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C&T 201

Guelwaar Notes

Board Topics for Discussion:

- 1) Why are the policemen above the citizens in status in the Muslim Village?
 - 2) Guelwaar's speech at the end of the movie
 - 3) Use of French vs. use of native language
 - 4) Muslim poverty vs. Christian Prosperity
 - 5) "There can be no virtue in destitution or poverty."- Guelwaar
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- 1) Why are the policemen above the citizens in status in the Muslim Village?
 - a) Producers view of culture
 - i. Message to audience
 - ii. View of society
 - b) Authority figures are superior to citizens
 - i. Law transcends all cultures
 - c) Education
 - i. Education was a means for receiving respect
 - ii. Anyone who is educated is automatically placed above others, both male and female
 - 2) Guelwaar's speech at the end of the movie
 - a) Accepting food took away the pride of the people and their ability and willingness to produce food.
 - b) People must stop relying on aid in order to become productive.
 - c) Leaders wanted to keep people dependent on aid for their own good.
 - d) Guelwaar was the only citizen powerful, influential, and brave enough to speak out against it.
 - e) Relates to the methods of dictators in all cultures.
 - i. People are kept weak so that the leaders can retain power.
 - f) Natural selection in society
 - i. Weak people are not able to produce their own food for survival
 - ii. Lack of farmland contributes to overall weakness in this society.
 - 3) Use of French vs. use of native language
 - a) Effects of French colonization
 - b) Native tongue spoken out of tradition and respect for elders.
 - c) As a result of his formal education, Barthelemy became cynical of Africa.
 - i. His status and the weakness of the society contributed to his views.
 - ii. Eventually, he changed his views because he became involved in the struggle.

- 4) “Losing a child at birth isn’t as bad as useless adult children.” (Not on Board)
 - a) Aid for elders is supposed to be provided by sons.
 - b) Better children would seek advancement for the good of the family.
 - c) Unemployment as a sign of incompetence?
 - i. U.S. vs. Senegal
 1. Corruption, misappropriation of funds, and laziness
 2. People are at the mercy of their government
 3. Family funds are used for large feasts
 - a. Fish and vegetables but also large quantities of beer
- 5) Muslim poverty vs. Christian Prosperity
 - a) How can the Muslims say that Islam is superior to Christianity?
 - i. Majority vs. Minority
 1. Strength in numbers (Muslims are a 94% majority)
 2. Christians are “outsiders”
 3. Muslims had favor of police and other officials
 - a. Gora often switched to favor the stronger argument
 - b) Wealth is not necessarily limited to religion in this culture.
 - i. Result of the colonization process
 - ii. Wealth is based on education and job rather than religion.
- 6) “There can be no virtue in destitution or poverty.”- Guelwaar
 - a) Poverty is the main problem that needs to be solved.
 - b) Symptoms of cultural problems will always exist.
 - i. Severity of problems is subject to the attitudes of the people.
 - ii. People must work together for the betterment of society as a whole.
 1. Stop taking aid.
 2. Prevent religions conflicts.
 3. Develop social programs.
 - c) Way in which the aid situation is handled is virtuous.
 - i. Vandalizing the aid truck gave the power back to the people.
 - d) How the quote applies to Sophie’s lifestyle
 - i. She takes on the burden of supplying for her family by becoming a prostitute.
 - ii. She is looked down on by society.
 - iii. She is strong because she sacrifices her dignity for the advancement of her family.
 1. Sets the example for the males.
 2. Her reversal of her gender role makes the males appear lazy and cowardly.
 3. She negates Guelwaar’s quote because she brings virtue to others through her actions.