

Studying Social Inequality with Data Science

INFO 3370 / 5371
Spring 2023

Political Origins of Wealth Inequality

Learning goals for today

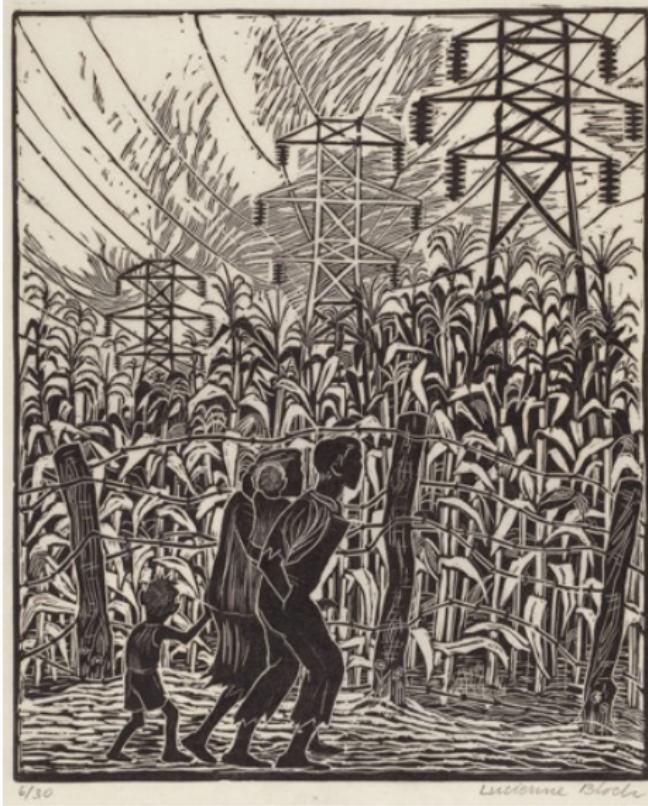
By the end of class, you will be able to

- ▶ conceptually trace the origins of racial wealth inequality to explicitly racist policies
- ▶ map racial segregation in a city of your choosing



Walker Evans, 1933. The Breadline.

Source: National Gallery of Art



6/30

Lucienne Bloch

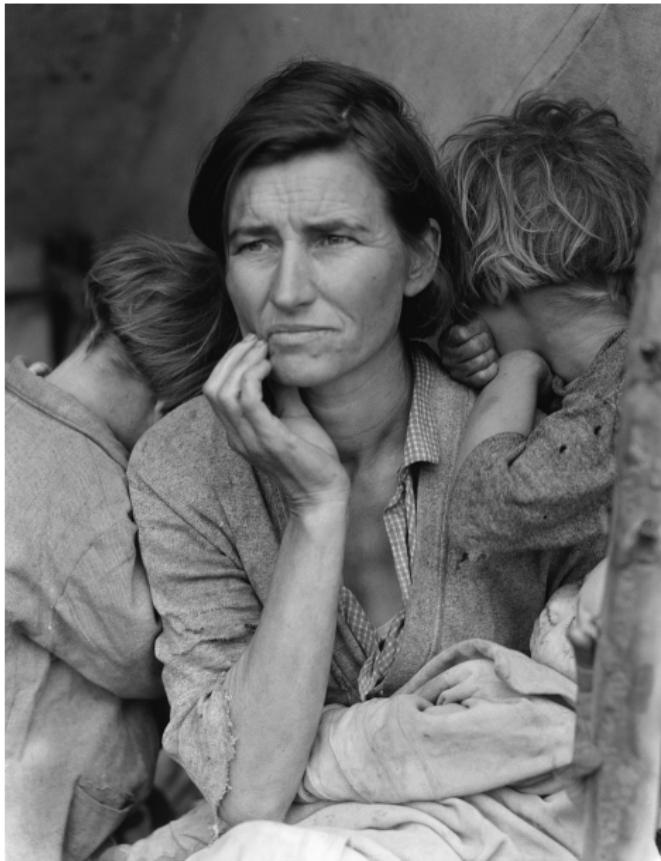
Lucienne Bloch, 1936. Land of Plenty.

