

The BLACK C o m m e n t a t o r

An independent weekly internet magazine
dedicated to the movement for economic justice,
social justice and peace - Providing commentary,
analysis and investigations on issues affecting
African Americans and the African world.

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Cover Story
And What of the Black Underclass?
Keeping It Real
By Larry Pinkney
BlackCommentator.com Editorial Board

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With more and more banks failing, joblessness steadily rising, and housing foreclosures continuing to reach an all time high in the United States, the massive black underclass, which is generally ignored, hidden, and unnoticed; *reels* with indescribable economic and social pain and deprivation.

Having been ruthlessly betrayed by the black elite and much of black intelligentsia in the 21st century, the plight of the *black underclass* in the U.S. is, in some ways, *similar* to the horrific existence suffered by the Dalit people ("untouchables") within India's notorious and ongoing de facto caste system. Indeed, the black underclass in this nation can be accurately described as the economic and social Dalits of 21st century 'America.'

Even as every day persons of *all* colors in this nation increasingly undergo unacceptable and growing economic hardships, the black underclass sustains the brunt of economic and social apartheid in this nation. Notwithstanding the arrogance of the corporate / military elite of this nation, who see in their slick political puppet Barack Obama, a type of *urban uprising insurance* against the masses of every day people whom they exploit; the laws of physics simply cannot long be avoided. Two things cannot exist in the same place at the same time. In other words one cannot have tranquility of the masses while at the same time they are jobless, homeless, and starving. This untenable scenario is becoming an increasing reality for millions of citizens of all colors, and most especially as it exacerbates the economic and social horrors faced by the black underclass.

The black underclass, which even during the best of economic times in this nation, disproportionately suffers massively, is now in a state of prolonged decay without even minimal life support. For black people in general and the black underclass in particular, obtaining a decent education, jobs, housing, health care, and judicial justice are fundamentally *out of the question*. The relatively small black elite has shamelessly, in complicity with *the elite of its white counterpart*, helped spawn an insidious *new form of racism and economic apartheid*. Moreover, members of the black underclass are themselves chastised and blamed by this insidious black elite and intelligentsia for being the economic and social victims of a callous, avaricious, capitalist system which now finds itself in deep trouble nationally and globally.

The *mis*leaders of Black America are continuing to drink from the *same* despicable trough of greed, lies, and exploitation as their elite white counterparts. They are also, like the corporate self described "news" media of *disinformation*, showing themselves to be the absolute enemies of every day people of all colors, including the black underclass.

The underbelly of this nation is the black underclass. Instead of becoming smaller and moving out of poverty and disenfranchisement, the black underclass has grown much, much larger and become even more impoverished and disenfranchised. What will it take for this black underclass to rise up? Only time will tell. Yet, one thing is certain: the more that persons become politically educated and conscious as to what is *truly* in their interests *collectively*, the less tolerance they will have for the corporate slicksters, banksters, and Wall Street barons who are sucking the life blood from *us all*. Indeed, the less tolerance will be had for the military elite - who are *playing us for fools and using us as cannon fodder in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Pakistan!* Democracy can never be spread at the end of a sword, for such a thing is in itself *a contradiction in terms*.

The black underclass *will* ultimately, collectively rise up. The question is will it be organized and principled? We must be among those who determine the answer to this question *in the affirmative*.

Time to identify and stand up to the blood suckers and war mongers. Time to agitate, educate, and organize locally and globally! Give *no* quarter, *no* space, *no* breathing room to media *mis*informers, the blood suckers, or the war mongers *whatever their gender or color*.

Onward then sisters and brothers. The future calls and we must go! Onward!...

BlackCommentator.com Editorial Board Member, Larry Pinkney, is a veteran of the Black Panther Party, the former Minister of Interior of the Republic of New Africa, a former political prisoner and the only American to have successfully self-authored his civil/political rights case to the United Nations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In connection with his political organizing activities in opposition to voter suppression, etc., Pinkney was interviewed in 1988 on the nationally televised PBS NewsHour, formerly known as The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour. For more about Larry Pinkney see the book, [Saying No to Power: Autobiography of a 20th Century Activist and Thinker](#), by William Mandel [Introduction by Howard Zinn]. (Click [here](#) to read excerpts from the book). Click [here](#) to contact Mr. Pinkney.



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