



# 'RACE IS CENTRAL/NOT CENTRAL TO SECURITY DISCOURSES'

CASE STUDY: THE UNITED STATES

## EQUALITY AS A THREAT?

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# BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

«There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America.» - Bill Clinton (1993)

«All men are created equal.» – Thomas Jefferson, Declaration of Independence (1776)





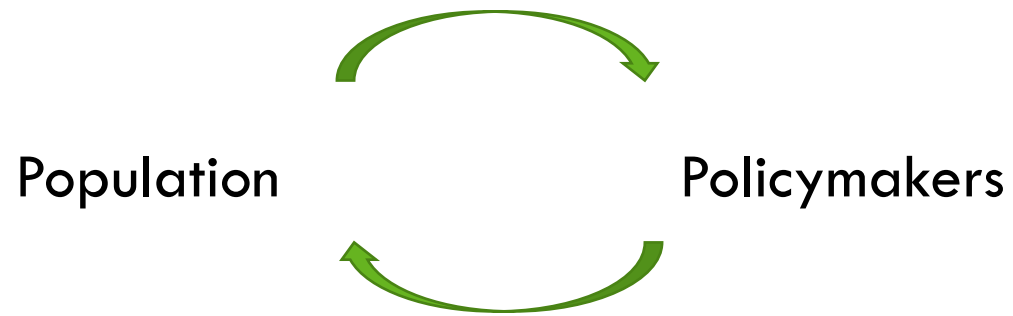


# W H I T E N E S S

- European American?  
Caucasian American?
- History + Histography =  
Important
- History: «Redlining»

(Rasmussen et al., 2001; Westover, 2018;  
Camhi, 2014)

# WHITENESS SHAPES PUBLIC POLICY



- Public Policy: Criminal Justice (i.e. Police)
- «Blacks are treated less fairly than whites in dealing with the police.»
  - 84% of blacks and 63% of whites agreed (2019 report)

(Horowitz et al., 2019)

# NOT WHITE PRIVILEGE ANYMORE?

- Median Income per Household (per year, 2018 est)
- Black Americans: US\$ 41,511
- White Americans: US\$ 65,902
- Asian Americans: US\$ 87,243

(U.S. Census, 2018)

- Gary Becker, «The Economics of Discrimination»
  - Unemployment rate?
  - Gap closing -> multicultural society?
- Congress = not oligarchic, but democratic

(Becker, 1971)

# EVALUTATION: CENTRALITY OF RACE

- Who or what to protect?
- «Input» vs «Output»
- Reception of Public Policy
- Black Lives Matter Movement
  - Some polarising effects
  - Tension?

**Wicked problem?**

**Commenting on race exacerbates racism?**

# CONCLUSION

- «All men are created equal» *de jure*
- Absence of «what is right with America» has prevented equality *de facto*
- Policymaking perpetuates «what is wrong with America»