Source: National Gallery of Art



Gordon Parks, 1942. Washington, D.C. Government Charwoman (American Gothic).

Source: National Gallery of Art



Dorothea Lange, 1936. Migrant Mother.
Source: Wikimedia, original in MOMA NY



Source: Wikimedia



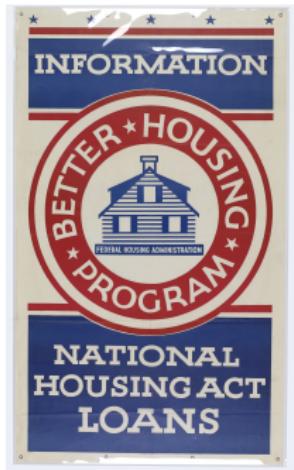
Source: Wikimedia



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Source: Wikimedia



Source: Smithsonian

Home Owners Loan Corporation is tasked with backing mortgages

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They decide to rate neighborhoods

- ▶ A (most desirable)
- ▶ B (less desirable)
- ▶ C (declining)
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How? **(redlining)**

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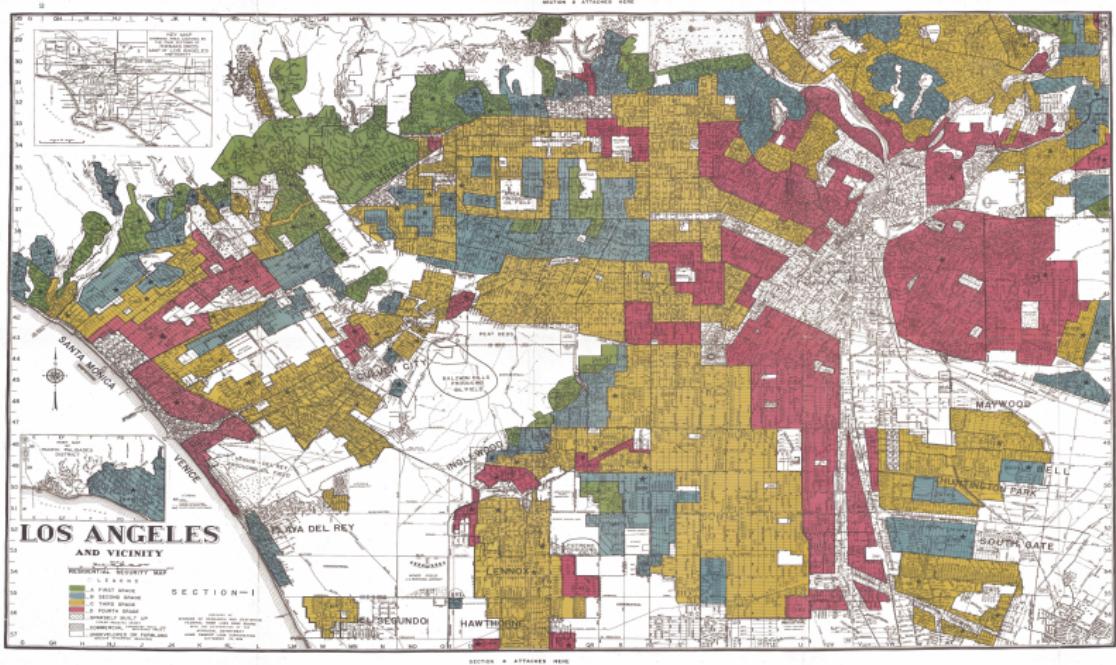
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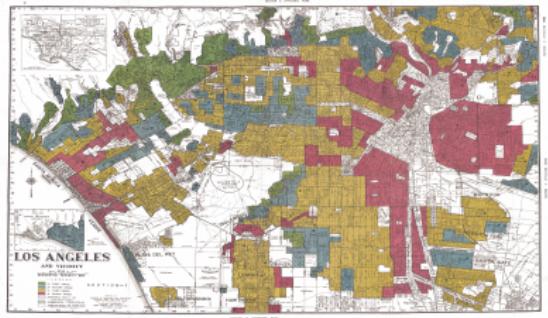
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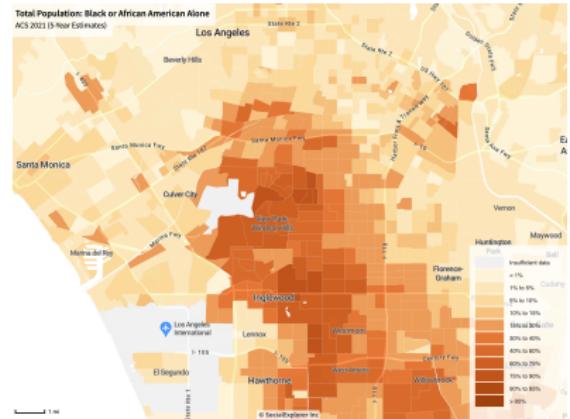
Jackson, Kenneth T. [Crabgrass frontier: The suburbanization of the United States](#). Oxford University Press, 1987.



