



Understanding & Dismantling Racism: MCARI Anti-Racism Workshop



Systemic Power and Race

Defining Race and Power

RACE is an arbitrary socio/biological classification created by Europeans during the time of worldwide colonial expansion, to assign human worth and social status using themselves as the model of humanity, for the purpose of legitimizing white power and white skin privilege.

(From a definition by Dr. Maulana Karenga.
Edited by Peoples Institute and Crossroads.)

SYSTEMIC POWER is the legitimate/legal ability to **access** and **control** those institutions sanctioned by the state.

Every system and every institution in the U.S. (not including pre-existing Native institutions or resistance organizations) was **originally created and structured legally and intentionally to serve white society exclusively.**

In relation to **RACE, SYSTEMIC POWER** functions as through it were “**CUBED**”

$$\mathbf{P^3 = Power \times Power \times Power}$$

Power¹ = power over people of color

Power² = power which give and preserves privilege and advantages
for while people

Power³ = power which socializes all of us into the racial rules

This is racism’s ultimate power to control and
destroy all of us.