

1455



Pope Nicholas V grants the nation of Portugal the divine right to vanquish “all pagan kingdoms whatsoever” taking their land and possessions, and enslaving their people.

Forty years later, after the discovery of the “New World,” Pope Alexander VI grants the same rights to Spain.

1491



Aaron Carapella's Native American Nations Map

More than 100 million indigenous people inhabit the continents of the Western hemisphere.

1492



Florentine Codex, Bernardino de Sahagún, Granger Collection, New York

“Virgin soil epidemics” of smallpox, typhus, measles, and influenza kill more than 95% of the indigenous population of the Americas who have no immunity to these new diseases. These illnesses devastate native communities and open the door to military conquest of the New World.

1607



Map created by John Smith, 1908, Granger Collection, New York

The first permanent English settlement was established—Jamestown, Virginia. An estimated 12,000 Indians inhabited that land under Chief Powhatan. By 1700, only 1,000 remained.

1619



The first Africans arrive in Jamestown, Virginia aboard the Dutch ship, the White Lion. The 20 or so Africans were sold as indentured servants in exchange for food and supplies.

1620-1640



*John Alden and Mary Chilton Landing at Plymouth
from the Mayflower,
December 1620*

The Mayflower arrives in what is now known as Plymouth Rock. The land had belonged to the Wampanoag who had been ravaged by a smallpox outbreak.

Over the next 20 years, about 20,000 English men, women, and children would leave England to settle in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

About half to two-thirds of early colonists paid for their passage, room, board, and lodging through indentured servitude that could last from 4-7 years.

1638



Puritans near what is now New Haven, Connecticut, establish the first Indian reservation. The Quinnipiac tribe are forced off their homelands, forbidden to leave the reservation, and restricted from any traditional practices.

Colonial settlers attack indigenous villages surrounding the colonies, destroy crops, and burn down homes. Survivors are captured and sold into indentured servitude. The lands are claimed and redistributed amongst colonists.

1640



Three indentured servants contracted to a Virginia planter run away from their harsh living and working conditions. They are captured within days.

All three are sentenced to whippings. A judge adds four years to the indentured servitude of the two European escapees. John Punch, an African, is condemned to lifelong servitude.

He is the first indentured servant on record to be sentenced to lifelong slavery on the basis of race.

1660



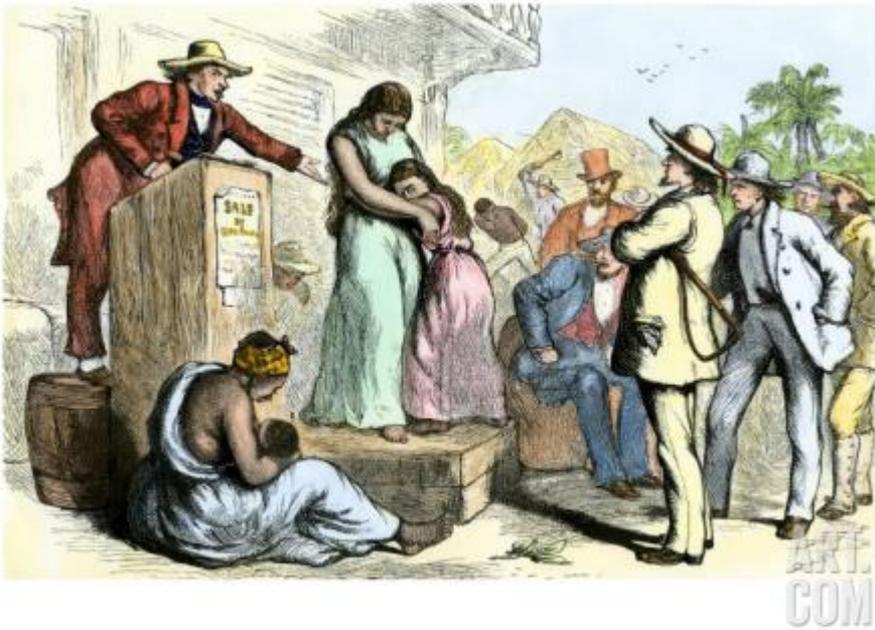
Great Fire painting, Museum of London

The number of European immigrants dropped dramatically following a series of events that shifted the political and economic climate in England:

- Religious persecution lessens with a new English Parliament.
- The Great Plague killed over 68,000 people over a 2-year period.
- The Great London Fire burned down 373 acres of the city.

The losses were devastating and had a trans-Atlantic impact. A new reconstruction economy emerged in England and a labor shortage hit the American colonies.

1662



Faced with this labor shortage, plantation owners turn their attention to maximizing the labor of indentured Africans.

Virginia passes the first law to enact chattel slavery meaning that a child born to an enslaved mother inherits her enslaved status.

