

Urban Politics
Political Science 102 E
Urban Politics 107

Week 7

Minority Politics: Race, Protest,
and Backlash

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Today's Agenda

- Reading Response Questions
 - Lecture – Minority Politics: Race, Protest, and Backlash
 - McGovern Chapter 7, 12, 13
 - Review of Papers thus far
 - St Louis
 - Boston
 - Chicago
 - LA
 - New York City
 - Kansas City
 - Discussion Group writing – continue work on Part 5 AND outline plans for Part 6.
 - Working on Part 6 in class next week
- 

Response Paper Discussion Questions

- 8 students today:

- 1. Cypress
- 2. Laura
- 3. Moises
- 4. Emily
- 5. Kevin
- 6. Serj
- 7. Saroop
- 8. Danny



Minority Politics: Race, Protest, and Backlash

McGovern Chapter 7, 12, 13



Minority Politics: Race, Protest, and Backlash

McGovern Chapter 7

McGovern Chapter 7



- In the context of the entire course of American history, Blacks have made considerable strides in combatting racial oppression by the middle of the 20th century.
- During this time, slavery had long been abolished, legal segregation was confined to the south.
- Relatively, for those blacks who had fled the poverty and repression of the rural south to secure factory jobs in other parts of the country, life was *relatively* better.

McGovern Chapter 7



- William Julius Wilson (sociologist) remarked an improvement in the well-being of black workers starting in the 1940s.
- He remarked that there was a steady expansion of the black middle class.

McGovern Chapter 7

- YET

- Even for those blacks who had escaped the Jim Crow south and found some measure of monetary gain and relief from the most vicious aspects of racial tyranny, attainment of anything resembling the kind of economic and political security that most white Americans took for granted remained elusive.
- In fact, with each passing decade following WWII, the condition of many black Americans seemed to deteriorate and grievances mounted.
- Black families that had to migrate to industrial cities in search of good jobs were confined to overcrowded and segregated neighborhoods where housing was in a state of neglect.

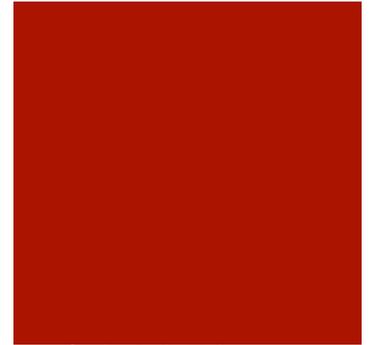


McGovern Chapter 7

Deindustrialization

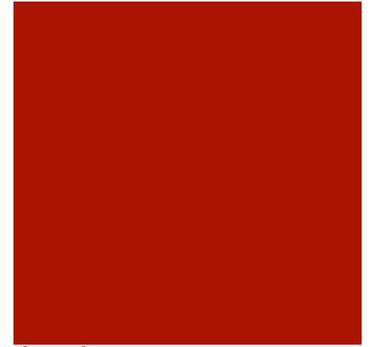
- At the same time, what had been the primary incentive for migrating to cities in the first place – the availability of manufacturing – had disappeared.
- Deindustrialization hit blacks particularly hard since they were typically the last hired and first fired.
- Millions of white urbanites during the postwar period chose to move to prosperous suburbs.
- But this was an option that was unavailable to blacks due to exclusionary zoning and racial hostility.
- So many were left in impoverished and redlined ghettos.

McGovern Chapter 7



- The civil rights movement emerged in the south during the mid-1950s
- It spurred from a demand to end Jim Crow segregation and electoral disenfranchisement.
- It soon stirred the passions of disgruntled blacks elsewhere in the US
- They expressed their frustrations over rampant discrimination with respect to jobs, housing, schools, and public services.

McGovern Chapter 7



- For many, however, the civil rights movement was proving to be a disappointment.
- There were deadly riots (often triggered by an incidence of police abuse or brutality).
 - We saw this erupt in the LA neighborhood of Watts, here dozens of people were killed and property damage was estimated in the hundreds of millions.

