Colonial America’s institution of slavery and its usage of the slave codes helped in reshaping African culture among slaves, leaving only a few African traditions among American Blacks. Insurrections such as the Louisiana Slave Revolt and Nat Turner’s rebellion lead to harsher treatment and laws preventing slave’s freedoms and eventually their lose of cultural traditions such as language, religion, music, dance, and a breaking of the spirit. With these things being stripped from Africans, is fair to call American Blacks African American? Is there enough culture lift to connect with the term or are we simply Black.

If we continue to not care... We will be labeled not as African American or Black But as a people with no culture and no hope...

For the purposes of American Ethnic Studies... to educate American Blacks and others about the usage of the terms African American and Black, urging them to decide on which title is preferred so we can work together to be called JUST American.

Untitled is NOT an Identity

&

Not Caring is no Longer an Option!

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Black became the popular term of the 60's and it swept by the terms Negro and Colored and became a success with slogans like “I’m Black and I’m Proud”, “Black is Beautiful”, and “Black Power”. But despite its success the term became deemed as negative, dark, and without a link to any culture. Many may argue that the culture is found in people like Langston Hughes, Zora Neal Hurston, Fredrick Douglas, W.E.B. DuBois, and Sojourner Truth; American Blacks who were not born or had no connection to Africa. And it can be argued that our skin is not black but brown, but black is the opposite of white, making both terms incorrect, but polarized and somehow appropriate. So if we are to call Euro-Americans white, why can’t we be called Black?

The term African American was campaigned by Jesse Jackson because he saw the term Black to be cultureless and a remembrance of a dark past for American Blacks. Jackson felt that African American was more appropriate and that it could provide a place for people to relate back to. But Africa is seen as too broad of a place to relate culture and traditions to because there are over 50 countries, 1000 states, 1500 languages, and countless different cultures. The Term African American does connect us to a place, a motherland, but it’s a continent with traditions we no longer connect with. Or can the title African American link us to the few African traditions we still have such as jumping the broom, elaborate funeral services, African Proverbs, naming our children, and the 200 plus African phrases and words translated into English.

Whether you identify with being called black because you feel you have no connection to Africa or if you want to be called African American because you recognize that link of left over culture, or like the way the term sounds, it’s your call. But as individuals we should decided on what term we want to be called. In the 2010 Gallup Poll when asked which term American Blacks prefer to be called, 20% said African American, 12% said Black, and 68% said it doesn’t matter or no opinion. The fact that over half of the black population doesn’t care what they are called is sad.

We are living in a time where we call each other by the N word, but don’t allow other races to do the same, where we are slightly offended when called black because we feel it’s being said in a racist way, and where African American is deemed as the term Whites use when they’re scare in unsure.

If as individuals we can decide on a term we prefer, then collectively as a group we can decide on a title for our people and eventually work on being called JUST American.