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## Ethnic Stratification

An ethnic group is a group of people each one of whom possess a certain common trait with the others. There are a lot of examples in the history of a mankind when belonging to a particular ethnic group results in a certain status in society. One of the scholars to research and discuss such issue was Donald Noel. He discussed ethnic stratification form a point when belonging to a certain ethnic group resulted in lower status in the society. According to him, there are three main factors that lead to ethnic stratification: competition, ethnocentrism, and differential power.

The USA is peculiar in this regard since it is home to a lot of racial groups. Some of them are superior to others, which can be seen in what roles they have in the country. Among all the ethnic groups in the US, African American group is the one that has been neglected for quite a long time (Noel, 1968).

Being small in size, this group has been segregated in many aspects of social life. For example, African Americans were believed to lack the needed skills and inborn abilities to be leaders. At the same time leadership was a sphere of a social life that white race was believed to be suitable for. This meant that while whites continued to enjoy the key roles in the society, African Americans continued being segregated (Noel, 1968).

The occupations that were considered superior were given to the whites without considering the blacks (Noel, 1968). At the same time, typical occupations that African Americans got were inferior, for example gardeners, cooks, guards, etc.

As time passed, the blacks realized that they deserved more and started fighting for their rights to become equal members of the American society. As we can see now, they have achieved a

lot throughout all these years, however there is still much they have to do. Still they have undergone through lots of necessary transformations to gain equal rights in the USA.

## Bibliography

Noel, Donald. "Social Problems." *A Theory of the Origin of Ethnic Stratification* 16.2 (1968): 157-172. Print.