

Journal 5/1 (B Day 5/2)

Does welfare help reduce inequality or does it perpetuate inequality? Explain

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## Unit 6: Social Inequalities

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# Race in America

# Race in America

- Sociologists look at race from a social perspective
- Race – (in sociological terms) a category of people who share observable physical characteristics
  - Society generally defines race by skin color or hair texture
  - Sociologists are more concerned with how people react to these physical characteristics and how these physical characteristics affect individuals in society



# Ethnicity in America

- Ethnicity – the set of cultural characteristics that distinguishes one group from another group.
- Ethnic group – people who share a common cultural background and common sense of identity
- Ethnicity is generally based on cultural characteristics such as national origin, religion, language, customs, and values

# Minority Groups

- People who hold power in a society may place an arbitrary value on specific characteristics.
- By establishing the values and norms of a society, dominant group members consciously and unconsciously create a social structure that operates in their favor.

## **As defined in sociology**

**Dominant Group** – the group that possess the ability to discriminate by virtue of its greater power, privilege, and social status in a society.

**Minority Group** – a group who because of their physical and/or cultural characteristics are singled out and treated unequally

## **Characteristics that distinguish minority groups from other groups in society**

- The group possess identifiable physical or cultural characteristics that differ from those of the dominant group
- Group members are the recipients of unequal treatment at the hands of the dominant group
- Membership in the group is an ascribed status
- Group members share a strong bond and sense of group loyalty
- Members tend to marry within the group

# Discrimination and Prejudice

**Discrimination** – the denial of equal treatment to individuals based on their group membership

- Discrimination involves actions

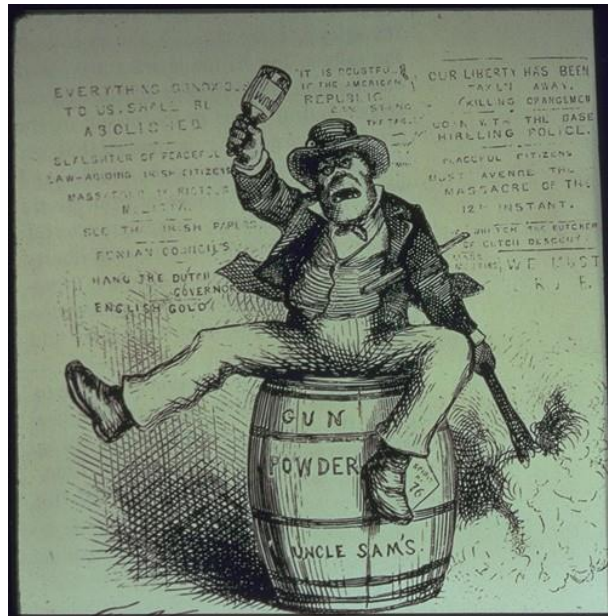




# Discrimination and Prejudice

**Prejudice** – unsupported generalization about a group of people

- Prejudice refers to the attitudes that one group hold toward other groups.



# Legal Discrimination

- Legal discrimination is upheld by law
  - Example: Jim Crow Laws in US and Apartheid in South Africa
- Jim Crow laws required African Americans, and white Americans to use separate public facilities and to attend separate schools.
  - Was upheld by law by 1896's Plessy v. Ferguson
  - Reversed by 1954's Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas
- Because legal discrimination is based on laws, it can be stopped by changing laws