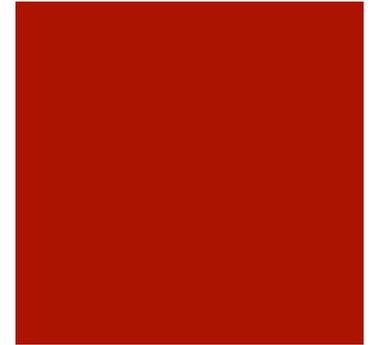
McGovern Chapter 7



Black Power Movements

- Apart from the multitude of riots in inner-city neighborhoods, black grievances were manifested in the political sphere.
- Most noticeably with the rise of the Black Power movements in the mid to late 1960s.
- The Black Power movement was influenced by Malcom X.
- Black Power advocates rejected the central goal of the civil rights movement – racial integration.

McGovern Chapter 7



Black Power Movements

- They saw racial integration and strategies of building biracial coalitions and peaceful nonviolent protests as futile.
- Rather they contended that blacks first needed to build their own base of power through the development of potent community-based organizations and institutions.
- Insisting that “power only respects power,” Black Power leaders argued that coalitions with whites should only be contemplated after Blacks were able to stand firmly on their own and negotiate from a position of strength.

McGovern Chapter 7



Consequences of Black Power Movements

- The push for black power in all realms of society and politics was not without cost.
- It provoked a backlash among whites anxious about the magnitude and rapidity of social, economic, cultural, and political change.
- Segments of white working class voiced their discontent with black activism, condemning, in particular, the lawlessness, and disorder associated with the riots and the expansion of the welfare state under Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty.

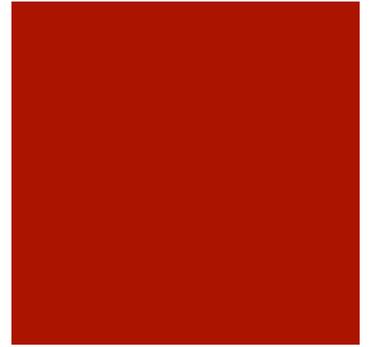
McGovern Chapter 7

Consequences of Black Power Movements

- In the eyes of white ethnics, Great Society programs disproportionately benefited inner-city blacks and Hispanics while they were expected to foot the bill through steadily rising taxes
- Conservative politicians running for president such as Richard Nixon tapped into the festering disenchantment of blue-collar, white voters, by promising to restore law and order, reigning in the welfare state, and cutting taxes.
- At the local level, populists such as Sam Yorty in LA and Frank Rizzo in Philly appealed to anxious and angry whites and captured control of city hall.
- By the late 1960s and early 1970s, racial tensions had infused local politics.

Black Power: Its Needs and Substance

Carmichael and Hamilton



Black Power: Its needs and substance



- What was this article about?

Black Power: Its needs and substance



- VO Key
 - “To carve out a place for itself in the politico-social order, a new group may have to fight for reorientation of many of the values of the old order.”

- Authors argue:
 - This is especially true when that group is composed of black people in American society
 - Which has deliberately and systematically excluded them from political participation.

 - Black people need to redefine themselves
 - Basic claim: reclaim their history and identity from cultural terrorism, from the depredation of self-justifying white guilty.

Black Power: Its needs and substance



- Black people came to be depicted as “lazy, apatehic, dumb, shiftless, goodtimers.”
- Just as red men had to be labeled as “savages” to justify the theft of their land, so black men had to be vilified in order to justify their continued oppression.
- The American educational system today continues to reinforce these entrenched values as well.
 - I.e. few people question that this is “the land of the free home of the brave” or that this is a “great society”

Black Power: Its needs and substance



- Argument:
 - Black people must redefine themselves, and only they can do that.

