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The story of segregation in St. Louis

Why does race still shape St. Louis? Why was segregation more dramatic here than it was in similar Midwestern cities? And why hasn't it lifted as quickly?

BY JEANNETTE COOPERMAN OCTOBER 17, 2014 9:47 AM



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX WILLIAMSON

The whole world's seen the maps. One starts out hot red or orange for the African-American population in the city's core and cools to shades of Caucasian blue in the suburbs. Another uses stark black and white to show the Delmar Divide, named by the BBC (95 percent black north of Delmar Boulevard; almost two-thirds white south of it). Others trace that racial divide into St. Louis County, coloring in 90 municipalities like it's election night.

What those maps don't show are the ghost neighborhoods, once-black communities ripped out of both city and county. Gates and wrought-iron fences that segregate wealth. Tight ethnic enclaves. Blocks, gangs,

and country clubs, each with their own exclusions. Two states sharing a metro area and vying for its resources.

St. Louis is divided along *many* lines. And race plays a role in every one of those divisions. It also determines our future, because if you make a transparent map of racial segregation and lay it over other maps—political power, cultural influence, health, wealth, education, and employment—the pattern repeats.

It's 2014. Why does race still shape St. Louis? Why was segregation more dramatic here than it was in similar Midwestern cities? And why hasn't it lifted as quickly?

St. Louis might be Midwestern, but its history is Southern. The city's founders came upriver from New Orleans, and the Mississippi River kept our ties to the South alive through the Civil War. Unlike most northern cities, we had a 100-year history of slaveholding. Yet unlike most Southern cities, we avoided the crucible of civil-rights demonstrations. There had been an African-American population here almost from the start, but there was never much pressure for blacks and whites to mingle. Instead, there was what one scholar calls a "legacy of racial mistrust."

Slaves had been sold on the steps of our Old Courthouse, and Dred Scott hadn't won the right to buy his freedom there. When the case reached the Missouri Supreme Court, Judge William Scott wrote the decision—saying Dred Scott had no right to sue—and warned of "a dark and fell spirit in relation to slavery, whose gratification is sought in the pursuit of measures, whose inevitable consequences must be the overthrow and destruction of our government."

Similar fears rippled through St. Louis' white community. Its members were fine as long as the black population stayed at a stable 6 percent. But by 1900, St. Louis had more than 35,000 African-American residents, a population second only to Baltimore's. Recent European immigrants worried that African-Americans who'd just come north in the Great Migration would steal their jobs. Others worried that neighbors with low-paying jobs would lower the value of their houses.

In 1916, St. Louisans voted on a "reform" ordinance that would prevent anyone from buying a home in a neighborhood more than 75 percent occupied by another race. Civic leaders opposed the initiative, but it passed with a two-thirds majority and became the first referendum in the nation to impose racial segregation on housing. After a U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Buchanan v. Warley*, made the ordinance illegal the following year, some St. Louisans reverted to racial covenants, asking every family on a block or in a subdivision to sign a legal document promising to never sell to an African-American. Not until 1948 were such covenants made illegal, after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on *Shelley v. Kraemer*, a case originating in St. Louis.

"Shelley was not the first African-American to move onto that block of Labadie," points out Priscilla Dowden-White, associate professor of history at the University of Missouri St. Louis and author of *Groping Toward Democracy: African American Social Welfare Reform in St. Louis, 1910-1949*. "You had white neighborhoods where there might be two or three black families and no issue. It's when whites in those neighborhoods began to sense that there was going to be more migration into that neighborhood—then you see the fear. 'They will take over the neighborhood. The property values will fall.'"

In *How Racism Takes Place*, George Lipsitz writes that in St. Louis, “protection of white property and privilege guided nearly all decisions about law and policies that promoted the establishment of new small and exclusive suburban municipalities with restrictive zoning codes.” Those municipalities zoned for larger, more expensive lots and banned apartments. Realtors steered middle-class African-Americans toward certain parts of town and away from others.

“Both the City’s Real Estate Exchange and the Missouri Real Estate Commission routinely and openly interpreted sales to blacks in white areas as a form of professional misconduct,” writes Colin Gordon, author of *Mapping Decline: St. Louis and the Fate of the American City*. African-American homebuyers often had difficulty getting access to lower interest rates and down payments. The bravest fought the barriers with legal maneuvers, by using straw buyers, or by passing for white. But set against redlining, blockbusting, and exclusive zoning, those tools weren’t very effective.

