History and Narrative: Neo-Slavery in the United States

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Many American narratives revolve around the differences that exist between different cultures, and more specifically around race. These are rooted in systematic tyranny, inequality, injustice, captivity, and control. Questions of this nature almost always inevitably go back to the race of people who ultimately became the only slave race in 18th and 19th century America, African Americans. However, the quest for answers doesn’t end there; it continues well into the 20th century, where even after amendments were made to the United States Constitution, outlawing the practice of slavery, slavery continued to endure into the late 1940s. This idea of Neo-Slavery, or new slavery was a way for individuals, communities, and local governments to continue to abuse a specific race of people and maintain control of their way of living through the domination and fear of a group of people. This paper, will explicate three narratives, from three different perspectives. By doing so this paper will help to “fill in the gaps and provide a smooth flow of change where a first glance reveals radical discontinuities” (Louch, 1969, p. 55).

It has taken the uncovering and unearthing of a voice that was so long obscured, the silenced, to create a national narrative that answers questions about the condition of Black Americans even today. This narrative of neo-slavery in the United States is one of great importance, because it helps make sense of where different cultures, communities, and human
beings are today. More importantly it answers questions and pieces together a national narrative that has for many years been fragmented.