- Two step process
 - **1. New consciousness**
 - Only when black people fully develop a sense of community, of themselves, can they begin to deal effectively with the problems of racism in this country

 - **2. Political modernization**
 - I.e. questioning old values and institutions of the society
 - I.e. searching for new and different forms of political structure to solve political and economic problems
 - I.e. broadening the base of political participation to include more people in the decision making process

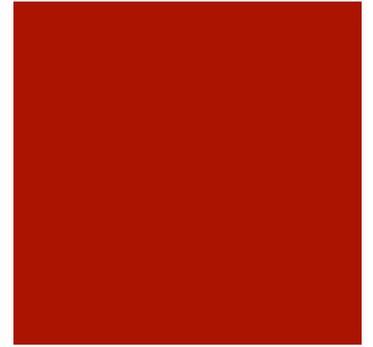
Black Power: Its needs and substance



- Argument:
 - They reject the goal of assimilation into middle-class American because the values of that class are in themselves anti-humanist and because that class as a social force perpetuates racism
 - The 2 major parties are non-viable entities for the legitimate representation of the real needs of blacks in this country.
 - The concept of Black Power rests on a fundamental premise:
 - *Before a group can enter the open society, it must first close ranks*
 - Group solidarity is necessary before a group can operate effectively from a bargaining position of strength in a pluralistic society.

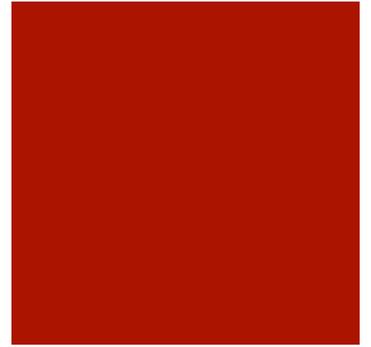
Black Power: Its needs and substance

- Argument:
 - Cannot be any guarantee that Black Power, if achieved, would be nonracist.
 - No one can predict human behavior
- Final truth:
 - White society is not entitled to reassurances even if it were possible to offer them



From Protest to Politics: The Future of the Civil Rights Movement

Bayard Rustin



From Protest to Politics: The Future of the Civil Rights Movement



- What was this article about?

From Protest to Politics: The Future of the Civil Rights Movement



- The decade that was spanned by the 1954 SC decision on school desegregation and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, will undoubtedly be recorded as the period in American in which the **legal foundations of racism in America were destroyed**.
- The elaborate legal structure of segregation and discrimination has virtually collapsed.
- Is this true?

From Protest to Politics: The Future of the Civil Rights Movement

- A conscious bid of **political power** however is now being made.
- In this effort, there are now institutions of power bases.
- Thus, the very decade which witnessed the decline of **legal** Jim Crow has seen the rise of **de factor** segregation in our most fundamental socio-economic institutions.
- More Blacks are unemployed today(1964) than in 1954.
- The median income of Blacks has dropped from 57% to 54% of that of whites.

From Protest to Politics: The Future of the Civil Rights Movement



- Author argues:
 - The Black population's struggle for equality in America is essentially revolutionary.
 - Lyndon Johnson's win in 1964 election demonstrated the near unanimity with which Black voters expressed political opinion.
 - Should there have been such a high voting / support rate of Blacks for Johnson?



Immigration and Contemporary Urban Politics

McGovern Chapter 13

McGovern Chapter 13



- For the first 125 years of American history, immigration was essentially unregulated due to America's developmental needs.
- The US was rapidly expanding, both spatially and economically and immigration was seen as necessary for growth.
- By 1910, 14.5% of the nation's population was foreign born.
- But mass immigration, eventually provoked a backlash among nativist groups.

McGovern Chapter 13



- Nativists warned that the unprecedented influx of newcomers with their strange languages, religions, and customs threatened Anglo-American Protestant values and culture.
- Immigration Act of 1924 → established a limit of 154,000 entrants to the US / year.
- The law set quotas on the number of immigrants from most countries, which gave preferential treatment to immigrants from Western and northern Europe at the expense of all other countries.

