

## Minorities in America

American borders have been open for a very long time, welcoming new immigrants day after day. However, the gates to American hearts have remained half opened and half closed; they like to see immigrants participating in building the American economy and working in the gardens of their homes, but not entering their homes, except as servants or maintenance workers. When the average American looks at an immigrant, he is likely to say to himself: yes, he may belong to us, but he does not belong with us.

Nevertheless, most immigrants are given the opportunity to work and earn a living, but not full opportunity to get equal pay, equal status and be equal, even if they are citizens of the United States.

Though the opportunities immigrants are given tend to be good enough for most of them to prove themselves and advance, such opportunities are not good enough to enable most of them to join the ranks of the elite or enter the decision making circles, even if they earn such as status through education, hard work and unquestioned integrity. Of course there are few exceptions.

Once I had a conversation with one of my students regarding this point and he was quick to draw my attention to a story in the time magazine about a black woman who became a magazine editor. But think about, I said, if this was a normal thing, would it make the headlines?

We know that white women are making progress and getting better jobs every day without fanfare. The fact that there was a major news story regarding that particular appointment, means that for a black person to reach such a position is not normal; it is something that happens once in a few years.

Immigrants, regardless of their education, work accomplishments, ethics and integrity are seldom allowed to join the ranks of the decision makers, unless, of course, they accept to put their talents and knowledge and connections to the countries they came from in the service of the American ruling and media elites, and show dedication to serving their interests. In fact, it is almost impossible for the American media or the political

establishment to recognize, let alone promote a single person that belongs to a Third World country unless he or she is an agent serving the interests of the ruling elite, often at the expense of the poor people he identifies with, and usually claims to be committed to presenting their case to the American public.

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