Clarence Harmon, who would later become St. Louis’ second African-American mayor, recalls trying to buy a home in a North County subdivision called Paddock Woods in the late ’60s. “Well, sir, we are not selling homes to Negroes up here,” he says he was told. “There’s a case coming up before the Supreme Court, and they will determine whether we sell to any Negroes.”

Joseph and Barbara Jones had tried to buy a home in the same subdivision, but Alfred H. Mayer Company, the county’s biggest homebuilder, had informed them they could not. In 1968, the Supreme Court found in the Joneses’ favor, and Harmon moved into Paddock Woods.

Not every part of St. Louis wanted to be segregated, though. Gaslight Square was sited right on the north-south, black-white divide. University City, meanwhile, “formed its own residential housing service,” recalls writer and educator John Wright. “Shows you what can happen when you have a small geographic area and a well-educated Jewish population. They deliberately bought homes on the north side and sold them to whites and bought homes on the south side and sold them to blacks. The community would not yield to realtors and bankers.”

Most neighborhoods, however, did.

“Racism is a business,” Wright says, sighing. “If it wasn’t lucrative to chase people away, it wouldn’t happen. People make money off of it. And as long as people make money, the system flourishes.”

How have we managed to stay this segregated? Priscilla Dowden-White, an associate professor of history at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, has her own example, drawn from real life. When she and her husband went house-hunting in 1995, two decades ago, they popped into an open house near Tower Grove Park and met a real-estate agent, an older white man. He called, unsolicited, a few weeks later, saying he’d found “just the house for them” in Bel-Nor. When Dowden-White expressed no interest, he seemed angry, saying he thought they wanted to buy in North County. Instead, the couple made an offer on a house in the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood.

When Dowden-White and her husband checked with the bank regarding FHA mortgage guidelines, the woman she spoke with expressed amazement that there were houses for more than \$100,000 in the city. “There are houses a few blocks away that list at more than \$1 million,” Dowden-White retorted.

Meanwhile, Dowden-White knew three other African-American couples who were house-hunting at the same time. They all wound up in North County.

Urban geographers describe St. Louis as a donut hole—empty in the middle and encircled by doughy counties. Cities like Denver, Seattle, and Portland, Oregon, would be custard-filled, with appealing city centers and no gaps in the urban landscape. Here, white flight was followed by middle-class black flight, and historically black communities in the city were razed for the sake of “urban renewal,” highway construction, and tax-increment-financing redevelopment projects.

“We removed so-called slum neighborhoods,” says Michael Allen, director of the Preservation Research Office. “Mill Creek Valley, Chestnut Valley, Carr Square, we clear-cut. Then we demolished vacant housing in The Ville,” the neighborhood where Chuck Berry, Tina Turner, and Grace Bumbry grew up.

Sometimes, the policy was benign neglect until it was time to condemn. Sometimes, it was eminent domain. “We have spent enormous sums of public money to spatially reinforce human segregation patterns,” says Allen. “We have harnessed architecture as a barrier. And it’s been very frightening to see the result.”

St. Louis evicted 500 families, almost all of them African-American, from the Pershing-Waterman redevelopment area. To build Interstate 55, the African-American community of Pleasant View was destroyed, and the residents were given vouchers for Pruitt-Igoe. About 20,000 African-American families lost homes when Mill Creek Valley was declared a slum and destroyed.

Interstate 44 toppled more African-American families from The Hill. The black community of Robertson was taken for airport expansion, as was a chunk of Kinloch. Parts of Meacham Park, North Webster, and Elmwood Park near Olivette were taken for redevelopment. More recently, Paul McKee anonymously bought up a large swath of the near North Side, then held community meetings to explain he was trying to rescue the area and get TIFs for redevelopment.

Virvus Jones, a former St. Louis comptroller, assessor, and alderman, believes TIFs should be allocated differently. He mentions the TIFs granted in the city since 1993—a total of 137, six for addresses north of Delmar. “So the premise is that south of Delmar is more blighted than north?” he says. “They say, ‘That’s where people want to develop.’ I say, ‘No, that’s where you subsidize people to develop.’ You have half the city that looks bombed-out and the other half prospering, parts of it looking like Georgetown. Do you really think that’s a sustainable model?”

Race, overlaid with economics and a fear of crime, has influenced myriad decisions that shaped the metro area’s landscape: where the MetroLink stopped. How far south Interstate 170 went. Why a public housing project wasn’t relocated to Jefferson Barracks in South County. Why it’s been so hard for St. Louisans to mentally include the Metro East in the region.

