

Name

Professor

Course

Date

Race and Ethnicity

According to Ronald Takaki, race is a sub-category or a component of ethnicity whereas ethnicity comes as a result of boundary development and maintenance. Takaki further explains that race is a special construction, which in the past set apart racial minorities coming from the European immigrant groups (Takaki, 46). In simple terms, race refers to various groups of people who either share or differ in biological traits that are deemed by the society as socially significant. On the other hand, ethnicity entails shared cultural perspectives, practices and distinctions, which define one group of individuals from the other. In most cases, cultural heritage aspect is always shared.

The ethnicity and race constructs tend to relate in various ways when it comes to the American social history. However, according to "*A different Mirror*" race remains a category independent when it comes to ethnicity something, which Takaki asserts that American race is completely different from ethnicity (Takaki, 68). With reference to this, the aspect of being an American has historically remained a parable in terms of its definition. Nevertheless, ethnicity and race define what being an American really is. According to Takaki, the ethnic consciousness of most of the European immigrant groups tended to undermine an all-inclusive white identity in the American society (Takaki, 72). This was evident by the "not-yet-white-ethnics" phrase. Alternatively, race and ethnicity have played various roles in the social history of the United

States. The English always had a negative view of race on the American society. In most cases, they were seen as prone to crime, diseases and are likely to be public charges.

Work Cited

Takaki, Ronald T, and Peter Berkrot. *A Different Mirror: [a History of Multicultural America]*.

Old Saybrook, Conn.: Tantor Media, Inc, 2011. Sound recording.