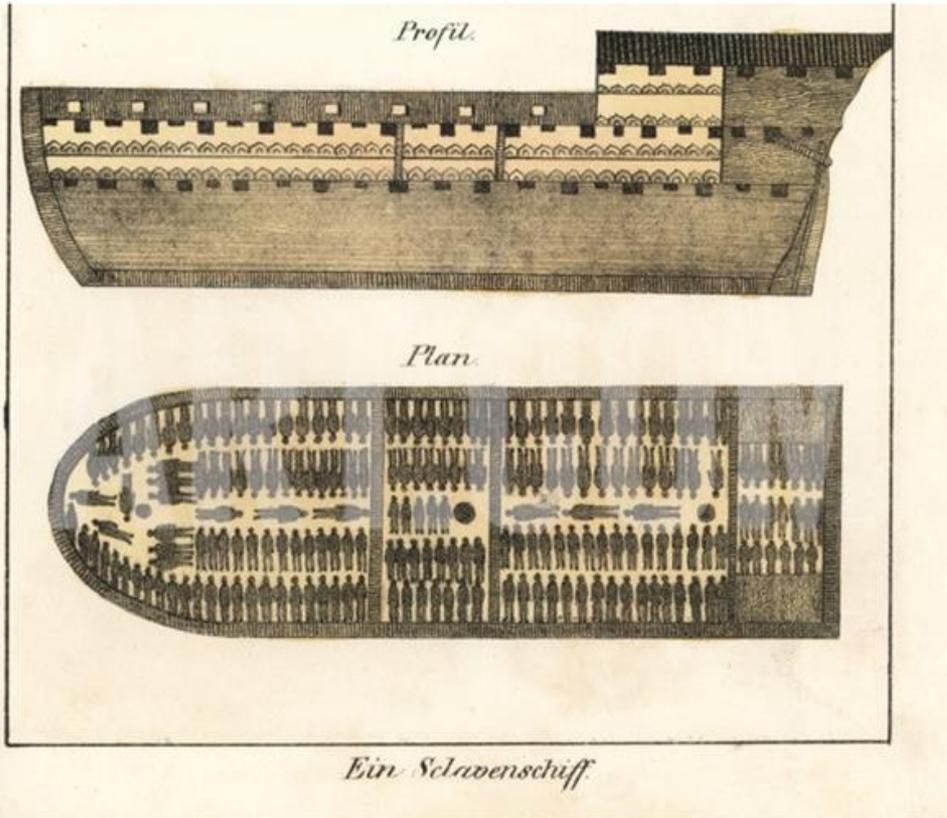
By 1664, similar laws are passed in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Virginia, Maryland, New York, and New Jersey.

1672

The Royal African Company was founded and granted control of a growing trans-Atlantic slave trade.

Over the next 20 years, the Company sponsored almost 250 voyages to Africa and transported an average of 5,000 slaves a year into the American colonies.

By the end of the century, the slave trade was expanded and would bring in over 20,000 people a year.



1676

Nathaniel Bacon took advantage of growing tensions in the colonies to organize European servants and enslaved Africans in rebelling against the existing colonial government and surrounding Indian tribes.

Just as the rebellion was intensifying with the burning down of Jamestown, Bacon suddenly died. The rebellion was lost soon after.

However, in the years that followed, similar rebellions erupted throughout the colonies raising great concern for the ruling class.



1691



*Portrait of Elizabeth Murray by
Sir Peter Lely, 1651*

The term “white” first appeared in colonial law. Up until this point, the terms Christian and Englishmen were used when referring to settlers.

The new law was enacted to prevent the intermarriage of “Black, mulatto, or Indian men with English or other white women.” Penalties for these relationships included banishment of the mother and 30 years of servitude for any child born of that relationship.

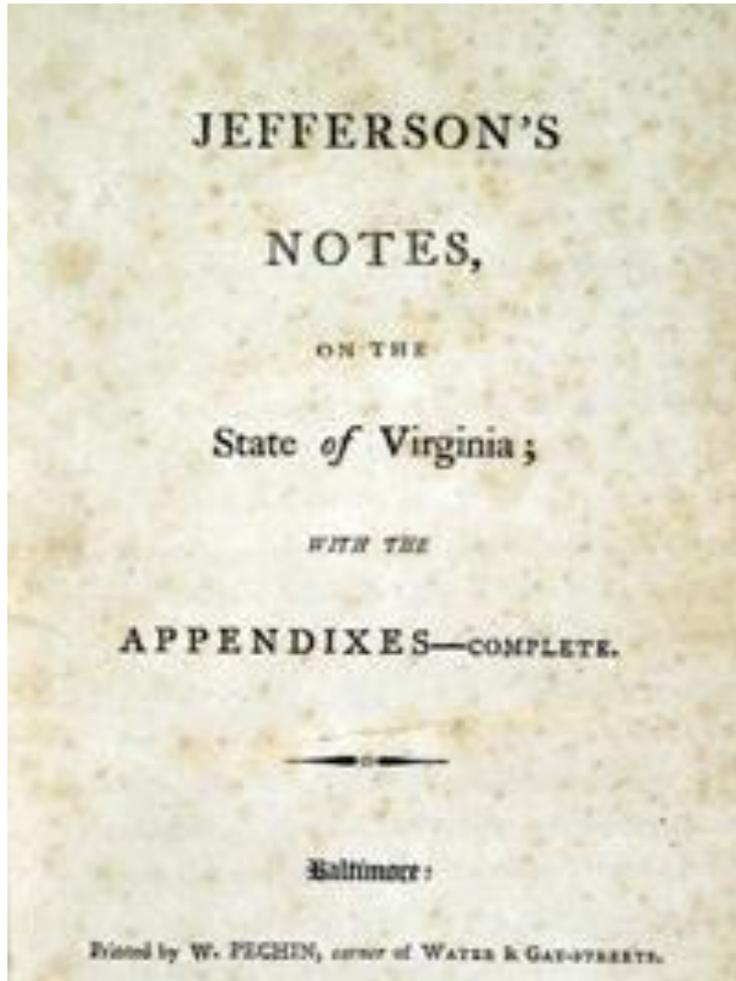
1705

After years of increasing restrictions on enslaved Africans and Native peoples, the Virginia Slave Codes were enacted. The new law read:

“All Negro, mulatto, and Indian slaves within this dominion shall be held to be real estate. If any slave resist his master... correcting such slave, and shall happen to be killed in such a correction... the master shall be free of all punishment... as if such accident never happened.”



