

Zoot suits fashion, but a political identity

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The paper " Zoot Suits – Fashion, But a Political Identity" is a great example of a culture assignment. " Long coats, pegged trousers and stiffed cuffs" remind of " zoot suit", the fashion flourished in the African-American and Mexican-American community in the early 1900s. This fashion was equally adopted by other classes and communities of the United States. Some of the Anglo people at that time had the mindset of American-Mexican people as those who never had anything like human beings generally has. They treated those American-Mexican people as those who had no regard to mankind, moralities, and humanities. These racial thoughts of Anglo people against Mexican-American community stimulated the fashion of Zoot Suit and the community started wearing Zoot Suits with more premeditated attempts in order to reinforce this fashion. Zoot suiters were resisting for their original and actual identity and recognition, which was based on the views against those of the Anglos. Those Zoot suiters wanted themselves to be perceived as kind, loving and those who had regards to human beings. In order to achieve this basic right, the Mexican-American community started making this fashion as much common as possible in the far and wide areas of California and spread it to all over the United States. As the craze was becoming more popular, those Anglos were seeking a chance to deter this increasing trend which was drifting from parent generation to their children generation with the passage of time. Even the ladies started wearing those zoot suits with " Mexican huarache sandals" representing the wartime context when those ladies had to confront at the workplace as their men were engaged in fighting battles. In the year 1943, Zoot suits came into limelight when the famous zoot suits riots broke out. Anyone wearing a zoot suit was assaulted without any sort of verification (Rivas-Rodriguez 152-153).

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Zoot suit got more popular in those Americans who supported the ideology of Mexican-American and became the political identity of the Mexican-American community.