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The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment

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The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment

Introduction:

The aim of this paper was to analyze the human rights violations committed by the United States during the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment. My goal was to dismantle the pretense society might hold about the United States and the moral high ground it claims to stand on. To accomplish this I will make parallels about atrocities committed by the United States on the African-American population to those committed by the Nazis on the Jewish population in Germany.

TSE Summary:

- Began in 1932 by Dr. Clarke.
- Purpose: study untreated syphilis in the black male to compare to the Oslo study.
- It was only supposed to last 8 months but lasted 40.
- Doctors used deception in every way possible.
- Withheld treatment when penicillin became available.
- Ended in 1972 when Buxton leaked the story.

Human Rights Violations:

- From the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Articles 1,2,3,5,7, 12.1 and 25



Parallels Between US and Nazi:

- Selection process.
- Treatment of subjects.
- Deception.
- “Bad science”.



Analysis of Doctors:

- They turned from healers to murderers.
- Medicalized Killings- “therapeutic imperative”.
- Doubling- splitting and numbing.



Conclusion:

America was built at the expense of two groups, the native Americans and the African Americans. The US fails to address the full implications of those atrocities but memorializes the crimes of others to maintain its façade of moral superiority when in reality it is no better. States need to be held accountable for their crimes against humanity, the laws need to be enforced and there needs to be a focus in education about the value of human life.







