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2015

Red, White and Bicycle: RVA, France and the Bike Race, Blog 1

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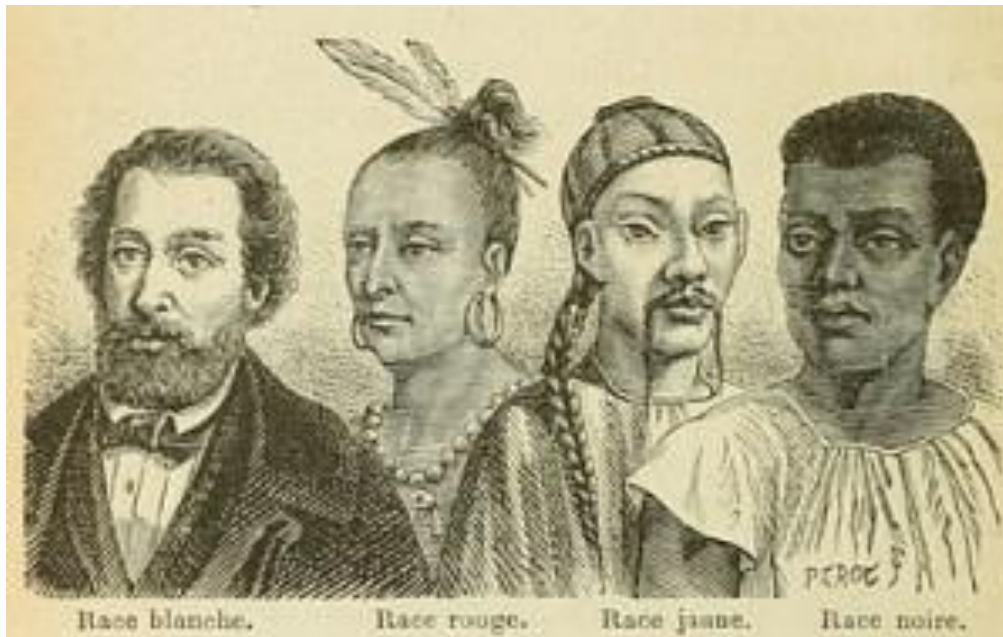
Red, White & Bicycle #Richmond2015

<https://rampages.us/butlerar2/>

Ayana Butler

RACE TO THE FRENCH

[OCTOBER 20, 2015](#) [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)



Les quatre races d'hommes. — La race blanche, la plus parfaite des races humaines, habite surtout l'Europe, l'ouest de l'Asie, le nord de l'Afrique, et l'Amérique. Elle se reconnaît à sa tête ovale, à une bouche peu fendue, à des lèvres peu épaisses. D'ailleurs son teint peut varier. — La race jaune occupe principalement l'Asie orientale, la Chine et le Japon : visage plat, pommettes saillantes, nez aplati, paupières bridées, yeux en amandes, peu de cheveux et peu de barbe. — La race rouge, qui habitait autrefois toute l'Amérique, a une peau rougeâtre, les yeux enfoncés, le nez long et arqué, le front très fuyant. — La race noire, qui occupe surtout l'Afrique et le sud de l'Océanie, a la peau très noire, les cheveux crépus, le nez écrasé, les lèvres épaisses, les bras très longs."

The above is a section of *Le Tour de la France* that describes the 4 races of man. It is interesting to me how much detail is given to the description of each type, and the attributes given to each.

1. The white race, the most perfect of human races, especially inhabits Europe, western Asia, northern Africa, and America. It is distinguished by its oval head, a little wide mouth, thick lips to low. Besides his complexion may vary. –
 1. **Why is the white race described at the most perfect of human races? Am I surprised? No I am not. Europeans have a history on forcing this ideal upon their colonies, a byproduct we are still dealing with today in The United States.**
 2. The yellow race deals mainly in East Asia, China and Japan: flat face, high cheekbones, flattened nose, eyelids clamped, almond-shaped eyes, short hair and a short beard. –
 1. **It is stated that the beards are expected to be short, but in the picture, the yellow race man has long tails on his beard.**
 3. The red race, which once lived throughout America, has a reddish skin, sunken eyes, the long, arched nose, very receding forehead. –
 4. The black race, which deals mainly with Africa and southern Oceania, has very dark skin, curly hair, a flat nose, thick lips, very long arms.
 1. **I am very surprised that there is no negative attribute given to the black race. I was expecting their to be comment upon their supposed inferiority. I also find no coincidence that the races are listed in order from light to dark.**
-

When scrolling through the text, this graphic jumped out at me and made me want to elaborate on it. After reading one of my classmates posts, I agree that France has a race issue. I realize that the 2 were just trying to educate those who read their book about the different types of races of people in this world. But if the idea was just to inform, then why is there emphasis put upon the white man being the most perfect of all races.

MY EXPERIENCE AT THE RACE

[OCTOBER 20, 2015](#) [1 COMMENT](#)

THE OPENING.



AAAAHHH THE OPENING. Finally the thing we've all been waiting for is here!

I sing with The Richmond Symphony Chorus. We had the privilege of performing Beethoven's 9th Symphony on Brown's Island, for the opening of the UCI World Cycling Championship. The above picture is one I took from on stage.