1781

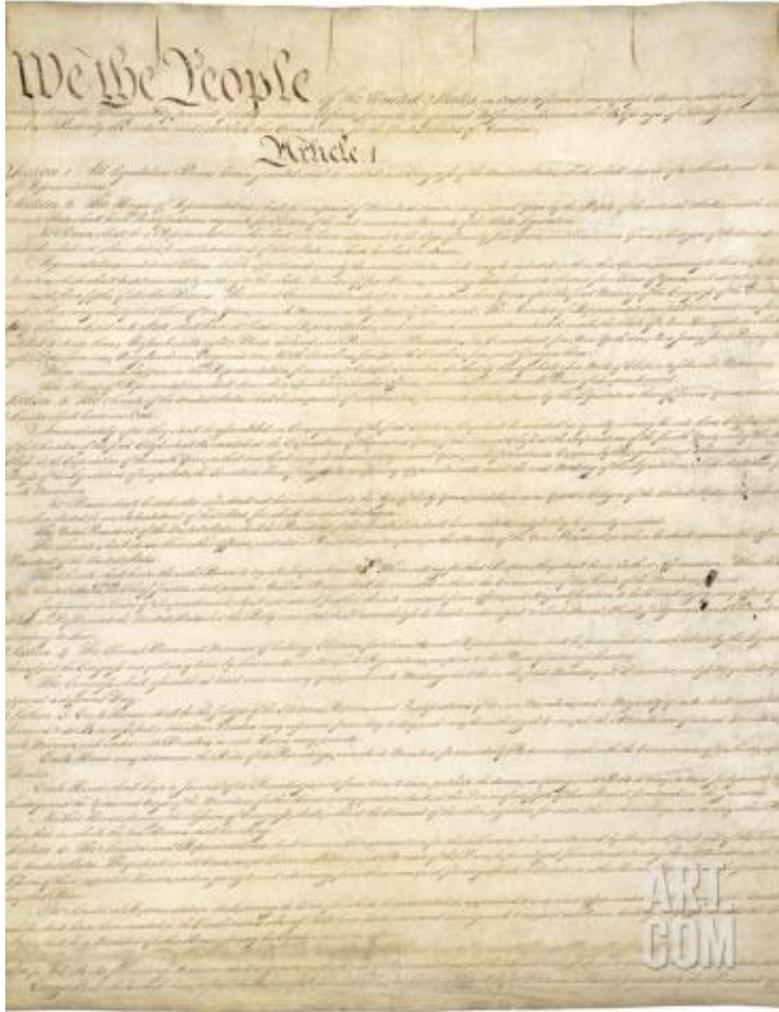


Thomas Jefferson asks in *Notes on the State of Virginia*:

"I advance it therefore, as a suspicion only, that blacks... are inferior to the whites in the endowments of the body and mind."

He calls on science to find proof of a racial hierarchy that can rationalize slavery in a nation arguing for freedom and equality.

1789



The U.S. Constitution is ratified. Among the rights and protections guaranteed, therein, are:

- a fugitive slave clause requiring all escaped slaves to be returned across state lines
- the “three-fifths” clause counting enslaved people as “three fifths of a person.”

1790



Congress passes the Naturalization Act of 1790 which limited applications for citizenship to “free white persons, being of good character, and living in the United States for two years.”

1803



The U.S. buys vast lands west of Mississippi from Napoleon Bonaparte through the Louisiana Purchase. The next year, the Lewis and Clark expedition begins their exploration of the new frontier.

1830

President Andrew Jackson signs the Indian Removal Act forcing Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, and Seminole tribes to relocate west of the Mississippi.

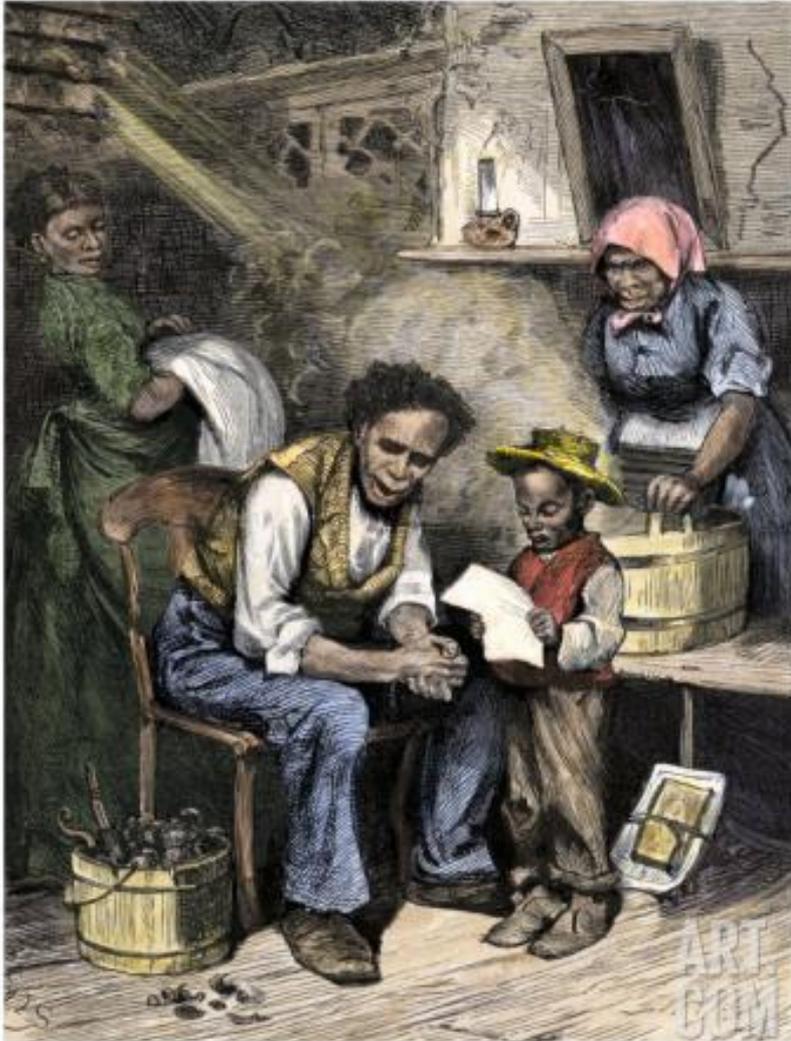


The Trail of Tears, 1838, Robert Lindneux

Over 30,000 people die during the forced migration to “Indian Territory” in Oklahoma. This Trail of Tears was only one of many forced relocation marches across the country.

