Mass Incarceration of Blacks in America

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Many may wonder why there's an astronomical number of black people in America's prison system. Over the last 50 years we've seen an increase in the prison population, most notably in the early 70s, where young black men were targeted by a system geared towards breaking up the unified unit of households. Impoverished conditions were driving factors in many resorting to criminality, as a means of putting food on the table for their families. The introduction of high-grade-low-priced heroin into the so-called ghetto in the 60s played a huge role in the destruction, death and imprisonment of many within its communities. In response to rebellions across the United States in many of its cities, where black people came out in protest over the mistreatment, disenfranchisement, discrimination, segregation, police brutality and racism they endured over many decades, the government orchestrated and hatched a well-designed plan in an effort to destroy the rebellious mentality of the black man when they dropped the H-bomb called (Heroin) into already deprived and hurting communities in Black America. Prior to the introduction of heroin, many communities of color were well-knitted unified communities where everyone stuck together like a village. There was real peace in black neighborhoods across America because we hadn't lost our way yet. The value of one’s life was always taken into account and no materialism or monetary gain could measure up to the life of an African American. So, that imbedded value was a focal point that blacks kept inside of them.

The brainwashing techniques utilized by subliminal suggestions to acquire materialism as a form of having status played a key part in why black people craved and sought after false riches and wealth. It created a dog-eat-dog mindset and caused a toxic environment to foster and eat away at its core values and worth. The ugly truth is, blacks have always been targeted and seen as dispensable, marginalized, ostracized and excluded by a wanton superior mentality that believes they're above them. How do I know this to be true, well I am a black man in America who has experienced first-hand the injustices in a system designed to hold me and those who look like me, back. And due to extreme punishment of drug addicts, and those suffering from severe mental illness we continue to see a majority of black folks in American prisons. Why is it that the system is so quick to imprison blacks who suffer from a sickness, while affording their counterparts ample opportunities to benefit from alternative programming which keeps them out of jail or prison? The sad reality is, the system isn't set-up to equally benefit people of color, its designed to entrap and keep them in some form of detention, confinement, or imprisonment for as long as the law would allow in their respective states.

In the 1800s before lynching became popular and the standard for interracial romance, blacks were thrown in prison and held for years because of being caught having sex with white women. Alabama was among the first of the states to past racial integrity laws. The criminalization of interracial sex became the norm in the South, resulting in a significant number of black men being imprisoned. So, the idea of black men being sent to prison for the slightest reason(s) has been going on for almost two centuries. The so-called 'War on Drugs' presented an opportunity for law enforcement to go into black communities and arrest any black person they felt was involved in the drug trade and deemed a threat or menace to society. In the 80s & 90s, the prison boom and expansion became paramount in the criminal justice system, jails and prisons started filling up at an alarming rate with mostly people of color. Disparities in how whites arrested for having powder cocaine in their possession, in contrast to blacks arrested for having crack cocaine in their possession was a stark difference in how they were prosecuted and penalized. In many instances the white offender with the powder cocaine, usually meant he went home after arrest and posting bond, then given leniency at sentencing with a probationary period and fine. In comparison to the black offender who didn't make bond, and like in Monopoly, didn't go pass go, but instead went directly to jail. Meaning, the less fortunate black offender ends up serving a ridiculous mandatory minimum prison sentence of 10 years or more.

Blacks citizens are six times more likely to be arrested and sent to prison than whites. Because of racism in the criminal justice system, we are seeing a constant rise in the mass incarceration of black people. And its high time to end the wasteful and needlessly harmful effects to communities of color, when it comes to dismantling families and throwing black men in the nearest prison. Mandatory minimum sentencing practices has over the past few decades been a huge factor in blacks making up the majority of people in prisons in America, where well over half of the 2.3 million incarcerated are that of blacks. Disproportionality in the sentencing of blacks plays a role in why we see so many black people in the American prison system. The 1994 Crime Bill passage created a space that landed many black folks behind bars. The infamous 'Super Predator' label spurred on by Democratic Politicians like President Bill Clinton, Sen. Joe Biden, and Sen. Hillary Clinton, among others, only perpetuated the stigmatization of Blacks being this vicious type of species, almost inhuman like that somehow posed an immediate threat and danger to the general public.

Finally, today we see crime rates lower, Americans now realize we have an overincarceration problem - one that disproportionately impacts black communities, as we are far more likely to be locked up in America than our white peers.

- IT’S TIME TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD IN THE AMERICAN PRISON SYSTEM -