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Government

Comparative Essay

Schools are made for all students to have an equal right their education. But in 1884 Indigenous children were removed from their families, forced to part with their ancestral language, and had been exposed to sexual and physical abuse. *Canada's Residential Schools* documentary interviews the few Indians left that have gone through the residential schooling (that survived). The stories these people have to share are heartbreaking and unsettling to hear. The second film viewed was *Colorado Experience: Amache Japanese Internment Camp*. Over 7,000 Japanese citizens were forcibly imprisoned in 1942 at the Granada Colorado Relocation Center. In this documentary the producer immediately begins it with how the Japanese were separated from the Americans and put into the camp simply because of physical differences. Within both of these films, one can see the cruelty of the Americans' actions towards others, just because they are different.

Indigenous people have been at risk for centuries, but the residential schools took it to another level of evil. A survivor of this camp told the story of the children being electrocuted in inappropriate areas simply because they would laugh, or even try to carry a conversation with a friend. These people, as the Japs, were tortured and put through brutal trials of pain all because they are different. The Indians and Japs in these films have their innocence in common. Many of the indigenous people sent to these schools were just children, and their childhoods were stripped away. Many of the indigenous people in these schools suffered horrible, painful deaths. The estimate of how many is unknown, but the amount of people known to be dead is horrific. Many of the people running these schools would attempt to hide this from their personal lives, knowing deep down what they are doing is wrong and heartless. But of course that never seems to stop anyone immediately.

The Japanese people have also gone through many hardships over the years. But when camp Amache comes into the picture, racism has come a long way. The japs were removed from society as much as possible, a majority of them being american citizens themselves. Despite this, americans still wanted nothing to do with these people. They were sent to a concentration camp, but unlike the jews, they were not there to be put to death. These people were considered inmates and were made to work on the farm and process meat. The objective was to have enough supply to feed themselves and their fellow inmates. However, the people sent to Amache were very successful in what they did. The crops provided enough to feed everyone and it was said that they grew four million pounds of vegetables, and fifty hundred thousand bushels of field crops. If we do the math here, amache was the smallest WRA camp, but was the largest city in colorado during the war. The people sent to Amache clearly worked their rear ends off day in and day out in order to survive. The camp officially closed on october 15, 1945 and 114 of the japanese had a memorial made in memory of the lives lost during the Amache experience. The cruelty and segregation the survivors lived through is inspiring. Despite the removal from their right to live as an american, they worked as hard as they had to in order to survive.

In retrospect, the people in these films were removed from everything they loved and knew simply because they were different. Whether it was their language, way of life, or even their physical appearance the americans let fear drive them to do horrible things to innocent people. The difference here being that the japanese were removed, to keep the americans 'safe', while the indians were removed to be brainwashed into 'proper americans' even if that meant thousands of lives being lost. As seen in these documentaries, throughout history we have taken innocent lives because of fear, the need for power, money, land, physical differences, anything

we would consider 'not normal' or 'not american' was considered wrong. The indians and japanese were innocent people fending for their lives; simply because they were seen as different.