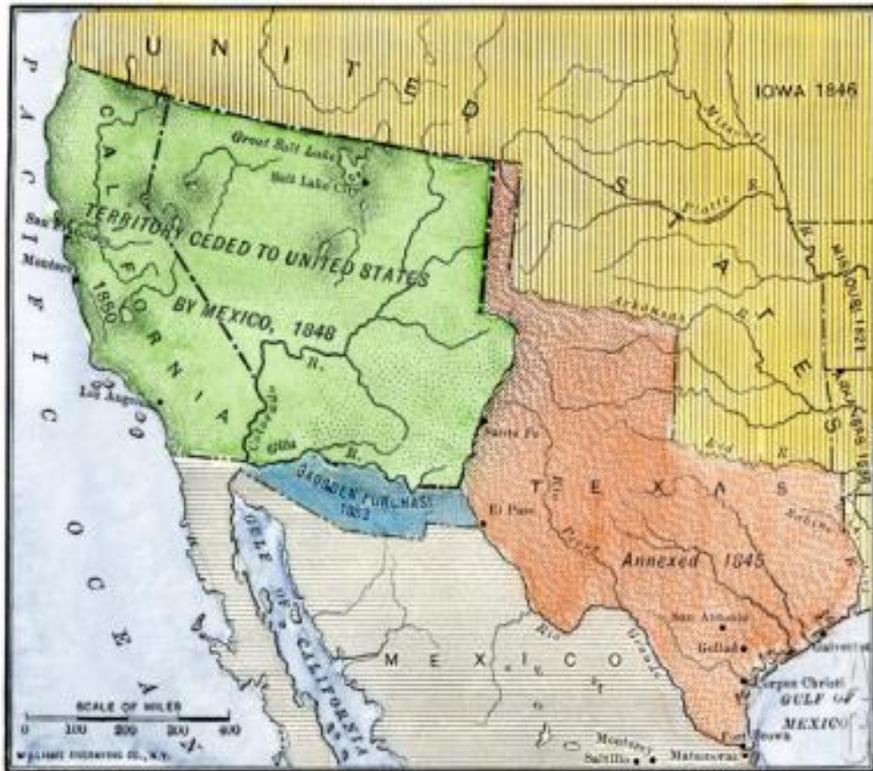
1831

The enslaved population in the U.S. numbers more than two million. Growing threats of slave rebellions lead to expanding restrictions.



Education for blacks becomes prohibited in many states. North Carolina passes a law making it illegal to teach slaves to read or write. Whites who broke this law were fined up to \$200; free blacks and slaves would face imprisonment and whipping. Even so, many defy the law.

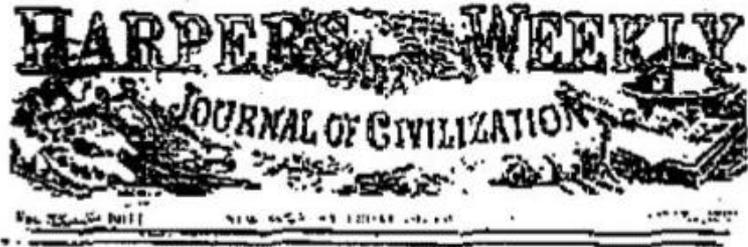
1846



The country now shared a border with Mexico that would quickly become a source of dispute leading to the Mexican-American War. Within two years, Mexico would lose half its territory to what would become the present American Southwest from Texas to California.

The U.S. was now a continental power.

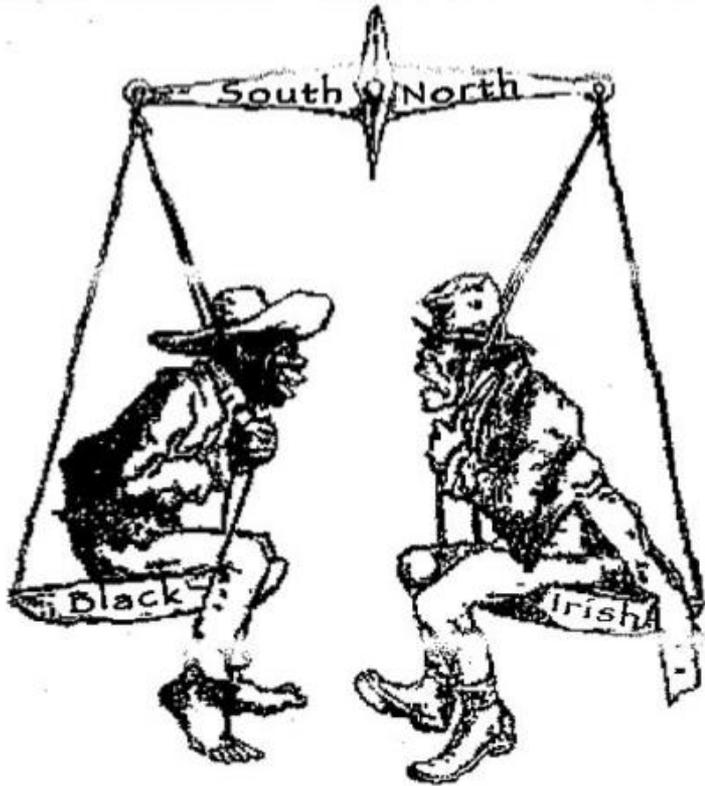
1840



On the eastern border of the U.S., more than 1.7 million immigrants begin arriving from throughout Europe.

