

The Seven Strategic Problems Facing African Americans

The seven strategic problems facing African Americans are broad doctrinal containers used to organize the most serious structural, institutional, political, social, developmental, and organizational threats affecting the community. They are not intended to describe every hardship or reduce every experience to a single explanation. Their purpose is to create coherence: specific problems can be placed within an established framework, studied according to their mechanisms, and connected to appropriate defensive and institutional responses.

The seven problems are:

1. Government oppression
2. Institutional discrimination
3. Social racism
4. Political misalignment
5. Misdirection and arrested development
6. Misrepresentation
7. Lack of organization

These problems operate as an interconnected system rather than as isolated conditions.

1. Government Oppression

Government has the power to protect populations, enforce rights, distribute resources, regulate institutions, and impose coercive authority. It also possesses the power to injure populations through law, administration, policing, surveillance, economic policy, selective enforcement, and refusal to uphold established rights.

The central thesis is that American government repeatedly used overlapping campaigns to reduce African Americans to an inferior political, economic, and social position. This occurred both through direct action and through failure to protect constitutional rights. Government oppression therefore represents the use or nonperformance of public power in ways that create, preserve, or intensify disadvantage.

2. Institutional Discrimination

Institutional discrimination occurs when schools, employers, banks, hospitals, courts, media organizations, and other organized systems impose unequal burdens or deny equal opportunity through formal rules, discretionary authority, or concealed double standards.

This form of discrimination may appear neutral because it is carried out through ordinary administrative mechanisms: grading, enrollment, discipline, credentials, hiring, promotion, referrals, delays, or selective enforcement. A series of individually deniable decisions may collectively remove a person from an

educational, professional, political, or economic pathway. The institution can then attribute the final outcome to the target rather than to the process that produced it.

3. Social Racism

Social racism is the informal cultural and interpersonal environment that permits unequal treatment to continue. It includes racial hostility, selective sympathy, informal exclusion, double standards, deceptive friendship, dismissal of African American grievances, and pressure upon African Americans to tolerate conduct that others would reject.

Social racism also rationalizes institutional and governmental harm. It supplies explanations that minimize abuse, blame victims, redefine resistance as hostility, and make unequal treatment appear natural or deserved. Digital platforms and social media expand this environment by increasing exposure to racial harassment, misrepresentation, manipulation, and low-accountability interaction.

4. Political Misalignment

Political misalignment occurs when African American political participation, loyalty, leadership, or representation fails to advance clearly defined community interests.

It includes unconditional party loyalty, symbolic representation without material performance, support for movements hostile to African American security, and participation in political coalitions that absorb votes and legitimacy without producing adequate protection or development. Political alignment must therefore be judged by conduct, policy, coalition, and foreseeable consequences—not by labels, rhetoric, symbolism, or inherited allegiance.

Political misalignment fails to correct the disadvantages created by government oppression and institutional discrimination. It may also strengthen the very systems requiring correction.

5. Misdirection and Arrested Development

Misdirection is the use of false, incomplete, deceptive, or self-serving guidance to direct African American attention, labor, trust, money, political energy, or ambition toward unproductive ends.

Arrested development is the obstruction of progress toward maturity, competence, economic independence, institutional authority, or strategic purpose. It can occur through defective mentorship, propaganda, false opportunity structures, delayed support, insincere alliances, concealment of the actual requirements for success, and the promotion of goals that consume resources without producing durable advancement.

This problem is especially serious for African American youth who may be insufficiently prepared to identify hostile institutions, unreliable advisers, deceptive friendships, political manipulation, and modern systems designed to redirect development.

6. Misrepresentation

Misrepresentation occurs when African American identity, grievances, leadership, political goals, religious views, or community priorities are inaccurately defined by outsiders, celebrities, unauthorized intermediaries, or self-appointed representatives.

A fragmented population is especially vulnerable to having others speak on its behalf. Individuals may claim authority without a defined constituency, mandate, selection process, or accountability system. Media organizations and political institutions may then present these actors as representative because no stronger, more visible, and better organized alternative exists.

Misrepresentation obscures legitimate interests. It prevents accurate communication, weakens bargaining power, and allows hostile or incompetent actors to define what African Americans believe, need, or should accept.

7. Lack of Organization

Lack of organization is the central operational problem because it prevents the accumulation of durable counterpower.

African Americans may possess numbers, intelligence, resources, grievances, talent, and historical experience, but these assets remain limited when they are not converted into disciplined institutions. Fragmentation weakens communication, leadership selection, funding, political negotiation, institutional memory, succession, and coordinated action.

Weak organization also permits celebrities, criminal actors, controlled representatives, and unaccountable personalities to hold informal power while capable leaders remain isolated or unsupported.

The response is not merely a call for unity. It is the creation of visible, governed, enduring institutions with defined authority, membership, communication, records, funding, leadership, and succession.

The Strategic Relationship

The seven problems can be summarized as follows:

1. Oppression creates disadvantage.
2. Institutions reproduce it.
3. Social racism rationalizes it.
4. Political misalignment fails to correct it.
5. Misdirection diverts the response.
6. Misrepresentation obscures legitimate interests.
7. Weak organization prevents the accumulation of durable counterpower.

The first six problems describe the threat environment. The seventh determines whether the community possesses the capacity to respond.

Malone Doctrine addresses these problems by identifying their mechanisms, defining required conditions, establishing individual and institutional responses, deriving governing rules and principles, and directing Malone institutions toward implementation.

The governing conclusion is:

African American advancement requires more than recognition of harm. It requires independent judgment, strategic direction, accurate representation, disciplined organization, and institutions capable of converting shared interests into durable social, economic, political, and developmental power.