

Problems of Anti-“Alien” Racism among Conservative Chinese

Part Four: Anti-African Racist Theory and Advocacy by Right-Wing “Public Intellectuals” in China

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In addition to racism against African-Americans among some conservative White people, racism against Africans and African-Americans are also rampant among conservative and right-wing Chinese or simply ignorant and uneducated Chinese with no sense of respect for “alien” cultures; and many cases can be found in YouTube, if you search by the key words “racism against Africans in Guangzhou.”

Some YouTube movies deal with the subject of the living conditions of African residents, and anti-African racism in Guangzhou, China, and with the issue of intermarriage between African men and Chinese women. Some Chinese right-wing “public intellectuals” have been obviously influenced by racist theories in Europe and the United State, to form their own brands of anti-African racism “with Chinese characteristics.” The so-called “public intellectuals” are those with dissident political opinions that sharply differ from the mainstream ones that are within the party line of Beijing; however, they usually work within the system with no intention to subvert China’s current political system or to challenge the status of the Chinese Communist Party as the ruling party, and thus, in most cases, they are tolerated and even protected by the Chinese Government. The general political orientation of China’s “public intellectuals” is very close to those of the moderate and moderate conservatives of the U.S. Republicans, in other words, they are moderate right-wingers but not reactionaries. Although right-wing “public intellectuals” are usually tolerated and protected by the Chinese Government, they are often targets of criticism or even verbal attacks by the mainstream intellectuals, who are mostly on the left and center-to-left political and ideological spectrum. Relevant YouTube videos are listed below.

1. “*France Has Been ‘Occupied’ by the Black People, How Should China Deal with the Black People? History Has Given Us An Answer*” (法国已被黑人“占领”，中国该如何对待黑人？历史已告诉我们答案), available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zR7VQJtMoEE>. In this video, a Chinese woman commentator explained the reasons why France has a large and growing African immigrant population, including the facts that (1) more than 325,000 Black Africans enlisted in General de Gaul’s army to help liberate France from Nazi occupation, (2) shortage of human resources after World War Two for the reconstruction of France, (3) high birth rate of Black African immigrants versus very low birth rate of White French women, resulting in over 60% of new babies in France are Black. She then analyzed

why Japan does not have a noticeable presence of Black immigrant population, indicating that Japan's immigration law is very tough and contains a lot of stipulations specifically designed to prevent Africans from settling in Japan. She then analyzed China's practice of accepting foreign immigrants (during Tang Dynasty, China was the most powerful nation of the world; thus, China during this period welcome foreign immigrants and even appointed some of them to high positions in the government. The commentator next advocated some moderate and practical ideas on the issue of immigration for the current Chinese Government (accept immigrants but defend Chinese Civilization against foreign cultural encroachment). The commentator also said that in order for any nation to be tolerant enough to accept foreign immigrants, that nation must be powerful enough to make sure that her civilization can survive the impact of immigration.

2. *"The Number of White People Is Continuously Declining, While the Number of Black People Is Continuously Increasing, What Does This Mean for the United States?"* (美國白人越來越少，黑人越來越多，這意味著什麼?) , available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KFMDHIVAOdc>. In this video, a Chinese woman commentator talked about changes in America's population make-up in terms of the continuous increase of Black population in some states and the continuous decrease of the number of White people. She expressed concern that if the Anglo-Saxon-Americans lose their current position as the mainstream racial group, and the African-Americans become the mainstream racial group, then the United States will be facing serious problems of political instability, citing the issue of Catalonia Independence Movement in Spain which the commentator believed to be caused by the fact that Catalonians are the mainstream ethnic group in the region. The position of the commentator is obviously racist, and her arguments are based on a lack of understanding of the facts and factors that cause social changes. First of all, in the United States, Anglo-Saxon is more an ethnic-cultural rather than a racial-genetic thing; except in the early years of the United States, the Anglo-Saxons, or descendants of Puritans who came from the British Isles, are not the majority of White immigrants from Europe; according to Quora.com (<https://www.quora.com/What-percentage-of-Americans-are-actually-of-Anglo-Saxon-ancestry>), "As for U.S. American whites, the largest immigration group is Germans, followed by Irish, English, Italians, Poles, French, Scots, Scotch-Irish, Dutch, Norwegian, Swedish, Russian, French Canadian, Welsh, Czech, Hungarian, Portuguese, Danish and Greek;" the same website also indicates that "Anglo-Saxons were a group of Germanic tribes that invaded Britain after the fall of the Roman rule. They were Angles, Jutes, Saxons, Frisians, Franks and probably some other minor groups. They didn't wipe out the native inhabitants, they mixed with them. Later invaders would follow the same trend. So as a racial or ethnic classification, Anglo-Saxon doesn't make much sense nowadays. This word is used mainly as synonym of White and Protestant, but it includes peoples that have nothing to do with Anglo Saxons, such as Irish, Welsh and Scots, who are mainly Celts;" in addition, due to extensive practice of inter-marriage in the United States which was traditionally a "melting pot," most of the White-Americans who identify themselves as "Anglo-Saxons" do not possess pure blood lineage in strictly

racial-genetic terms, rather, they contain some percentage of genetics from fellow “White stocks” such as German or Irish, and even from other “racial stocks” from Native-Americans or even African-Americans. I once met a White man who told me that he possesses all genetic elements from all races and that America will continue to be a “melting pot” until one day it becomes an “American Super Race” that melts down all races and possesses all strengths from all people in the world; he believes that there is no such thing as White or Black or Yellow Races, but only one human race. All social instabilities are actually caused by imbalance of economic power or stratification of society into the “haves” and the “have-nots,” or by other economic issues, for example, Catalonia in Spain has 10% of Spanish population but pays 20% of taxes, so the local people want to break away because of conflict in economic interests. Therefore, the argument of the Chinese woman commentator that when the Anglo-Saxons (she actually means the White-Americans) lose their mainstream position to the African-Americans, then the United States will face serious problems of political instability is sounding a false alarm.

The above two videos indicate that anti-African racism in China, at grass-roots level, has entered a new stage of theory-construction, beyond the early stage of sporadic and spontaneous reactions against particular conflicts. This should raise some concerns indeed!