McGovern Chapter 13

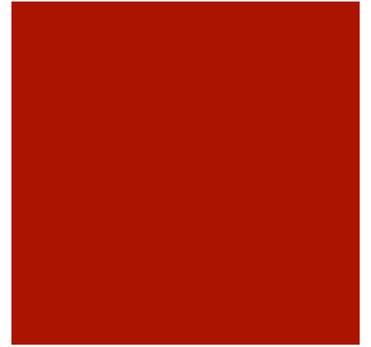


- Immigration Act of 1965: eliminated the national origins quota system.
- The volume of immigration jumped dramatically with each passing decade, due to this act.
- The nation's immigrant population increased from 9.6 million in 1970 to 14.1 million in 1980, to 31.1 million in 2000, and to 40 million in 2010.
- The percent of foreign born residents in 2010 in the US was 12.9%, the highest figure since 1920.

McGovern Chapter 13

- In 1950s, more than half of all immigrants came from Europe.
 - By 2010, 53% of all immigrants came from Latin America and another 28% from Asia.
 - Europe's contribution was down to 12%.
- The current influx of immigrants faces an uncertain future
 - By the same token, immigration has yielded undeniable benefits, particularly for many cities.
 - At a time when urban areas have undergone a debilitating loss of population, the influx of residents has provided a much-needed boost to the tax base, generated a new source of labor for struggling manufacturing plants, replenished the customer base for neighborhood retail establishments, and supplied new students for schools that would have had to close due to low enrollment.

Conclusion to today's
lecture



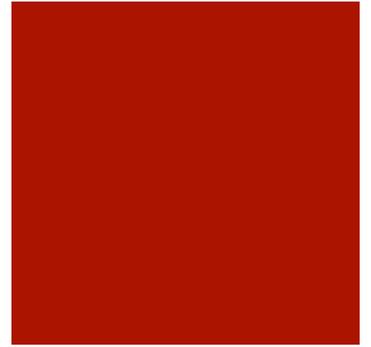
Election Day



- We hear the adage: “History repeats itself” often being used
- Issues of race and immigration are not new to this country.
- Is public opinion on race and immigration in this country today at all in sync with prior histories that America has undergone or is this something completely new?
- Always 2 or more sides to these issues

Election Day

- Go vote!

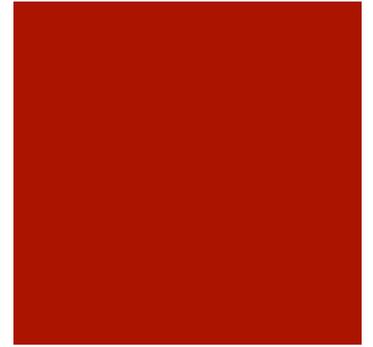


Feedback on Papers



- Quotations
- Citations
- Paragraph writing
- Streamlining
- Maps

Discussion Time



- Part 5

- Outline Part 6

Discussion Time

- (5) **Provide a history of the suburbanization in your city.**
 - How did the history of suburbanization in your city unfold?
 - i. Explain the factors that precipitated the development of suburbs – where was the fight for separation stemming from?
 - Who were the people who migrated to the suburbs? Why did they leave? Who were the people in the cities? Why did they stay?
 - Explain the differences in conditions between the suburbs and the urban cities.
 - Explain the planning considerations that the constructors of your city's suburbs had to consider.
 - Explain the patterns of socioeconomic and racial segregation in cities versus suburbs?
 - i. What factors were responsible for these patterns?
 - Provide a map of the suburban expansion to detail how much the city and its surrounding regions grew as a consequence of suburbanization.
 - i. Explain these outcomes.

Discussion Time



- **(6) Provide an overview of who governs, who participates, and who matters in city politics today.**
- How has your city changed in the last 50 years? (In terms of its economic, demographic, immigration, economic, political, and population outcomes).
- Who participates in local elections today?
- Which segments of the population are courted by political city leaders today?
- To what extent do different communities in your city participate in politics today?