

GANGSTER RAP IN AMERICA

Voices of Black Men

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Role of Black Men in America

In the inner cities of Chicago, New York and Los Angeles, black men were facing racial conflicts. Rap, a genre heard in predominantly urban areas around the world was a form a communication from black men to a society that misunderstood and mistreated them.

Black men in America are often racially profiled by law enforcement. The way black men dressed in the early 80's and 90's was very street casual, baggy jeans, sneakers, hats, gold chains etc This idea of black men fitting the description of a burglar.

Asks Class: How many of you have been racially profiled? or felt uncomfortable by police presents?

It is now 2017, and black men are still being watched closely. Over fourteen years Stop and frisk, a method implemented in the state of New York proves just that. More than 50% of the stops were black male suspects compared to 12% of white suspects that were stopped. The disparity is huge.



What did rap do for black masculinity on the West Coast?

It is a storyteller, in which each rap verse the rapper would talk about a time he's been harrassed, incarcerated or questioned by law enforcement. The rapper would respond or question the system on why their black skin causes this to happen.

Lyrics from “Gangster Rap” Music

- “A young nigga got it bad ‘cause I’m brown And not the other color, so police think They have the authority to kill a minority” “With a little bit of gold and a pager Searchin’ my car, lookin’ for the product Thinkin’ every nigga is sellin’ narcotics You’d rather see me in the pen”- *Fvck the Police*, N.W.A
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- “You hate me don't you? You hate my people, your plan is to terminate my culture You're fuckin' evil I want you to recognize that I'm a proud monkey You vandalize my perception but can't take style from me And this is more than confession...” - *The Blacker the Berry*, Kendrick Lamar
- “The overseer could stop you, "What you're doing?"The officer will pull you over just when he's pursuing The overseer had the right to get ill And if you fought back, the overseer had the right to kill The officer has the right to arrest And if you fight back they put a hole in your chest”- “*Sound of the Police*”, KRS One





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P A R E N T A L

ADVISORY

EXPLICIT CONTENT



*"STRAIGHT OUTTA COMPTON HARASSMENT SCENE" YOUTUBE,
THESSALONIANSIN, 10 JULY 2016.*

I hope that you were able to grasp the idea that black men used rap to express themselves about the harassment, profiling and imprisonment in America.

Can being black in America be a *crime*?