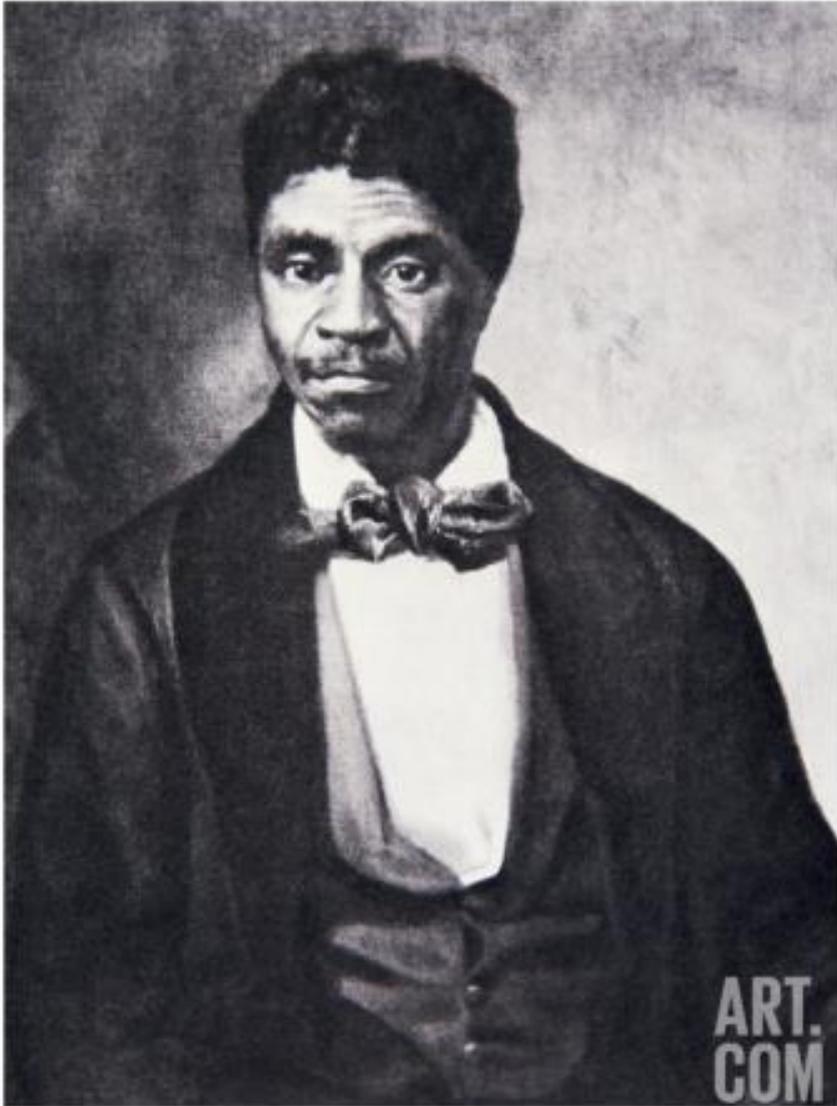
Many new immigrants, particularly, Irish, Italians, and Eastern Europeans, were treated as second class citizens.

Over time, as they give up their language and culture to assimilate into the dominant culture, they receive more and more of the privileges of being white.



For a large part of the 19th century, the Irish were not considered white. In the process of assimilation, the majority of Irish adopted pro-slavery, anti-black political positions.

1857



The U.S. Supreme Court rules in the case of Dred Scott, an enslaved black man suing for his freedom. They decide that all slaves, ex-slaves, and descendants of slaves had no right to citizenship and that Scott had no right to sue in court.

In reviewing the case, the Court also decided that the Missouri Compromise which restricted slavery in certain territories was unconstitutional.

Slavery was expanded into the new territories.

1861



In 1861, South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee and North Carolina secede from the Union.

The Civil War begins in Fort Sumter, South Carolina and ends four years later with heavy casualties on all sides.

Approximately 180,000 black soldiers fight for the country and for their freedom.

1865



North Carolina Office of Archives and History

The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified abolishing slavery and involuntarily servitude throughout the country; *except as punishment for a crime.*

A state-run convict leasing system emerged that provided corporations and plantation owners with prison laborers for a fee. The new system incentivized the criminalization of black males who could provide a seemingly endless line of replaceable, free labor.

North Carolina began leasing convicts in 1872.

1879

Congress authorizes the establishment of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania. The school's founder, Captain Henry Pratt, advocates "Americanization" and cultural assimilation: "Kill the Indian and save the man."

Native children are forcibly removed from their families and placed in boarding schools. They are punished for expressing their traditional language, spirituality, or cultural traditions. Many suffered physical, emotional, and sexual abuse.