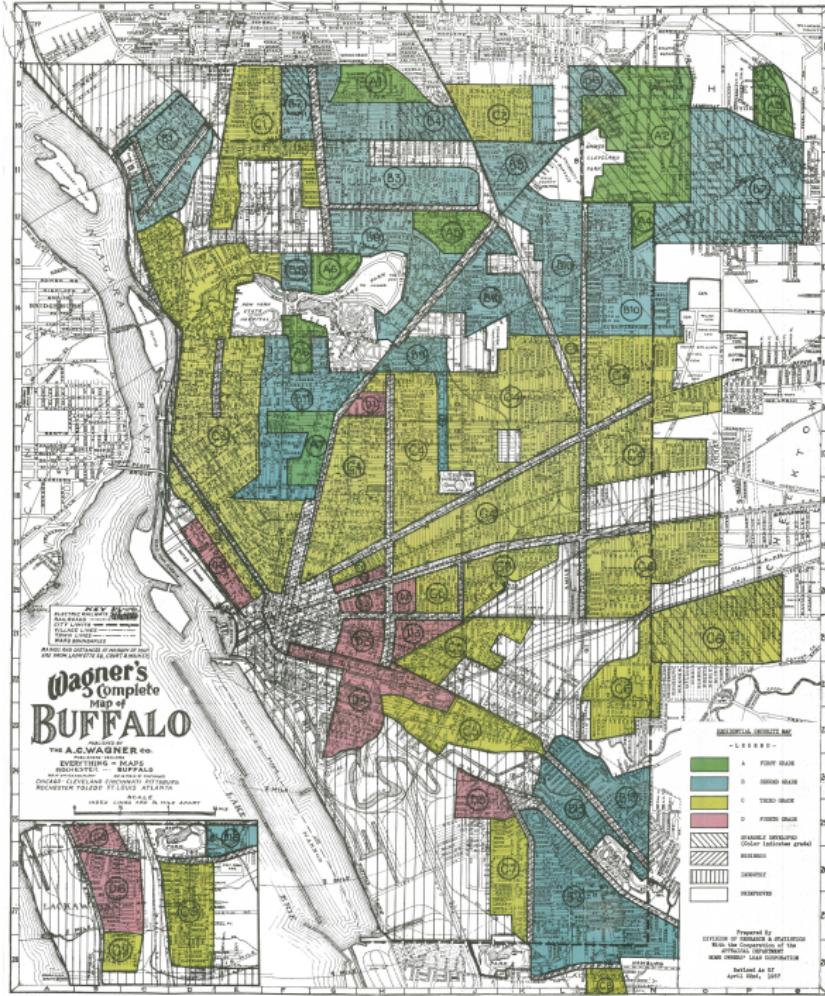
Source: Nelson and Ayers, [Mapping Inequality](#)

