

Ethnic notions essay



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

The film *Ethnic Notions* is a great and interesting documentary film that directed by Marlon Riggs. The film describes the history of anti-Black stereotypes and portrays various culture characteristics of African-Americans. In addition, it demonstrates different ways that African-Americans were presented during the nineteenth century. They were depicted as ugly, rude and inferior on the television.

These terrible and negative pictures of black people shaped ordinary people's views about black people. This was how stereotypes were established. Marlon Riggs skillfully used caricature to exaggerate African-American's physical appearances in the cartoon like big lips, heads, fat and dark skin. Cartoon shows black people are delight for being slaves because they were singing and dancing.

Black people acting that they are happy with their master and praise their master. In fact, those hypocritical performances are trend to make white people believe that black people are really happy to be the slaves. Another purpose of using caricature is to convey the racist view to people. For instance, the slave owner named a black people "Sambo" was a way of referring to black people's childlike, careless, and lazy. It makes them look like the children rather than the men. Sambo often avoid work and spend his time to dance.

As civil war begins, a new character "Zip Coon" accompanied the "Sambo". Zip Coon also is lazy, slow talking, immature, and can't adapt to freedom. He tries to intimates the whites. Eventually, he proves he is nothing, but a racist mockery.

Zip Coon states that blacks can't handle the freedom and mocks the notion of racial equality. Also, note that the KKK made a film called "Birth of a Nation" which described the black man as an animal and aggressive beast who was chasing white women and trying to rape them. They promote the misconception of the black people. In addition, they try to convince people to believe black people are brutal and violent.

" Nation of...