1882

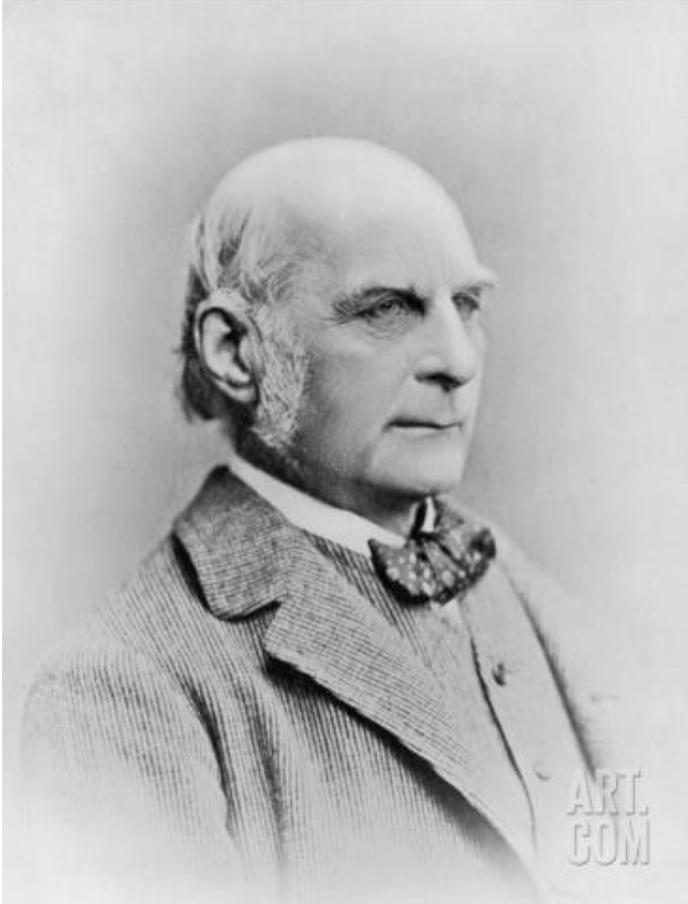


California State Library Collection

During the mid 1800s, the U.S. had an open-door policy to encourage Chinese workers to emigrate to the U.S. and perform hard manual labor. Chinese built railways, dammed rivers, and cleared land.

When demand for labor decreased, the U.S. government rewrote its immigration policy. The Chinese Exclusion Act was enacted which prohibited new immigration from China and the naturalization of Chinese immigrants already in the U.S.

1883



The term “eugenics” is introduced by Sir Francis Galton. He believed that it was possible to produce “a highly gifted race of men” through selective breeding.

“Natural selection rests upon excessive production and wholesale destruction; Eugenics on bringing no more individuals into the world than can be properly cared for, and those only of the best stock.”

His theories become pivotal to the creation of immigration policies, anti-miscegenation laws, forced sterilization, and assimilation schooling.

1898



*Destruction of the Manly printing press for the
Wilmington Record November 10, 1898.*

New Hanover County Public Library Collection

Wilmington, NC was a thriving port city with a thriving black community. In fact, a group of white Populists and black Republicans united to form the Fusion Party and won political control of the state; including the governorship.

In response, the Democratic party launched a campaign that focused on white women's fears of black males, and the threat of lynching to win the election of 1898.

Although they won the election, 500-1000 white men assembled two days later and proceeded to burn down black homes and businesses, kill hundreds of black residents, and banish remaining residents from the city.

The Wilmington Race Riot marked a turning point in North Carolina's history.

1896



The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the case of Plessy v. Ferguson that a Louisiana statute segregating train cars was constitutional. The “separate but equal” ruling quickly extended to cover every area of public life and led to the dramatic expansion of Jim Crow laws.

1910



*The Negro in Chicago (1922)
Chicago Commission on Race Relations*

As Jim Crow intensified throughout the South, millions of African Americans migrated North to escape violence and economic hardship. While segregation and racial violence were also realities in the North, they had not reached the level of overt terrorism happening throughout the southern states.

1922



South Asian Pioneers in California, University of California, Berkeley

Japanese businessman, Takao Ozawa, files for U.S. citizenship arguing that Japanese descent should be classified as white. The Supreme Court Justice ruled that only Caucasians were white while the Japanese were of an “unassimilable race.” The citizenship application was denied.

Three months later, Bhagat Singh Thind, a South Asian Indian with actual roots in Caucasia also petitioned for citizenship. In their ruling, the Supreme Court found that in this case being Caucasian was not sufficient since “the average man knows perfectly well that there are unmistakable and profound differences.”

In both cases, when the citizenship applications were denied, Ozawa’s and Thind’s businesses and properties were confiscated under laws prohibiting non-whites from owning property.

1930



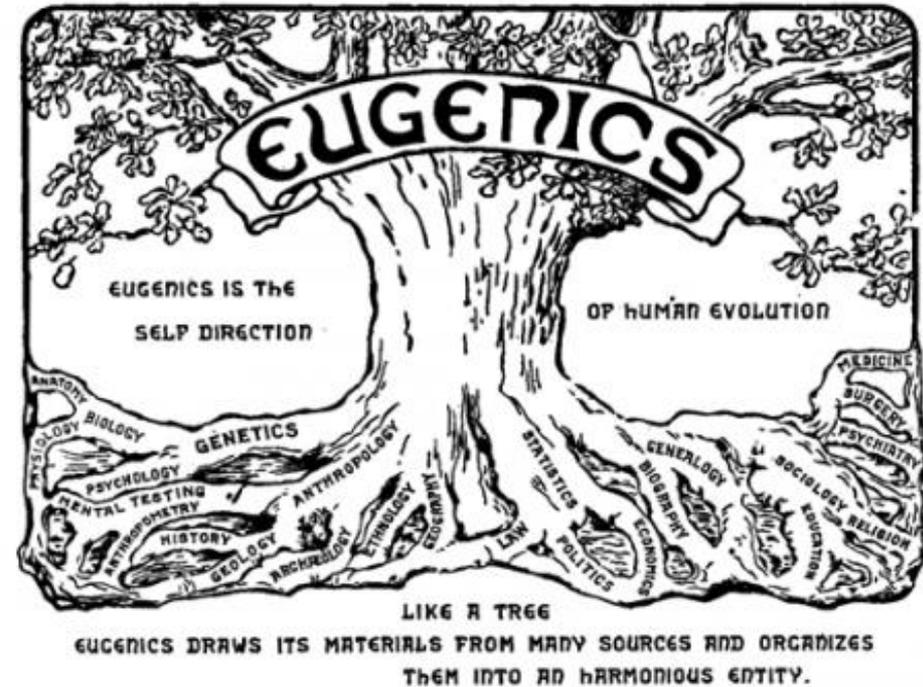
Craig S. Frame, California State University, San Marcos

With the Great Depression intensifying competition for jobs, the Bureau of Immigration launches an intensive deportation campaign to repatriate immigrant and U.S. citizen Mexicans.

More than 400,000 Mexican immigrants and naturalized citizens and their U.S. born children were removed from Arizona, California, and Texas.