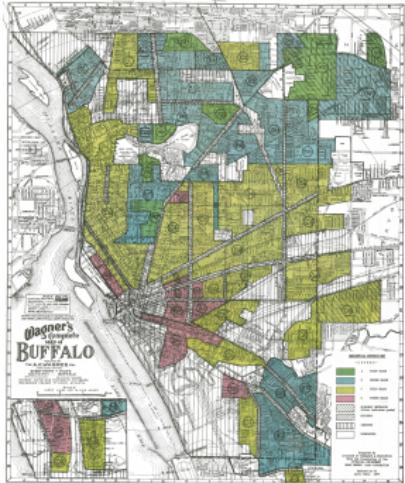


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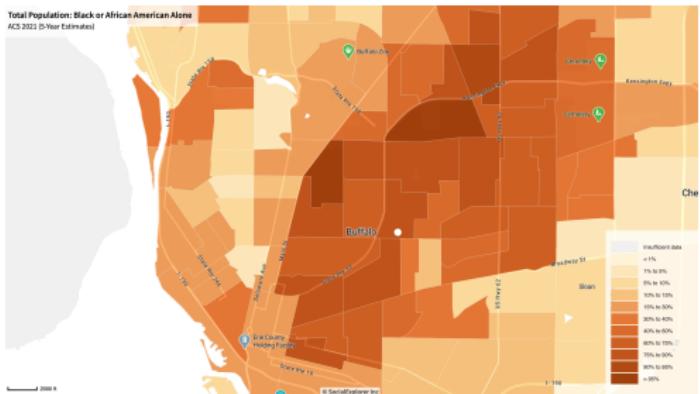


