CHAPTER TEN

Global Capitalism in the Electronic Age

With hundreds of thousands of Blacks having already migrated north between 1890 and 1910; the postwar era sees upward of 5 million Blacks join their ranks by 1970. Already previously abhorred as a drain on American resources, urban cities now feel overrun with Blacks, who in this new market are considered a glut on the labor force. Black reproduction, now unnecessary with the new skilled labor and access to international labor pools, is portrayed as a pathological danger. As the industrial forces of production strive to new heights due to the exploitation of significant new technologies, specifically the computer chip leading to automation, industry is revolutionized in the United States and around the world.

Black labor becomes even less profitable in the latter years of the twentieth century, due to technological advancements that exclude the unskilled worker and allow access to a global labor force. The policy period between 1975 and 1995 sees the nation experience cycles of expansion, contraction, and recession. The policy period between 1996 and 2006 sees expansion persist for the wealthiest and contraction for the poorest. While 2007 through 2009 sees the collapse of the housing market and a significant recession still debated as a possible depression; which has the potential to impact labor and capital alike.

The expansion of exploitable technologies continues to expand at an extraordinary rate throughout both policy periods allowing access to a global labor force, as illustrated in table 10.1. Black labor, dismissed as unskilled and unprofitable, continues to be devalued throughout the twentieth century and into the twenty-first. The automation of industry that occurs in this period even further alienates the unskilled laborer from productive American society. The technological advancement

N. Rousseau, Black Woman’s Burden
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of industry in the electronic age, not only brings unemployment for Blacks, it also carries with it significant reproductive technologies that aid in the repression of Black women’s reproduction. In the years following civil rights gains for all Blacks, Black women are beleaguered with regulatory reproductive policies that undermine the Black family and continue the historic assault on Black motherhood.

**Brief Status of 1970s Economy**

The 1970s is a period of some despair for the nation. The country’s leader impeached; a previous president assassinated; kids protesting in the streets; the nation had been violently snatched from the Rockwellian vision of the postwar period before it. And though the Vietnam War is finally ended in April 1975, the nation emerges changed. Among many tumultuous years of the period, 1975 can easily be designated as a watershed moment in the history of the U.S. economy as well as in the consciousness of America. For those who fought in the war and returned home to skyrocketing unemployment; antiwar sentiments; and for many, lingering illness and drug addiction; the end of the war