The region's black-white divide shows up in the lopsided governance of municipalities (not just Ferguson), banks, corporations, and cultural institutions. Civic Progress has one African-American member, and the executive council of the Regional Business Council has no African-Americans. The Regional Commerce and Growth Association has two African-Americans on its executive committee. St. Louis' major cultural institutions have a smattering of African-American board members but no African-American CEOs.

St. Louis is landlocked and weighted by history. Long-established in-groups have cliquish traditions. All that familiarity can leave us a little wary of the unknown. And because we're so segregated, much is unknown. "You've still got people who won't even go to Forest Park—they read somewhere that someone got raped in 1901," Wright says with a low chuckle. There are South Siders proud to say they've "never been north of 40." North Siders afraid to drive west lest they get pulled over. Young girls warned never to "go over to the East Side." Kids in Monroe County cautioned about crime across the river. Refugees from Africa warned upon arrival that our black neighborhoods are dangerous.

Jones characterizes the prevailing white attitude like so: "'As long as we can keep them over there in that colony, north of Delmar, north of 70, we will be all right.' As long as we stay invisible, there is no problem. As long as I don't see it, it doesn't exist. I'd rather have you hate me, because if I don't exist, I'm

not a human being. I'm an inanimate object.

“That’s what has developed over the years,” he continues.

“People think they can be protected. We have these invisible barriers that keep us from poor people and black people.

“The expectation of the system that in 50 years, you were going to correct 250 years of slavery and 150 years of Jim Crow, was probably not realistic.”

The Ferguson riots are now famous. But before August, St. Louis was famous for *not* rioting.

Oh, there was 1917, but that was over in East St. Louis, Illinois. European immigrants were terrified that the 10,000 or so black workers streaming in from the South would take their jobs. Instead, many black migrants found that the jobs they’d been promised were nonexistent. Sensationalist newspaper stories announced that unemployed black people were on a rampage of crime, buying guns and planning a race war.

Hell broke loose in that riot, which exploded after a rumor that a white man had been killed by a black man. The riot went on for nearly a week, most of the violence targeting African-Americans. A baby was thrown into a fire. A man was hung from a telephone pole in downtown St. Louis, his scalp ripped off. There were reports of people being thrown off the Free Bridge (now called the MacArthur.)

Then came the Fairgrounds Park riot in 1949, on the first day that black children could swim in the pool. Several

hundred white adults surrounded the fence, and at day's end, violence broke out.

By the time of the Jefferson Bank civil-rights protests in 1963, St. Louisans had learned containment strategies.

Jones remembers getting picked up at high school to join the protest, because he was too young to be locked up in jail. "We got arrested," he says, "and my mom came to pick me up, and the second time she said, 'Look, I'm gonna lose my job. I can't keep coming to pick you up. I'm not upset at what you are doing, but you might have to stay there for a while.' 'Cause my father worked two jobs."

He also remembers a newspaper reporter telling him, years later, that both the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* had a policy of not writing about civil-rights activities. Wright says many black activists were given jobs, because then they wouldn't be able to afford to get arrested and miss work.

"St. Louis has responded to race matters in more conservative ways than other places have," says Gerald Early, director of African & African-American Studies at Washington University. "I also think St. Louis has had a kind of complacency, because it's never had this kind of violence until now. A certain complacency, and maybe even assumptions on the part of the white establishment that this isn't going to happen here."

Harmon agrees. “I’ve lived here all my life. Almost all politics locally is viewed from the prism of race and class. Our civic leaders would say, ‘St. Louis? We don’t riot. We don’t do that.’ We have become so complacent over the status quo that we were not expecting this. You look at the protesters: young men with no jobs, lack of education, no prospects. What we have seen in St. Louis is the outward migration of the working class—the factory workers, the small-business owners. White people fled what they didn’t understand and didn’t want to expose themselves to: the problems of a disenfranchised group of people who were uneducated, with a lack of prospects. And the people who are late coming to these communities, a lot of whom we saw in the protests, are those people who have few prospects.”

Most days—until recent events in Ferguson, at least—St. Louisans have kept their heads down and walked forward, as though they’re walking into a gale-force wind, when racism’s mentioned. It’s a fact of life here, but one that’s hard to talk about without sounding inflammatory or clueless.

And that, in itself, is a form of segregation.