Never in a million years did I think that so many people would attend this event. The week before they were supposed to give out 8,000 tickets for the opening. As the even drew closer, they upped it to 10,000, then again to 12,000. Richmond was finally getting excited about the race.

Conquer The Cobbles

I had the pleasure of volunteering at the Conquer The Cobbles event, along with other Young Adults from my church. I had heard that the even was for locals and anyone in the area to take a spin riding the same course that the athletes and competitors would be on all week. After getting stuck in gridlock traffic for several hours, I finally made it to Libby Hill Park, and man was I surprised. There were hundreds, maybe even a thousand people trekking up this hill. AND IN THE RAIN.

I never knew how many people in the Richmond area were cycling enthusiasts. I didn't even know Richmond's cared about biking. I knew that many VCU students rode bikes to and from class, but from the looks of the participants. They weren't even students.



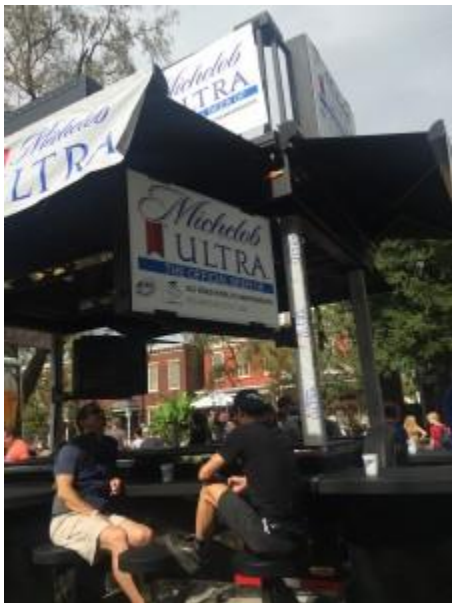
FINAL DAY

I attended the final day of the race with my mother after we went to church that morning. She had not yet been to anything that had to do with the race, since the opening and I had yet to attend during the day. There were so many people and so much energy! The atmosphere in the park was amazing. They had a jumbotron and an announcer hyping up the crowd.



There was beer in cool UCI collectable cups. There was official merchandise (though I made sure to wear my bike race t-shirt). There was food from many local restaurants. It was genuinely like on big party.

While watching the race. I was mesmerized by how fast they drove the cars so close to the cyclists and how fast they took the turns. I was afraid that some spectators might get hit. In the end Peter Sagan, from Slovakia won. Our hometown hero was in the lead for most of the race, but Sagan pulled ahead at the end and the rest of the bunch was unable to catch up.



FINAL THOUGHTS

Reflecting back on the race, I truly believe that it brought this city together. People came out and enjoyed the race. When thinking about this class, I knew bikes were important to french culture, I experienced it. In France, bikes are more common than cars. Little did I know, the impact bikes would have on Richmond. I discovered how many people were interested in cycling and I think in ways, the race inspired people to get involved themselves. Look what a simple race did for the morale and image of the City of Richmond. Truly amazing.

Here is a video of little clips I took during my time a the race:



 richmond2015 HD 1080p



ayanaismusic

 Subscribe 262

<https://youtu.be/en6VjfzO6M4>

WHAT IS BAROQUE TO ME?

[OCTOBER 19, 2015](#) [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

While Reading the blog post that defined what Baroque was, I thought “What do I envision when I hear the word “Baroque?”” The 2 things that came to mind first were music and fashion. As a former music major and a self-proclaimed fashionista, it is no surprise that this is how I define a time.

When I was listening to the link provided, that defined baroque music (<http://www.baroque.org/baroque/>), It sounded exactly how I imaged it; though that could be attributed to my studies of music history. To me, traditional baroque music is the sound of royalty. It sounds like the soundtrack of the royal court in any movie of such I have ever seen. It has that common choral sound, but instead of being more like a cappella chants like Medieval or Renaissance, It incorporated an orchestral sound and utilized many instruments to create the grandiose sound, along with the chorale.

Some famous works of this time include George Frideric Handel’s “Messiah”.

Hallelujah: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUZEtVbJT5c>

For Unto Us A Child Is Born: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MS3vpAWW2Zc>

And He Shall Purify: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ac02mnZJmiQ>

Another Notable Composer of the time is Johann Sebastian Bach. Here you can take a listen to some of his most notable works: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6JQm5aSjX6g>

Another Honorable mention is Antonio Vivaldi.

I have always said that if I could, I would have everything from clothes to the decor in my house decorated in the Baroque Style.

JUST LOOK AT IT. It's so elaborate and fancy and beautiful.



(next 2 pictures found at <https://historyofeuropeanfashion.wordpress.com/2012/05/14/rococo-ruh-koh-koh-florid-or-excessively-elaborate/>)



LOOK AT THIS BATHROOM. It's a bit much, but oh so beautiful.



<http://pinkchiffonandacuppa.com/tag/decor-artist/>

To some, Baroque fashion may verge on gaudy, but for me it is marvelous. It kind of over the top but very classy at the same time. I often find Balmain clothes to be baroque inspired.

The baroque period really showcases how grand the nobility in France lived. On the other hand, the working class was barely managing to scrape by and survive.

It was very useful when reading that post to have some prior knowledge of the time period being described.