

| Word/Variant | Meaning and Interpretation |
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| Race | A social construct that categorizes groups of people by shared geographical, phenotypic characteristics, and cultural practices. |
| Ethnicity | The cultural heritage referring to ancestry, tradition, language, and history. |
| Nationality | The belonging to a country through residence or citizenship. |
| Afro Cuban | A Cuban who demonstrates strong social cohesion with Afro-descent, from African heritage. |
| Mulato/Mulatto | Those who have varying degrees of mixed status between Afro, White, or Indigenous populations. The Latin-Caribbean racial hierarchy hinges on degrees of colorism. |
| White Cuban | In Afro Cuban and Latin American Studies literature, "White" Cubans are referred to as "Euro-Cubans" denoting a strong presence of Spanish or European heritage. |
| Co-ethnic Cuban Nationality | For this project, <i>co-ethnic</i> refers to the dual sided experiences of Black ethnic Cubans and White ethnic Cubans. Often these co-ethnics diverged in social cohesion, remaining within their ethnic enclaves. |
| Empire/Imperial | These terms are used to colloquially refer to systems of power in society. Usually, governments and wealthy institutions make decisions in the interest of expansion, colonialism, and power. |
| Colorblindness | Colorblindness refers to the institutional action and communal complacency in acknowledging the discrepancies associated with a racial hierarchy. Often, refusing to acknowledge race makes wealth and health gaps invisible at first glance, but by applying more critical focus, it is a deep rooted consequence in larger institutions. |
| Redlining | The practice of denying housing to minority applicants on the basis of "credit value," with underlying motivations of keeping neighborhoods segregated. |
| Segregation | The legal practice of separating races by section in both residential neighborhoods and public/private communal spaces, to maintain racial purity. |