Race and racism in British Honduras test # 2 Study guide

Labor control

-Masters and servants act: Laws designed to control relations between employers and employees; 1823 The better regulations of servants, and laborers; Contracts: 6-12 months.


-Magistrates and Police: Magistrates enforced the laws; Favored the employers; Police treated; employees as criminals.

-Effects of the laws on the workers: Workers were suppressed; Elite monopolized controlled the justice system; Workers had no say.

-SOCIAL DARWINISM: Humans, like animals and plants, compete in a struggle for existence in which natural selection results in "survival of the fittest;" They consider some people more fit to survive than others.

-RACISM: The concept of social Darwinism explains the philosophical thinking behind racism, imperialism, and capitalism.

Herbert Spencer: coined the phrase "survival of the fittest" to describe the outcome of competition between social groups.

The WHITE MAN’S BURDEN

Take up the White Man's burden--

Send forth the best ye breed--

Go bind your sons to exile

To serve your captives' need;

ANALYSIS:

The author wants us to do some work: "take up," or help out with, "the White Man's burden." Now, a burden is something heavy; like a job or a responsibility. The speaker wants us to ship off "the best ye breed." In other words, he's asking for the A-team here. He only wants the very best for this job. Of course, we have to acknowledge now that our speaker's idea of the very best just happens to be a White Man (notice that the poem capitalizes the words specially). So, we're given a clear idea of racial superiority in just the first two lines of the poem.

To wait in heavy harness,
On fluttered folk and wild--
Your new-caught, sullen peoples,
Half-devil and half-child.

Analysis: What else to these best-of-the-best white men have to do? Well, they have to do some pretty tough work, like waiting on these captives in a "heavy harness." This is a metaphor that likens the white men to strong horses who have to pull a sizable load. Here the poem describes the native captives like so many butterflies flitting about without a care in the world.

Take up the White Man's burden--
In patience to abide,
To veil the threat of terror
And check the show of pride;

Analysis: It's clear that our speaker's got a main point to get across here: "Take up the White Man's burden.” Our speaker thinks of white men (they're the best) and the native peoples (they're wild animals), but it's interesting to note here that the speaker sees the White Man's racial and gender superiority as a special responsibility. He's not just cheering on white men for the heck of it. He's saying that, because they are the greatest human beings on the planet, they have a responsibility to help out the rest of the world's inferior, uncivilized inhabitants. And they should accept and tolerate that responsibility with patience ("In patience to abide").

Racism and social Darwinism:

In the development of technology

- They came to regard ‘race’ as an explanation of the disparities.
- Attributed military and technological advantage and superiority to skin color

In the ideas of nationalism

- Connected the idea of racist thinking ‘nation’ (same language, physical characteristics, culture, etc.) constituted a ‘race.’
- The British ‘race’ or to the French and German ‘races’
- Characteristics are genetically passed down

In Social sciences

- Heavily influenced by biological sciences both in methods and by adopting analogies; thus, social scientists set out to classify different ‘races’ with a tendency to perceive of human beings in different sub-species or even different species

Justification for domination

-BRITISH CULTURE: Certain characteristics were celebrated: language, appearance, religion, lifestyle; They had a mission to Christianize and civilize other groups in the world; Humanitarian project to save savages from their demise.

-IMPERIAL IDEOLOGY AND DOMINANCE: The imperial ideology of the British stemmed the idea that other peoples are naturally inferior to them.

-Hegemony: leadership or dominance, especially by one country or social group over others.
British Honduras:

-The citizenry believed in the goodness and glory of the crown and were willing to serve and die for the crown. British education focused on creating a class of persons that were Indian in blood but English in taste, opinion, morals and intellect.

FOUR reasons why racism existed in the society of British Honduras:

- Creole loyalty: Creoles occupied primary government offices; Creoles dominated culturally
- The British brainwashed the creoles with the European ideology.
- Division of non-whites: The non-white population was divided; The British were purposefully placed one group of people against the other through the use of stereotypes, and gossip; The major division within the settlement was that of ethnicity and color.
- Division among groups (geography): Geographic concentration of ethnic groups; Economic concentrations of ethnic groups; Political power in the City