

Discussion on Afro-Modern Critique and Theories of Justice

Prompt 16

Souffrant and Mills focus on the Afro-modern tradition due to its reflective nature of how Black thinkers approached modernity with conditions of racial exclusion within Western political theory. It is a group of intellectual traditions that reveal the contradiction between the liberal ideals and the racial realities. This tradition shows that contemporary political thought is not universal but historically organized along racial hierarchy and opposition (Hammer & Itzigsohn, 2025).

Prompt 18

Souffrant writes that this approach of Rawls is one that is blind since it systematically ignores historical and racial inequalities. Liberal theory, by starting on a clean slate, erases the history of oppression, thus carrying out intellectual historicide (Mills, 2025). This abstraction generates idealized justice frameworks within ideal theory, that seem neutral but cannot confront the facts of racial domination inherent in social structures in real-world contexts.

Prompt 19

To Souffrant, the virtue of the Black political philosophy is its race-conscious and history-based interpretation of the injustice as a form of non-ideal theory. In contrast to an ideal liberal theory, it focuses on the lived experiences of marginalized groups and reveals unseen systems of domination (Slack, 2022). It presents an alternative approach to the critique of existing systems and reconstructs political theory to better reflect real inequalities.

Prompt 20

Power, history, racism, and other oppressions should be considered when formulating a valid theory of justice since these forces determine actual political situations and institutional

outcomes. Not taking them into consideration leads to abstract and misleading structures.

According to Mills, the basis of contemporary political systems consists of racial domination, which necessitates that any adequate theory should adopt a non-ideal position that directly addresses structural inequality (Mills, 2025).

MY PERFECT WRITING

References

- Hammer, R., & Itzigsohn, J. (2025). Rethinking historical sociology: Learning from WEB Du Bois and the black radical tradition. *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race*, 22(1), 171–189. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/du-bois-review-social-science-research-on-race/article/rethinking-historical-sociology/0A08464598CAFDB4617577CD058D4A2D>
- Mills, C. W. (2025). *Theorizing Racial Justice*. Oxford University Press.
- Slack, G. (2022). Charles W. Mills: Black Radical Liberalism or Black Marxism? <https://doi.org/10.5840/radphilrev20221118131>