"Liberalism and the Problem of Racism"
January 27, 2009 at 12:00 pm
Cone 112

A number of commentators have pointed out that liberal theorists have devoted little, if any, attention to the problem of racism. If you look at the indexes of most mainstream liberal texts, you will not find entries for race and racism. Some commentators have attempted to explain this absence by drawing a sharp distinction between "ideal" and "non-idea theory." According to this explanation, race is a problem better suited for non-ideal theory, and therefore, this is the reason that we don't find it being discussed in major theoretical works like Rawls' *A Theory of Justice*. Since virulent forms of anti-black racism found during slavery and the Jim Crow era are obviously contrary to liberal ideals, and these practices no longer exists, the idea is there is no need to theorize about them. At best, they should only be used as clear illustrations of injustice or wrongdoing. However as we move beyond obvious racists practices and institutions to a time when racism takes more subtle forms, liberal theorists believe that all the theoretical work has been done, and we only need to apply their theories to the remnants of a racist order. I disagree. In second part of this paper, I shall explain my disagreement. But before I do, I will spend some time explaining why liberals have been disposed to ignore or misconstrue the reality of race and the role it should play in our moral theorizing.

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