1933

The North Carolina General Assembly creates the Eugenics Board of North Carolina to review all cases involving the sterilization of patients, inmates, or non-institutionalized individuals. The state began a program of forced sterilizations that would last until 1974 and would result in an estimated 7,600 people being sterilized.



Second International Congress of Eugenics, 1921

1935



When Congress created social security in 1935, it provided a safety net for millions of workers, guaranteeing them an income after retirement. However, the act's provisions excluded agricultural workers and domestic servants, who were predominantly African American, Mexican, and Asian. As low-income workers, minorities had the least opportunity to save, were least likely to have pensions, and were most vulnerable to economic recession, yet they were systematically excluded from the protection and benefits granted to most Americans.

1942



Gila River Camp, Arizona

Credit: Wartime Relocation Authority

Over 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans- the majority of whom are citizens or legal permanent residents- were moved to “war relocation camps” after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the start of WWII. They are detained in the internment camps for four years before finally being released.

1943



With so many away at war, the U.S. government launches the Bracero program which brings 5 million temporary workers from Mexico to work in U.S. fields. Ten years later, the program is ended and all braceros are targeted for deportation.

Operation Wetback sent immigration officials into Mexican American communities resulting in the deportation of over 3.8 million people to Mexico. Many of those deported were U.S. citizens.

1944



[Wikipedia.com/wiki/GI_bill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GI_bill)

The Serviceman's Readjustment Act or "GI Bill" was passed while banks and mortgage agencies actively refused loans to blacks which made actualizing the benefits impossible. Federal agencies "endorsed the use of race-restrictive covenants until 1950" and explicitly refused to underwrite loans that would introduce "'incompatible' racial groups into White residential enclaves." These government policies were also adopted by the private sector. For example, from the 1930s to the 1960s the National Association of Real Estate Boards issued ethical guidelines that specified that a realtor "should never be instrumental in introducing to a neighborhood a character or property or occupancy, members of any race or nationality, or any individual whose presence will be clearly detrimental to property values in a neighborhood."

1954



The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Brown v. Board of Education* that racial segregation of public schools violated the Constitution. States were ordered to desegregate schools “with all deliberate speed.”

School desegregation was often met with violence and required military intervention to enforce. Most public schools were not desegregated until the late 1960s and early 70s.

1955



Jackson Daily News, 1955

Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam torture and kill 14-year old Emmett Till. Both men are acquitted of all charges by an all-white jury. One year later, both men confess to *Look Magazine*:

"I just made up my mind. Chicago boy, I said, I'm tired of 'em sending your kind down here to stir up trouble. Damn you, I'm going to make an example of you, just so everybody can know how me and my folks stand."

His murder draws national attention to the civil rights movement.

1955



© FLIP SCHULKE/CORBIS

North Carolina continued to resist the desegregation of public schools and created the Pearsall Plan.

The Pearsall Plan allowed “freedom of choice” which meant:

- Black parents had to get special permission from local school boards to attend white schools, and
- White parents could take advantage of school vouchers to send their children to private, segregated schools.

In 1971, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Pearsall Plan was unconstitutional.

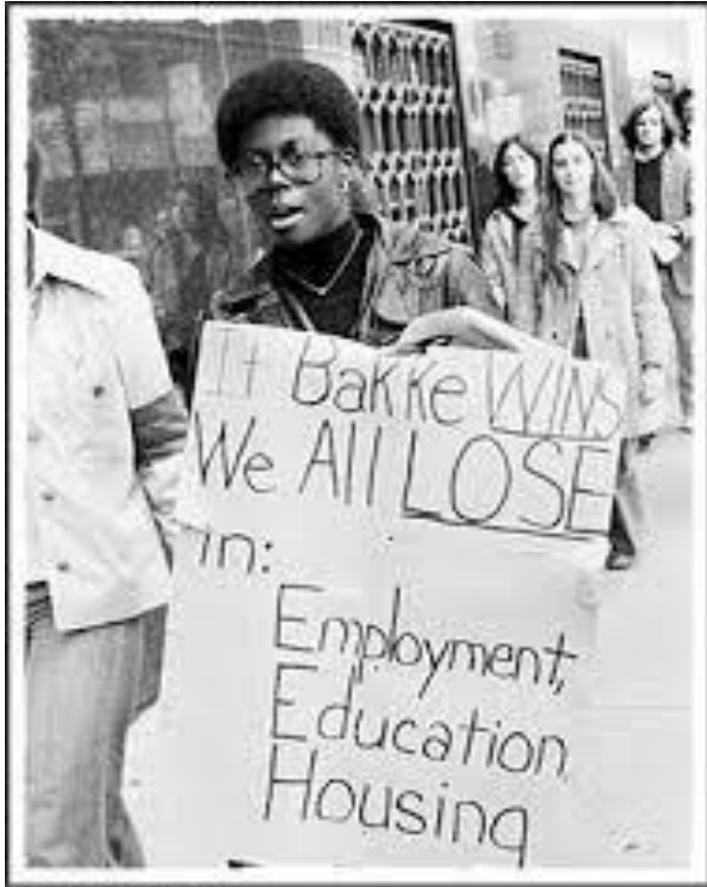
1964



The Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlaws discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin. The law specifically addresses discrimination and segregation in primary and secondary schools.

This legislation was soon followed by the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which prohibited racial discrimination in voting.

1978



© BETTMANN/CORBIS

The Supreme Court case, *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke* upheld the constitutionality of affirmative action, but imposed limitations on it to ensure that providing greater opportunities for minorities did not come at the expense of the rights of the majority (June 28).

1985



usatoday30.usatoday.com

The Philadelphia State Police bomb a house in Philadelphia occupied by an African American activist organization, MOVE. The bombing kills 11 occupants of the house and triggers a fire that destroys a neighborhood and leaves over 300 people homeless.

