

politician's sexual capacities. The second one deals with “the superwoman”, “the champion” and “the one of the boys”.

There have been many famous women in politics throughout the world's history, although the contributions of some of them have only come to light in recent years. With politics having traditionally been a man's game, it was not easy for some of these women to make their mark in the history books, particularly during the years where women did not enjoy the same rights as men. Nevertheless, great women persevered and made major contributions to the political world.

***В.А. Лебедянская***  
УО БГЭУ (МИНСК)

### RACISM TODAY

*“I have a dream that people will not be judged  
by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.”*

*Martin Luther King*

To start with, the problem I’m going to speak about is not old or outdated but very acute. As more and more people from the Caucasus and Central Asia, Africa, Asia and Latin America keep coming in Belarus and in our University, we can observe and even witness negative attitudes, actions and *“hate speech”* by some of our citizens and even group mates towards foreigners. So, we shouldn’t wait until the things get out of hand as it often takes place in Russia. We shouldn’t wait when the day comes and the mob will start crying *“Belarus for Belarusians”*, *“The survival of the white race is at stake”*. We should inform the people about the danger of racism and related to it Nazism and anti-Semitism. By the way, racism seems so strong that its form gets borrowed to characterize parallel conceptions of moral and political evils like *“sexism,” “classism,” and “homophobia.”*

I’ll examine the most basic definition of racism. According to the *American Heritage College Dictionary*, racism has two meanings. Firstly, racism is, *“the belief that race accounts for differences in human character or ability and that a particular*

*race is superior to others.*” Secondly, racism is, “*discrimination or prejudice based on race.*”

Racism has existed throughout all human history. Racial division of people began in Ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome. Slaves were believed to be less than human -- because of skin color, language, customs, and place of birth. This belief has outlived the ancient civilizations and influenced wars, slavery, the formation of nations, and legal codes. During the past 500-1000 years, racism on the part of Western powers toward non-Westerners has had a far more significant impact on history than any other form of racism (such as racism among Western groups or among Easterners, such as Asians, Africans, and others).

The most notorious example of racism by the West has been the enslavement of Africans in the New World. This enslavement was based on the racist belief that Black Africans were less fully human than white Europeans and their descendants. In the second half of the 19th century, the growing immigration was perceived by many Americans as a threat to their cultural control. And a false racial science called *eugenics* came into being.

Today racism is still alive, especially toward Blacks, Jews and immigrant groups. Blacks and others are seen by racists as merely subhuman, more like beasts than men. Jews are usually seen by anti-Semites as subhuman but also superhuman: devilishly cunning, skilled, and powerful. If the focus of anti-Semitism is evil, the focus of racism is inferiority.

At the same time, some public figures in the American Black community have championed the supremacy of their own race and the inferiority of whites - using nearly the identical language of white racists. Anti-white discrimination is called “*Reverse racism*”.

It's hard to understand why racism still exists today. In order to understand, my group mates and me – we all studied and discussed the possible causes of racism today and their outcome.

We've come to the conclusion that people are not born being racist just as they are not born knowing right from wrong. Racism is something that is learned. Another

contributing factor to racism is a social and economic status. Not all people who are racists are taught that by their parents or an older generation. Sometimes it is the lack of diversity in the area in which one lives. Generally when people are unaccustomed to something they judge it.

While not all people are “violent racists” there are some that are, and those that are racists they commit horrendous hate crimes either injuring or killing people. There are numerous other factors that contribute to the feeling of racial superiority that some people have over others. Young people have to know them and be immuned against.

Another our conclusion is that the real problem is not only what causes these feelings of animosity towards others but rather the atrocious outcomes that result from such feelings. And this should be kept in mind!

*P.A. Новиков*

УО БГЭУ (МИНСК)

#### ONE-CHILD COUNTRY. IS CHINA'S MAIN ADVANTAGE TURNING INTO A HEADACHE?

The Chinese population is rapidly ageing, due to a lower mortality rate and the one-child policy. This will lead to a pension problem for the Chinese government and may reduce China's ability to compete in the future.

First implemented in 1978, the one-child policy has been so successful in checking China's population growth that the country now confronts the prospect of the rapid ageing of its total population in the next two decades. Advances in healthcare and nutrition, combined with the one-child policy, have led to rapid ageing of China's population. Life expectancy has soared in China, while fertility has plummeted due to strict birth control policies. In 2009 there were 167 million over-60s, about an eighth of the population. By 2050 there will be 480 million, while the number of young people will have fallen. China's demographic shift to an older society will have a profound impact on the Chinese economy and investment opportunities in China, while the Chinese government may need to alter its budgetary