

A man that you've never seen before arrives at your front door and allows himself inside. He then lives in your home and treats you like a door mat. Day by day, he reduces your rights in the house and makes you feel like an outsider. That man believes he is doing you a favour by changing your habits and culture so that it's the same as him. Sound awful? This is exactly what the Indigenous Aborigines have endured since the dawn of European colonisation.

Before the Europeans arrived on the shores of Botany Bay, the Aborigines lived simple, happy lives. They lived organically with the land and had strong bonds with their culture that stretched over thousands of years. Since the 'dreaming', the Aborigines haven't been disturbed or tainted. The Aborigines had their own laws, traditions and rights and were a very successful race because they have survived and have been reasonably unchanged for eons.

The colonisers suppressed this wonderful culture and tried to instil their own values and beliefs into the Aborigines. They implemented their own laws and statutes and held the Aborigines accountable for breaking them. But, this isn't the actions of a superior race. This is the action of a naïve fair skinned people. The Aborigines didn't live by the laws of the Europeans, nor were they told what they were entitled to do and what not.

But imposing ludicrous laws wasn't enough. Through the early part of the 20th century, western society tried to assimilate the aboriginal children that had white parentage. Essentially, this was meant to, over generations, breed out the dark skin in Aborigines and create a purely white society. These kids that were taken from their family are infamously known as the 'stolen generation'. By taking these kids away from their kin, they were basically denied to eat their own food, speak their native tongue or to perform traditional rituals and customs. To put it simply, the Europeans took away the Aborigines right to live and practice their unique traditions.

If stealing helpless Aborigines wasn't cruel enough, the western European forced the Aborigines off the land and to add insult to injury, misused the land. Traditional and spiritual sites were desecrated and the land its self was polluted and destroyed. The environment has been almost irreversibly changed for the worse. If the Aborigines still owned that land today, we can assume that it would remain relatively unchanged and maintain its pristine beauty.

During the early stages of the European take over Australia, small groups of Aborigines remained defiant and defended in vain for what was rightfully there. However, as the sand trickled through the hour glass, these warriors slowly disappeared and the majority of the Aboriginal people have accepted what has happened in the past and resigned to living in a prejudice society.

The Aborigines haven't shown any unfounded aggression towards western society yet we treat them as savages who shouldn't be allowed to breathe the same air we

breathe. Instead we are the ones that attacked them first and force them to live in urban areas. Is this fair? Are these the actions of a superior society?

Only in recent years has anything been done. Various politicians who value equal and fair human rights have campaigned for the reconciliation of the kids from the 'stolen generation'. But is this act of kindness and payback too late? Have the Aborigines been irrevocably affected already or is there still hope that they will be treated on an equal playing field as you or I?

Even today, Aborigines are discriminated against. Westerners do not treat them with the respect they would show other westerners but with a disgust. They are still seen upon as inferior because of their skin colour and background. When will our western society stop judging the Aborigines by their colour of their skin but instead of the content of their character?

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