were like angles on their shoulders and they helped prosper the south. However, after seeing how the African men, women, and children were being treated by the south, the north took action to try and solve that problem in congress. But, with much elongated years and acts, the south just would not give up their free labor, thus the rebels and the union went to war over what is known to us today as the Civil War. So with this we see history’s point of view because after the union was victorious in the fight during the Civil War, the south was still reluctant in giving up their slaves, but they did. Within a few years the KKK arose and actively hung, beat, or murdered African Americans where ever they could be found. And some years following the KKK came about the Jim Crow Laws which, in short, basically segregated the blacks from the whites, although it was popular in the south it did not rise to fame in the north and thus gave way to the great migration. This event was where thousands of African Americans headed north in search of work and no persecution from the whites of the south.

In my initial training for combat at fort Jackson South Carolina, I was subject to the view that my entire enemy was, was just a simple nomad desert living person and had no use in the world. I must say that if my enemy can find ways that are medieval but highly effective, I will respect his ways and that does not mean that I should hate him more for having doing it. In closing, there is too much to worry about than simple putrid hate between on man for being of a different background, color of skin, or faith the world all needs us equally, and if continue on this path of destruction, we will soon cease to exist.