Historical Timeline

1820: The Missouri Compromise allows slavery in Missouri.

1821: Missouri enters the Union as a slave state, but eventually supplies almost three times as many troops to the North.

1846: Dred Scott’s case for freedom is dismissed on a technicality.

1857: The Missouri Compromise is declared unconstitutional, foreshadowing the Civil War.

1863: President Abraham Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation.

1913: A committee of whites calls for “Legal Segregation of Negroes in St. Louis.”

1916: The legal segregation initiative passes.

1917: *Buchanan v. Warley*: Racial segregation ordinances are ruled illegal. The city resorts to racial covenants.

1917: The East St. Louis race riot: At least 39 African-Americans die, with one man hung from a telephone pole.

1934: The Federal Housing Administration is created to insure private mortgages; it gives D ratings in many black neighborhoods.

1948: *Shelley v. Kraemer*: The St. Louis case ends racial covenants nationwide.

1949: Black children are permitted to swim in Fairgrounds Park. Whites surround the pool fence, and a riot breaks out.

1950: Over the next two decades, 60,000 African-Americans will leave the city.

1954: *Brown v. Board of Education* overturns *Plessy v. Ferguson* to desegregate U.S. schools.

1954: Attorney Frankie Freeman takes St. Louis' Housing Authority to court for racial discrimination in public

housing—and wins.

1956: Pruitt-Igoe is completed. Its failure is apparent almost immediately; the public housing will be demolished within two decades.

1963: Protests outside Jefferson Bank persuade the bank to hire white-collar workers of color.

1964: Percy Green II and Richard Daly protest discriminatory hiring for work crews building the Gateway Arch.

1968: *Jones v. Alfred H. Mayer Co.*: Racial discrimination in housing is declared illegal.

1972: Civil-rights activist Gena Scott unveils the Veiled Prophet during the ball.

1979: After Black Jack tries to block a multiracial apartment complex, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit reaffirms the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

1983: The St. Louis County school districts agree to accept black students from the city on a voluntary basis. State funds are to be used to bus the kids to the county for an integrated education.

1989: Confluence St. Louis examines the city's racial divide in a report. Few of its recommendations are heeded.

1993: Freeman Bosley Jr. is elected the first black mayor of St. Louis.

1997: Clarence Harmon becomes St. Louis' second African-American mayor.

2014: The police shooting of Michael Brown and ensuing protests draw global attention. Amnesty International sends 15 human-rights observers—the first team it's ever assigned within the U.S.—to monitor claims of police violations in Ferguson.

[Race in St. Louis](#) [Ferguson](#) [November 2014](#)



Jeannette Cooperman

Cooperman is St. Louis Magazine's staff writer.

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The Green vs McDonnell Aircraft Corp. Case

It is very interesting whenever racism is discussed regarding St. Louis, the U. S. Supreme Court Case of 'Green vs McDonnell Air Craft Company' IS NEVER listed or mentioned. This case was at the heart of RACISM...Fair & Equal Employment. This case made it possible to prove racial discrimination in the work place. Many lawyers have said that this case is the most cited case in the U. S. Why is it ignored here in St. Louis? Is the St. Louis white power structure about the business of protecting the image and name of the McDonnell family, et al? Percy Green II 103 days ago | [reply](#)

Race in St.Louis

"They divided both to conquer each." Frederick Douglas
Racism is a technique perfected by capitalism. No Capitalism without racism. It's class war not a race war and it has been that way since the beginning of time.
Class war and the technique of racism - City Strolls

citystrolls.com/articles/class-war-and-the-technique-of-racism/

Sammie Galati more than 1 year ago | [reply](#)

