

**Think Piece 2**

I think the readings still hold true in today's world. Reading about Deborah Goldring was tough, I can't image undergoing so much loss. To grow up segregated and poor and make it so far in her life then lose it all is awful. I think the reading really speak to the non linearity of change in our country with regards to racism and the wealth gap. What was going on in 2011 with Deborah is affecting tens of thousands today. The wealth gap in this country is very large and getting worse I believe. The recession hit Americans hard and black Americans even harder. As the USA Today article states, "College-educated blacks fared worse than their white counterparts in the recession. In 2007, unemployment for college-educated whites was 1.8 percent; for college-educated blacks it was 2.7 percent". Unemployment was crazy in the great depression. I remember when my own mother lost her job during the recession. To think it was nearly twice as bad for black Americans is very upsetting. From what I have learned in this class it really makes you think about how far we have come and how bad things still are.

The New York Times piece gives a different type of view than the USA Today article. The USA Today article was less personal but really spoke to the numbers and fact surrounding the issues. As the NY Times article states, "As of 2010, white families, on average, earned about \$2 for every \$1 that black and Hispanic families earned, a ratio that has remained roughly constant for the last 30 years.". I think this is very applicable to today's world as it is so recent. This is really

a large difference in the amount earned by families and the issue is very present today. I think the situation is self worsening, it is like a cycle. The more people are oppressed and divided in wealth the worse it gets. If you lose your job and you become unemployed it is very hard to find work again especially during the recession. On top of that, blacks and hispanics are faced with racism and inequality. They are more likely to not have saving which means if they lose their job they might not have savings to help pay for the rent. This leads to them being evicted for failing to pay the rent. Racism continues to put blacks and minorities at a disadvantage in our country. Sure, things have improved since the Jim Crow times or the Great Migration, but it has also just changed and become more covert. Now instead of segregation there is inequality. Blacks are faced with racism when they want to find a job, buy a house, or just walk down the street.

An interesting idea suggested by Professor Hamilton in the NY Times article was to introduce small bonds for people who are unwealthy. She says, "Professor Hamilton has proposed "baby bonds," granting savings accounts to infants, seeded with funds that allocate greater sums to families with less wealth.". I think this is a novel idea that could impact so many people. I think having savings for when you get older would really help youth make better decisions. Image knowing that you would be able to pay for college and get a head start in life. I think policies such as these can be ground breaking. I think if we do not actively act about the wealth divide between Americans it will continue to worsen. I think it is very possible that it will great an even more extreme divide in this country. The country is ever divided now more than 11 years after Deborah lost her home. I wonder how she is doing now, I hope she has kept her home. I think

our government needs to act more actively to address the ongoing racism and inequality black have faced living in the country.