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Dogs and Dehumanization

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Carter Ottley and
Mentor Dr. Laura Gelfand

SOCIAL SCIENCE

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Introduction

Throughout history, oppressors have categorized enslaved groups as less than human. A frequent technique is to use comparisons with animals to dehumanize. These comparisons are made frequently with dogs. Once a group is seen as less than human, poor treatment towards them is seen as justifiable.

Research Purpose

To find the ways that the term dog and animal references were used against enslaved groups to dehumanize them. Learn the impact that it has on our society today.

Results

- The first part of racism is creating a distinction between you and them.
- By viewing those that they enslaved as less than human, their actions are justified.
- Animalization is a frequent technique to dehumanize black people.
- Enslavers would "tame" the people they enslaved through beatings and whippings like they would an animal.

Conclusions

- Comparing enslaved groups of people to dogs was a part of the dehumanization process.
- Past and present dehumanization impact our society.
- People would animalize the way a black family would raise a child.

Comparisons with dogs contributed to the dehumanization of enslaved people.



Police dogs attacking a civil rights demonstrator.

Current Impact

- Stranded dogs got more media attention than stranded black people in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Showing that some members of society view dogs as more valuable than black people.
- Systemic racism and police brutality are examples of how animalization has become acceptable in our society.
- Videos of police violence against black people turn into blaming the black person.
- Society believes that black people feel less pain, so they get insufficient pain medication.
- Art, cheers, and actions animalize various black athletes and celebrities.
- People compared the Obamas with apes and other animals.

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