Sad Situation

In 1958 Ferguson MO was a nice suburban area of 2 and 3 bedroom ranch style homes. Young families, mostly first time home buyers, moved into the area for its quality schools, safe streets, new modern homes and the promises of a bright future. If you look at photos from the time, the homes are all well kept with pretty green, well manicured lawns. For the next thirty years Ferguson was a healthy, middle class town with tree lined streets and robust businesses. But slowly, beginning in the early 1970's, the Federal, State and County government was working on a plan to move as many of the poorest urban residents into north county. The first black family moved into the main part of Ferguson in 1968, but they were middle class, well educated and gainfully employed in well paying professions. They moved to Ferguson because they wanted to, so they could provide a better home for their children. That is why there was no mass migration of whites from Ferguson. However by 1990, hundreds of cheap low income Section 8 apartments had been built, surrounding the existing single family homes. The residents of the apartments were former project residents, poorly educated, little to no work skills and on welfare. Crime skyrocketed, the schools began to go down hill and everyone who could afford to move did. Now the entire town is mostly low income, the businesses are now all gone thanks to the protesters and most of the businesses are not coming back. The bottom line is this, middle class people of all colors do not want to live where there are large concentrations of poor blacks, they just don't. You are mixing oil and vinegar and it don't mix, never has and it never will. This same thing has happened in Omaha and Detroit and the Quad Cities and Kansas City. The only people who benefited from the demographic changes in north county were the political hacks, developers and real estate agents. Everyone else was a pawn in their plan to make themselves rich and unfortunately the poorest in the bunch suffer the most. We need to start looking at how people actually act and react instead of proposing ideas on paper and forcing them on everyone involved. Provide the

poor with decent schools, decent parks and after school programs, modern boys and girls clubs and job training centers. Promote businesses and trades to open in poor areas and provide job training and jobs. Help better the existing communities. But see, the politicians won't do that, because they and their crony developer friends can't make a profit off of that. The same thing is still happening today. Sad Situation
JW more than 1 year ago | [reply](#)

Racism

It will never stop, people hang on to racism. Its the crutch they want to keep in their lives. Some blacks will hold on to it to explain why things aren't better in their lives. It takes away the responsibility of being accountable. This article was another guilt trip to bath in. It takes away responsibility of parents to set a better role model for their children. Teachers, politicians, administrators , anyone who doesn't want to be held accountable can just say whites are mean and hold blacks down and blacks cant climb out of that without special help. Its funny how anyone from any side of this issue is racist. Just continue to wallow in pity.

Kevin more than 2 years ago | [reply](#)

to kevin

It takes around 2 generations to escape from poverty. There is clear evidence of discriminatory practices in St. Louis as recent as the 70s. So, it's clear racism does affect people today. This starts when your a child and grow up in extremely dysfunctional circumstances beyond your control, the expectation that these children will grow up to be accountable is naive at best. These kids do need help to climb out, if you can't see it, I feel sorry about your parents not been able to make you experience the real world.

P 29 days ago | [reply](#)

Jeff is correct

Pertaining to the matter of the narcissism of small differences, it is peculiar that so many in our region tend to exaggerate those differences in the worst possible light. For instance, while it is true that a Dred Scott trial occurred here, as twice noted in this issue of the magazine, the fact that a second trial

overturned the first, granting Scott his citizenship, is ignored. Indeed, as Jeff points out, St. Louis was a Union stronghold during the Civil War; hardly evidence of it being overwhelmingly southern. In modern times St. Louis was the site of some of the first civil rights demonstrations, during WWII, and the school desegregation decision which required all county schools to equally desegregate during the '80s was one of the most progressive in the nation. That we have far to go in achieving racial and social justice makes us a representative part of the nation, not an outlier. St. Louis, along with the rest of flyover country, is already misrepresented by many in the media. If we parrot those prejudices it may become self-fulfilling prophecy, cementing a toxic reputation which will repel investment and in-migration. And those paying the highest price will be those on the bottom of the economic ladder who can least afford it.



Robert F. Sutton more than 3 years ago | [reply](#)

Nicely done Robert.

A very cogent and pointed criticism of the article. Makes sense to me.

Cathy Hudspeth 44 days ago | [reply](#)

StL Mag - The Story of Segregation

I just read the article, as well as other readers responses. I just wanted to say that Roberts response is right on. Thank you, Robert.

John Feely 39 days ago | [reply](#)

Covenanted neighborhoods...

This is a great article, but it forgets or ignores the fact that University City was predominantly Jewish because Jewish people were also prevented from buying houses in certain areas.

Emma more than 3 years ago | [reply](#)

Dr. Walter Ehrlich's books

Please read and include in your future research Dr. Walter Ehrlich's two-volume "Zion in the Valley: The Jewish Community of St. Louis" (Columbia, MI, 1997), for more

information and to round out your history of racism, segregation, "white flight," discrimination, etc., in this area.
Sally Ember, Ed.D. 41 days ago | [reply](#)

Airport Expansion and Color

"The black community of Robertson was taken for airport expansion, as was a chunk of Kinloch." The City of Bridgeton lost thousands of homes and thousands of residents from the airport expansion. The airport expansion affected all colors. It's misleading to bring race into that issue.