# Institutionalized Discrimination

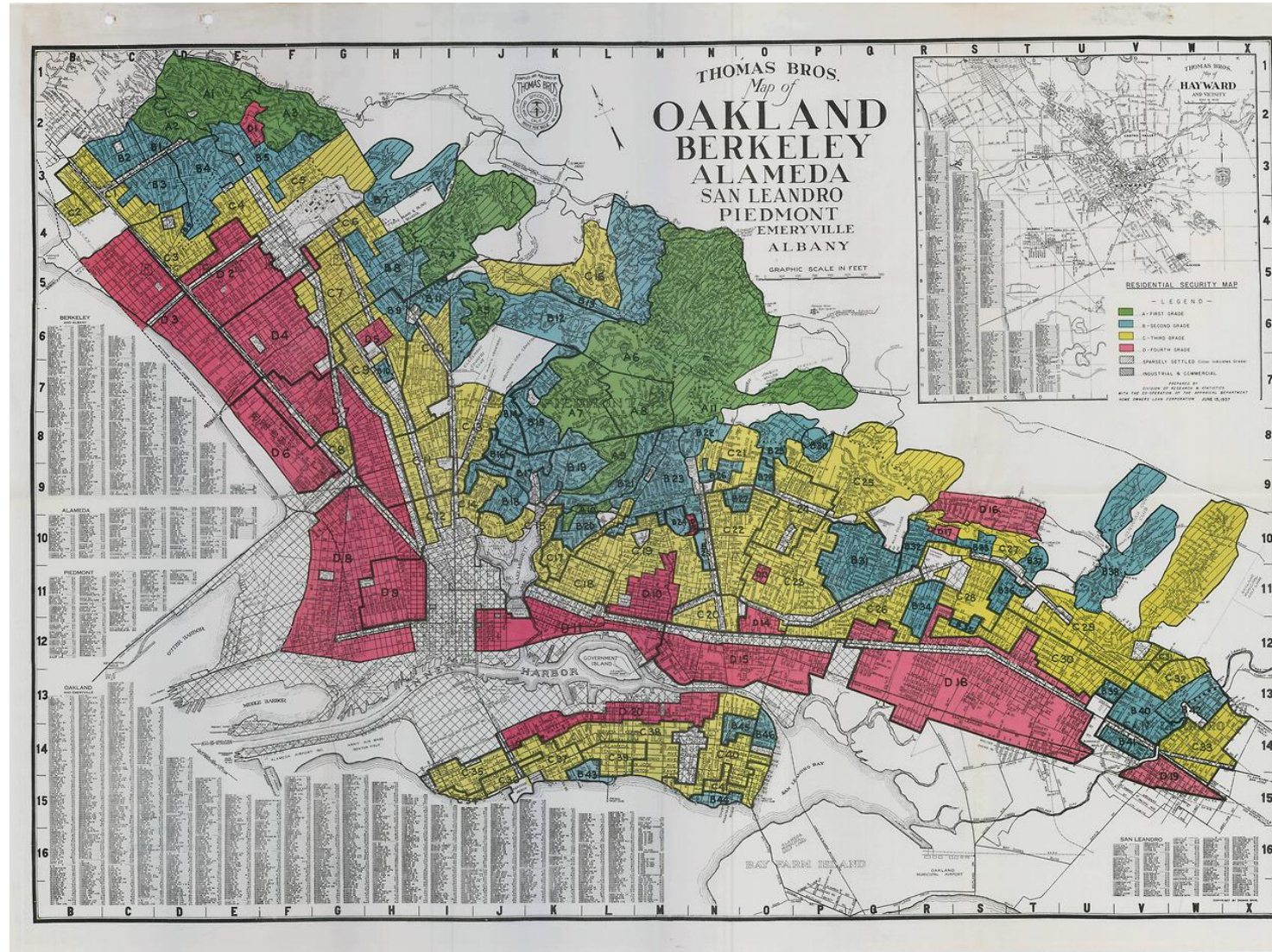
**Institutionalized Discrimination** - the unjust and discriminatory mistreatment of an individual or group of individuals by society and its institutions as a whole, through unequal selection or bias, intentional or unintentional

- Discrimination and inequality become part of the social structure and become self-perpetuating
- For example; minority groups are denied jobs and housing
  - Group members may become concentrated in low-income communities
  - Schools become poorly funded
  - Students may not acquire necessary skills to compete
  - May have fewer opportunities for advancement



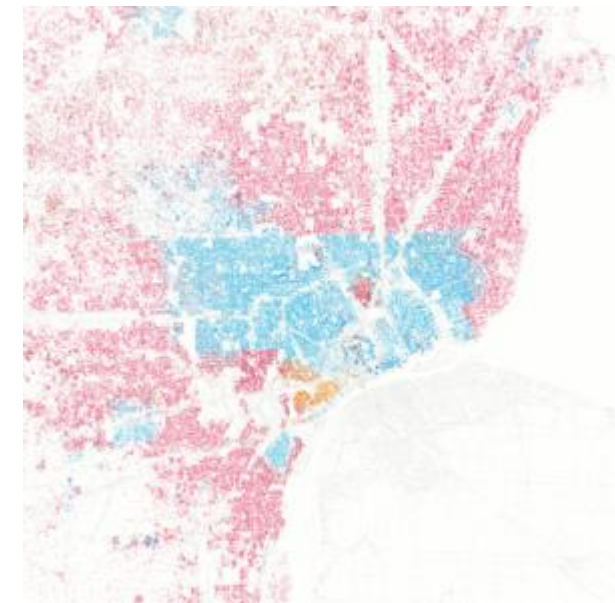
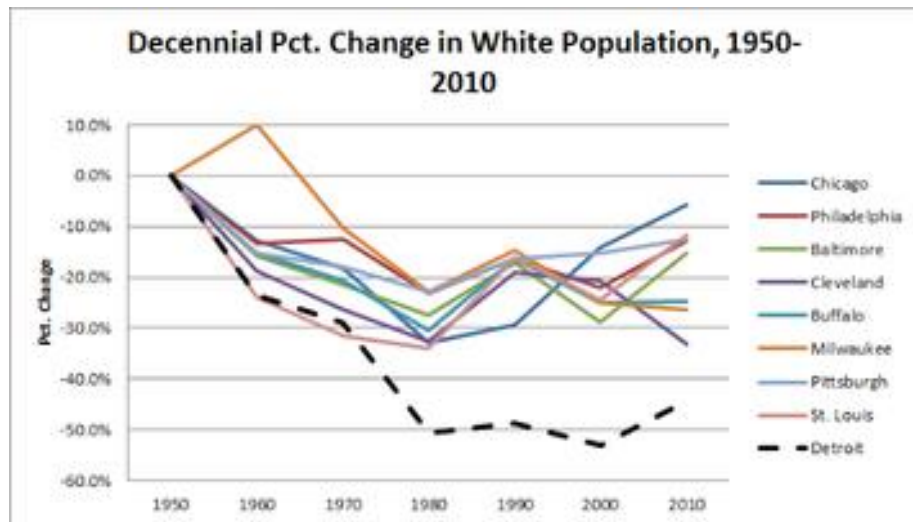
# Redlining