1994

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is signed into law by President Bill Clinton. Over 1.4 million rural Mexicans were displaced from their homes and land. The border population more than doubled.

“Operation Gatekeeper” was announced as the new border enforcement strategy to intentionally funnel undocumented immigrants towards the most extreme environments in the hopes of discouraging them from crossing for fear of death or injury.

Over the 20 years that Operation Gatekeeper has been in place, over 5,000 undocumented men, women, and children have died on U.S. soil.



Photo by Sophie Kazis

2001

After September 11th, the U.S. Congress passes the PATRIOT Act and heightened scrutiny of Muslims, Arabs, and south Asians as potential terrorists.

Immigration and Naturalization Services is collapsed into a new government entity- the Department of Homeland Security.



2006



Photo by Scott Olson/Getty Images

The Department of Homeland Security authorizes local law enforcement to act as immigration officers through the 287(g) program. Immigrant communities across the country report skyrocketing rates of racial profiling, police checkpoints, and human rights abuses.

2009-2013



Loans handed out to struggling small businesses as part of President Barack Obama's stimulus package- ARRA-American Recovery Capital - have largely shut out minority businesses — especially those owned by Blacks and Latinos — according to data provided by the federal government's Small Business Administration (SBA) to New America Media (NAM).

Data obtained by NAM from the SBA found that of the 4,497 ARC loans where the race of the borrower was reported, 4,104 (over 91 percent) went to white-owned firms, 140 (3 percent) went to Hispanic-owned businesses, and 151 (3 percent) went to Asian- or Pacific Islander-owned businesses. Only 65 (1.5 percent) went to black-owned firms.

2012

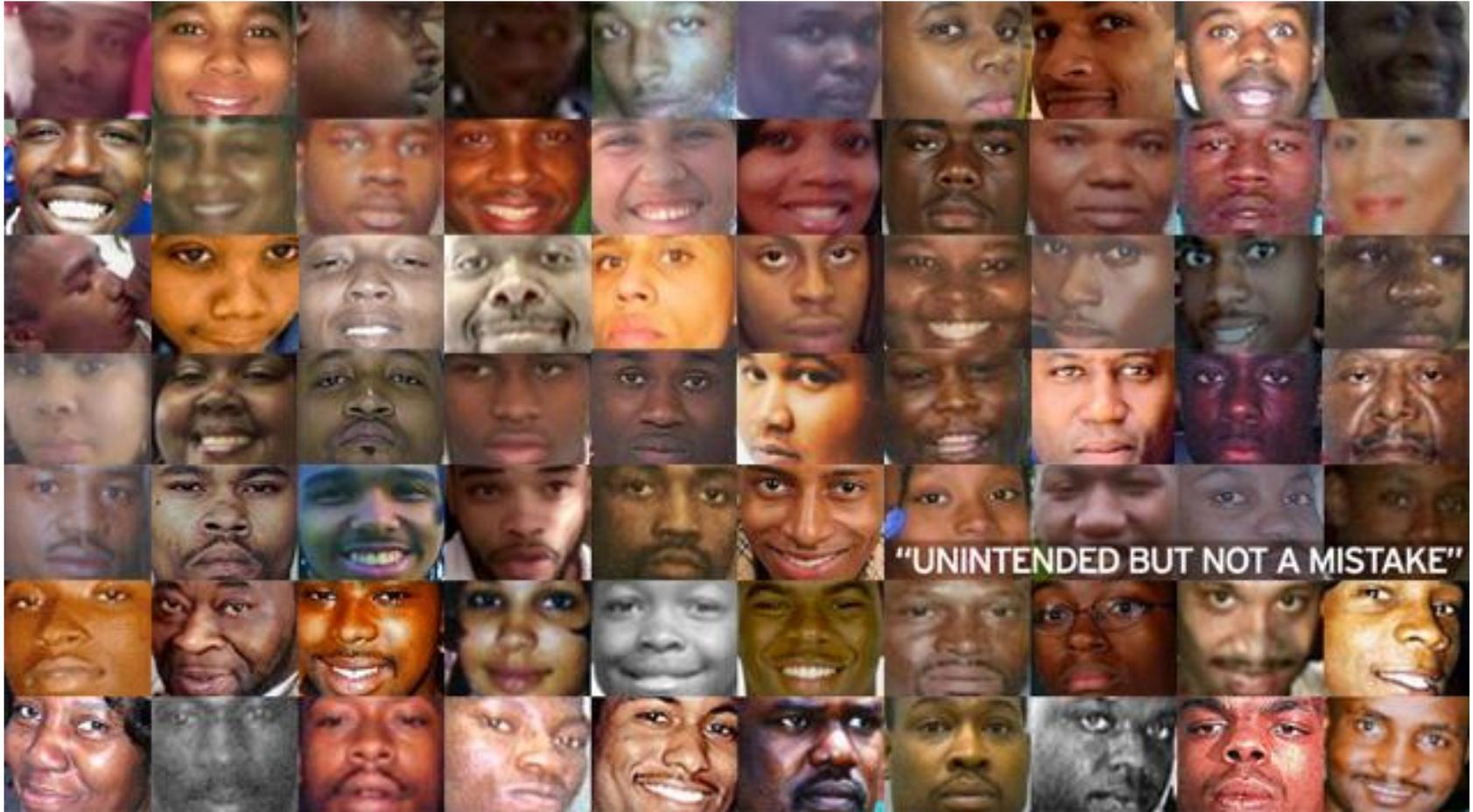


The murder of teenager, Trayvon Martin, captured the nation's attention and sparked a national discussion about race, guns, and an epidemic of violence against unarmed black youth.

A "Stand Your Ground" defense allowed the shooter, George Zimmerman, to claim self-defense. He was acquitted of all charges.

1999-2014

Unarmed people of color killed by police



<http://gawker.com/unarmed-people-of-color-killed-by-police-1999-2014-1666672349>