Becky more than 3 years ago | [reply](#)

Umm...

"Why was segregation more dramatic here than it was in similar Midwestern cities?" It's not. Milwaukee, Detroit and Chicago are all statistically more segregated than St. Louis: <http://atlantablackstar.com/.../10-of-the-most.../10/> I think it's disingenuous to assert such claims to emphasize a narrative, especially since they are factually incorrect.

"St. Louis might be Midwestern, but its history is Southern." True to an extent, but to declare that is to ignore the undeniable Northern characteristics that the city has exhibited since its earliest days. And let's not forget that St. Louis remained a Union stronghold throughout the Civil War. It is as much Northern as it is Southern historically. The article would be no less compelling had these points been at least acknowledged.

Jeff more than 3 years ago | [reply](#)

Sorry Jeff you are wrong

However Jeff Detroit IS more diverse than the STL and more people interact with each other on a daily basis! Detroit is more progressive in attitude, pay, etc.! St. Louis is just an extremely segregated, backwoods city! As a true northerner and a transplant, I consider STL to be a southern state! It still has many southerner, Jim Crow tendencies. Many people still fly that dreaded confederate flag around here i.e. a regressive city!

Rent more than 3 years ago | [reply](#)

Rent- talk is cheap

I imagine you think you're doing good by talking like that but that kind of talk keeps the hate alive.. social justice warriors have the right idea but usually they're inexperienced but we'll meaning people. Racism exists.. overcome it on an individual basis.. be kind to everyone-- but I don't have to associate w any group that doesn't appreciate me as a human being. It just exists.. it's not racism per say- everyone slings the word around- but uhh.. no one wants to live in a community they don't feel welcome. It's not Jim crow tendencies-- your statement comes off that way though. Why? Because you're picking sides. There's no sides to pick. It's a flag.. what it means to others doesn't mean it means the same to you. Just accept things can't be perfect and try to make your way in whatever community you feel most comfy in. I tell you what though- you pick sides where there is none you come off like a real !\$&* disturber. Don't stir the pot.

Cody more than 3 years ago | [reply](#)

No, you're wrong and Jeff is right

Click the links Jeff posted and tell me he's wrong. Chicago, Detroit and Milwaukee are more segregated than St. Louis. This is not an opinion, it is an empirical fact. Your assertions are purely anecdotal and therefore meaningless.

Steve L. more than 2 years ago | [reply](#)

sad but true

Jeff, thanks for sharing this link! I'll update the link for recent readers, since it appears to have changed since you wrote your comment. Here it is:

<http://atlantablackstar.com/2014/03/24/10-of-the-most-segregated-cities-in-the-u-s/> Bottom line, STL is #8 most segregated major city in the US, still not good at all. Wish we were in the top 10, instead of the bottom 10, of good rankings, such as in public safety (low crime), health, wealth, and regional population/job growth. It's a real shame that people segregate themselves like this. I am guilty, too, living in an almost all-white neighborhood, and most (but not all) of my friends are white, and have similar interests as me. This despite the fact that I realize that being

exposed to others on a very regular basis helps break down the racial divide. I think it tends to be that if one likes golf, they tend to hang around other golfers; if they like classical, rock, or rap music, they tend to hang around others who like the same as them. They tend to hang around those who are a similar age, too, and often religion and national origin also serves as dividers between the races. This naturally leads to divides since there are cultural differences between each race that results in one race tending to be more likely to be of a certain religion, like certain music, hobbies, food, types of cars, you name it. Not using this as an excuse or to imply that this is ok to be so segregated....just stating a fact. I don't like the divide, and don't like that each side tends to assume the worst about the other side. If you look at the maps for each city, especially those which has plenty of the 3 largest minorities (black, hispanic, and Asian), note that they all choose to be separate from each other. It's not even about wealth: traditionally poorer minorities (blacks and hispanic) stay away from each other, and traditionally wealthy Asian minorities and wealthy whites stay away from each other, too. I truly wish that we lived in a world where we all got along with each other, where everyone had equal opportunities, and people stopped trying to blame the other side for the racial problem where all sides frankly share some degree of fault. But the fact is, the white majority (I'm one of these) does indeed have some built-in advantage, as does the majority population of pretty much every country, and to act like we don't and blame blacks and hispanics when they can't get ahead is really not fair...they have the deck stacked against them from the moment they are born. It's a sad world we live in.

Scott 40 days ago | [reply](#)

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