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“We’re A Nation, Not a Community”

US Afrodescendants often say that it is important to “speak truth to power.” Admittedly, this is difficult to do when you are small and the power is large.

At the moment, America is the most powerful nation on Earth: Economically, politically, and militarily. How can the Black community speak truth to this power?

One very important step in accomplishing this difficult feat is to stop minimizing who we are. Specifically, we should discontinue calling ourselves a “community,” when we are well beyond that characterization. Black Americans (US Afrodescendants) comprise a “nation”.

When one thinks of a community, one imagines a small group with limited resources. While our resources are limited in many respects, they are not small by many comparisons. Our \$1 trillion, and growing, annual income would rank us 16th in the world ahead of Indonesia and just behind South Korea.

Moreover, the Census Bureau reports that the Black American population reached 45.0 million in mid-2013. This ranks us as 31st in the world, just ahead of the Ukraine and right behind Kenya.

These are national, not community, comparisons.

A recent article on the Internet website TheRoot by Theodore R. Johnson, III called for the identification of an “unofficial/official” Black President.¹ This is the type of thinking that we need to parallel our existence as a “nation within a nation.”

If we begin to think of ourselves as a nation, then we might begin to ask ourselves important questions such as: Where is our land? How do we pool our financial and physical and human capital resources to produce goods and services to meet our needs? When are we going to protect ourselves from actual and potentially harmful conditions that seek to infiltrate our nation? When are we going to establish a long-term strategic plan for our future growth and development?

We should realize that as long as we refer to ourselves as a community, we will think of ourselves as small and weak, which buys into the interest of those who want to keep us in an unchallenging position. However, when we begin to call ourselves a nation, then we will begin to think of ourselves as large, strong, and powerful. It is important to note that Native Americans have always

¹ See Theodore R. Johnson, III, “Black America Needs Its Own President,” TheRoot, September 5, 2014. Retrieved from the Internet on September 5, 2014; http://www.theroot.com/articles/politics/2014/09/does_black_america_need_a_new_leader.html?wpisrc=topstories.

referred to themselves as nations; they are much smaller than the Black American nation in population and income.

Therefore, let us resolve to think of ourselves and call ourselves “nation.” When we do, the cry “Rise up ye mighty nation” can ring true.

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