



How long is the long way to go?

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It is apparent that many people within the media and politics have not had an opportunity to travel overseas. *If they have, it was strictly for recreation and not to analyze or observe socioeconomic and cultural issues of other countries compared to our own here in the United States.* There is no place on the entire planet where discrimination, racism and bigotry are not present. Racism and discrimination exist even between people of the same skin color and nationality. *While no society is without its imperfections, you weigh the advantages by comparison. But if you are ignorant about how others live, think and act beyond your own borders then you tend to be skewed and biased.*

Do you complain about the presence of discrimination? Be gay, a minority or even a woman in Asia or any Middle East Arab country and talk to me about your experience. Complaining about opportunities? Be overweight, handicapped or unattractive in South America for instance and try to land a job in an elegant shopping center and tell us about it. Want to keep talking about opportunities? Be poor, black or an Indian descendant in South America and let me know how far you get.

I invite you to reside anywhere in Europe or Asia and pursue your immigration residence and employment opportunities and see what your efforts bring. Do you speak French with an accent? Try to get a job in France. Born in Germany from foreign parents and trying to get German citizenship? Let me know how it goes. Be a South American or Moroccan descendant living in Spain and *find out what you will be called.* Be Guatemalan and try to cross the border to Mexico and see what happens. Ask marine Sgt. Andrew Tahmoressi what happened to him when he crossed the border to Mexico by mistake carrying his weapons. When captured in China or any Arab country, drug dealers *don't have the right to attorneys or possible parole.* Instead, they get hung or beheaded, no questions asked. *Who has heard of the term*

'jailed political prisoners'? It happens in Cuba, China, Egypt, Venezuela, Russia and Syria among others to people that oppose or speak out against the regime or government. Can you imagine if these practices occurred here in the United States? Half of the country would have been detained a long time ago.

What some politicians and those in the media here in the United States have done and continue to do is a crime. They are destroying the country, trying to divide and polarize the American people with two subject weapons they always gong during elections season - *race and rich vs poor* - just to gain votes or simply to disguise their incompetence. Since the media basically elect some politicians, the coziness between them is natural and their alliance to divide the country is a common effort. *Media is no longer objective and honest. Media is either republican or democrat. Media is political.*

The United States have evolved tremendously despite having members of its society still attached to shameful behaviors. *But it is not all the country, they are not the majority.* It is sad to hear some small minds in the media and certain politicians claiming that we have a long way to go when talking about racism and discrimination because the country is white supremacist. My question is: *where is the end of that long way?* When do you think we will reach an ideal stage in our society? Today is a flag. Tomorrow might be chain sections at Home Depot because someone can associate that with slavery. In a month perhaps, the problem might be our own flag, because of the colors. Maybe in a year some of our names and last names might be banned if for instance your last name is Lee and your first name is Robert or Edward. Let's stop the nonsense, folks. *There is no country in the world except the United States of America, that has the laws to protect and preserve equal rights and opportunities to all its nationals and foreigners.* We are not one hundred percent perfect but we have made huge strides.

Knowing that there are black people all over the world, how many are CEOs, musicians, journalists, doctors, scientists, professors, athletes, politicians, attorneys, moguls, black billionaires, etc. in Germany, France, Argentina, Italy, Japan, China, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Spain, South Africa, Dubai, Panama, Colombia, The Netherlands, Iraq, Iran or Canada. *How many can you name?*

Those irresponsible and dishonest journalists and politicians who persuade with cheap political tactics to believe that the United States is a racist country with a menacing racial problem are dishonest, morally incorrect, inaccurate and downright anti-American. A racist country and a racist society could have never ever embraced black people the way we have done, including myself as a black male and Hispanic immigrant writing in his second language here on LinkedIn. *Take a peek at this brief list that I compiled:*

Barack Obama: President of the United States (2 terms) and Harvard University attorney

Michelle Obama: First lady and Harvard University attorney

Vernon Jordan: Businessman, former investment banker and civil rights advocate

Ursula Burns: Chairwoman and CEO of Xerox

Kenneth Chenault: Chairman and CEO of American Express

Clarence Otis: Former CEO of Darden restaurants

Richard Parsons: Former chairman of Citigroup and Time Warner

Annette Gordon-Reed: Historian and law professor at Harvard University

Betty Currie: Former personal secretary for Bill Clinton

Charlayne Hunter-Gault: American journalist

Earl Gilbert Graves: Businessman and philanthropist

Ertharin Cousin: Executive director of the United Nations World Food Program

Tiger Woods: Professional Golfer and millionaire

Aylwin B. Lewis: CEO and President of Potbelly Sandwich Works

Marcia Carol Anderson: Major General in the United States Army Reserve

Deval Laurine Patrick: Politician, former governor of Massachusetts

Denzel Washington: Actor, Oscar academy winner

Kenneth Carleton Frazier: Chairman and CEO of Merck & Co

Oprah Gail Winfrey: Activist, actress and media mogul owner

Whoopi Goldberg: Comedienne, actress, political activist

Michael Jordan: Mogul entrepreneur and former 6 times NBA title player

Tyler Perry: Actor, filmmaker, playwright, author, and songwriter.

Benjamin Carson: Author, retired Johns Hopkins neurosurgeon and presidential candidate

Tyra Banks: Talk show host, producer, author, actress, and former Victoria's Secret model

Janice Howroyd: Entrepreneur. CEO of ACT-1 Group

Rosalind G. Brewer: President and CEO of Sam's Club

Beyonce: Mogul, singer, musician and actress

All of the above folks are black Americans from different disciplines and walks of life. The list can go on and on. *Based on this fact alone, is this the same United States that some in our own country call racist? Aren't the folks listed above the antithesis of the so-called predominant white supremacist society?* If the reader cannot recognize this, he or she might be seriously mind blinded and mistaken or have a sinister agenda. *You need to stop immediately, expand your horizon and go see what life beyond your borders is like. Maybe that will finally evoke more love, pride and respect for your own country. By the way I apologize, you don't 'need to stop' because in this country, even thinking or saying stupidities is a personal right.*

Luis E. Woolley