- a process by which banks and other institutions refuse to offer mortgages or offer worse rates to customers in certain neighborhoods based on their racial and ethnic composition

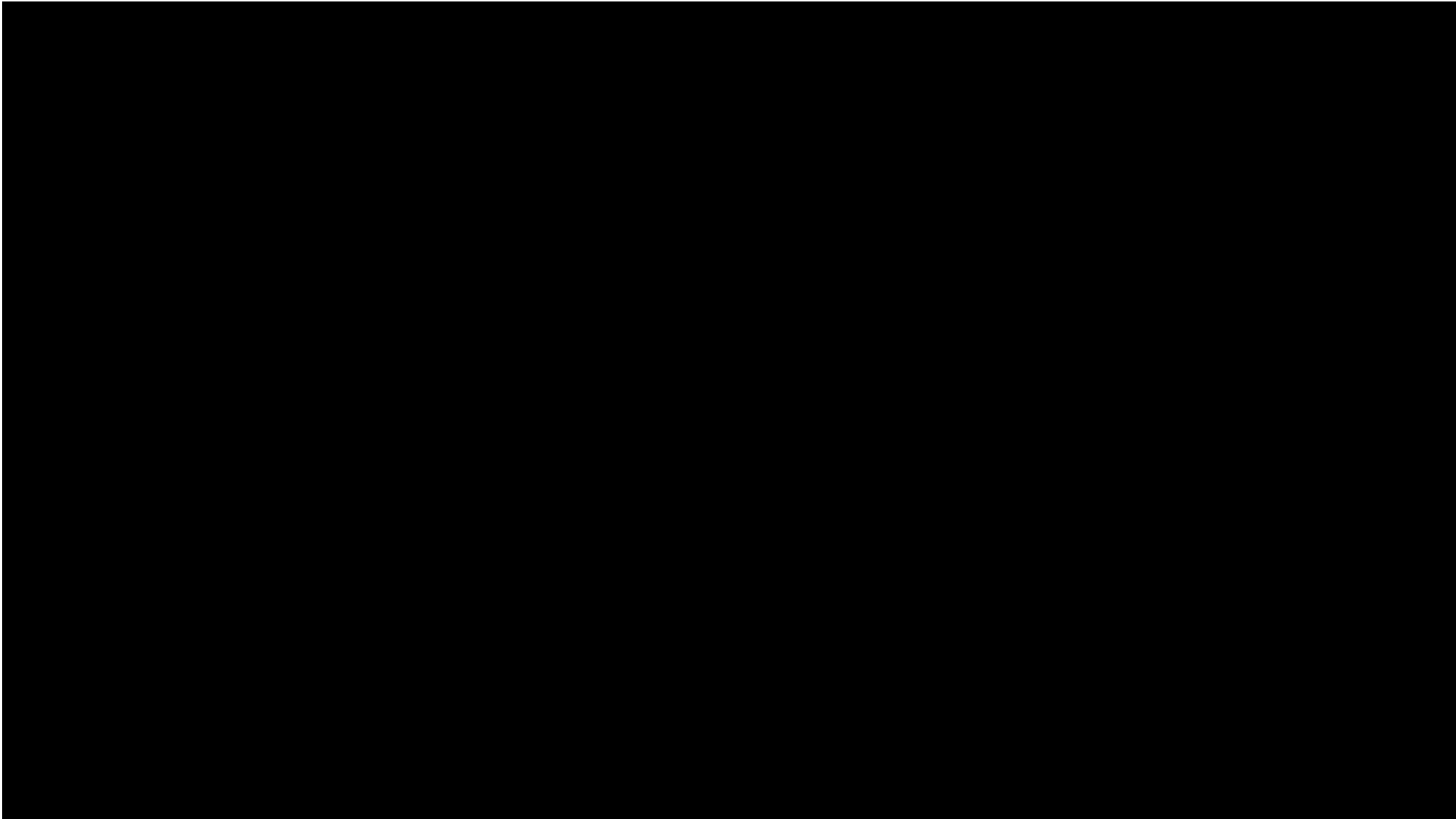


# White Flight of the 1950s and 60s

- Large-scale migration of white people from racially mixed urban regions to more racially homogeneous suburban or exurban regions.



# Why Are Cities Still So Segregated?



<https://youtu.be/O5FBJyqfoLM>