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### Emphatically Neither White nor Black

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# EMPHATICALLY NEITHER WHITE NOR BLACK

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The depth of African slavery's influence in America has established a black versus white foundation for racial discourse. The tensions between these two racial groups have, in part, shaped the social outcomes of other minority groups based on which side they are associated with. This research examines the "white" perception of Asian Americans and its cultivation of widespread Asian American political docility and the continuation of a limited racial discourse through generations. An analysis of testimonials from children of the 1992 LA riots reveal that stereotypical perceptions of other races determined the subjects' interpretation of who was at fault. These personal narratives also demonstrate that the riots were a turning point for Asian American representation in political discourse. Drawing from theories such as the bimodal racial modal and racial triangulation provided Asian immigration and non-confrontational cultural values as potential justifications for contemporary Asian American racial involvement. Finally, recent exit poll data demonstrated positive trends in overall Asian voting, but rates of voting were disproportionately low among non-East Asian subgroups. Political engagement and participation in racial discourse remain to be prevalent issues across all racial groups, especially amongst the minorities who are dismissed under an umbrella group and lack the ability to assert their political agendas. This paper is an effort to explore the root of the Asian American political docility and how American society continues to view racial discourse and the potential implications of this limited lens.