Source: Social Explorer





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NO. 2 MAP SECTION

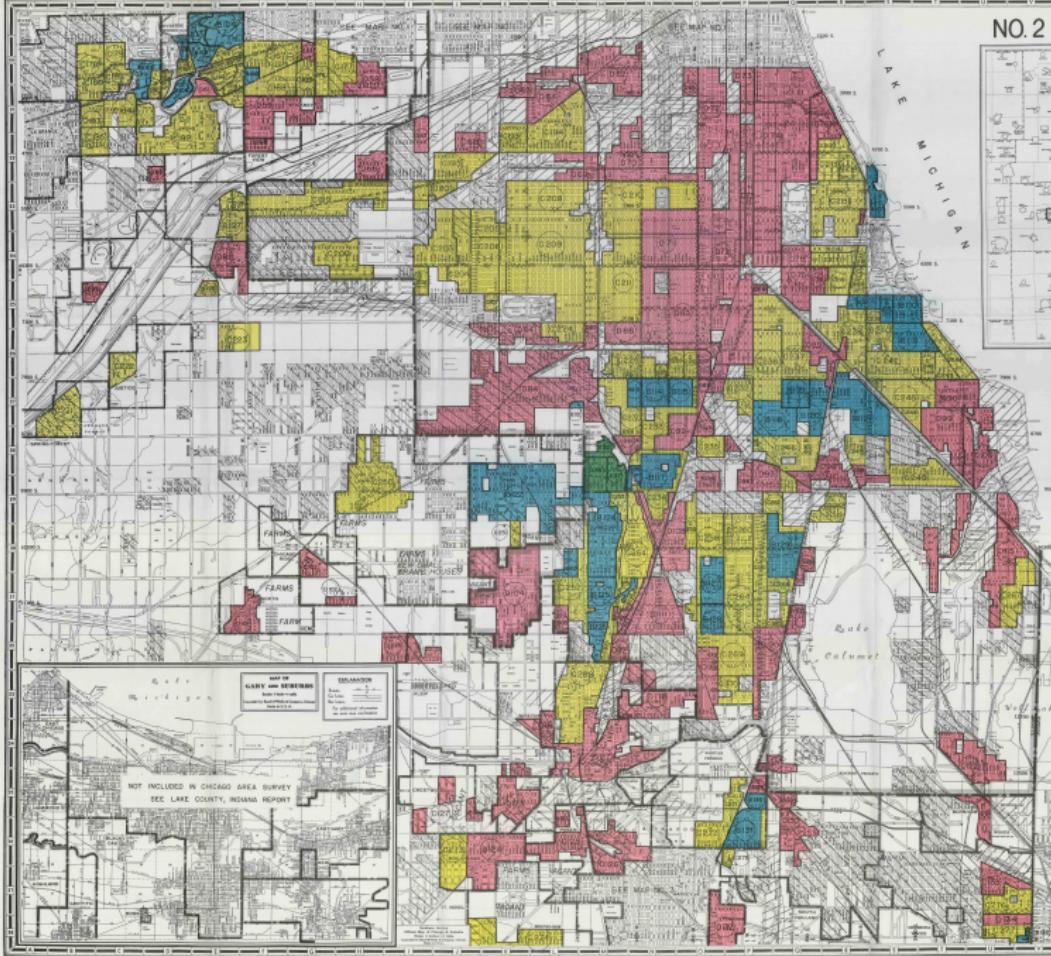


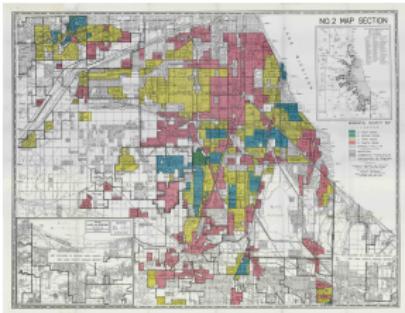
RESIDENTIAL SECURITY MAP

- LEGEND

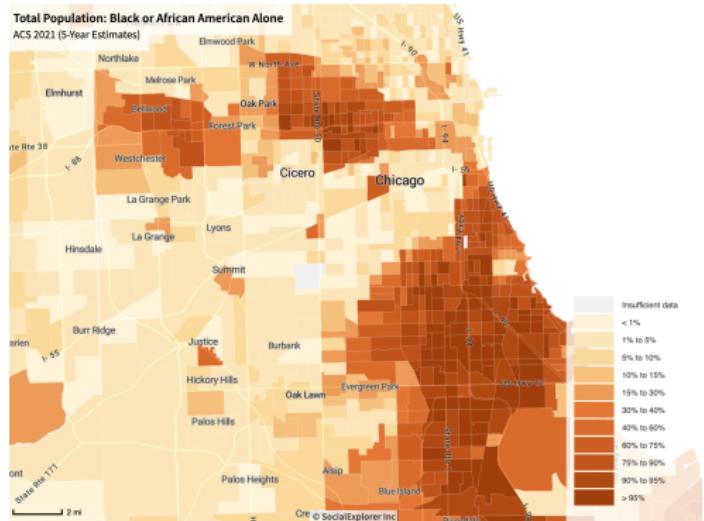
 - A FIRST GRADE
 - B SECOND GRADE
 - C THIRD GRADE
 - D FOURTH GRADE
 - E SPARSELY BUILT UP
(ONE HOUSE PER ACRE)
 - F INDUSTRIAL
 - G COMMERCIAL
 - H UNDEVELOPED OR FARMLAND

RECORDED COPY OF A RESOLUTION
APPROVED AT
DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICS
FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK BOARD
and its SUBDIVISIONS OR THE
AFFILIATE, DEPARTMENT
HOME OWNERS' LOAN CORPORATION





Source: Nelson and Ayers,
Mapping Inequality



Source: Social Explorer

Local organizations furthered racist policies



Source: Blue Ridge Seattle

Local organizations furthered racist policies

16. RACIAL RESTRICTIONS. No property in said Addition shall at any time be sold, conveyed, rented or leased in whole or in part to any person or persons not of the White or Caucasian race. No person other than one of the White or Caucasian race shall be permitted to occupy any property in said Addition or portion thereof or building thereon except a domestic servant actually employed by a person of the White or Caucasian race where the latter is an occupant of such property.

17. ANIMALS. No fowl or animal other than song birds, dogs or cats as household pets, shall at any time be kept upon land embraced in this Addition.

18. AMENDMENTS. The owner or owners of the legal title to not less than 300 residence lots in said Addition may at any time by an instrument in writing duly signed and acknowledged by said owner or owners, terminate or amend said Mutual Easements of Blue Ridge Addition, and such termination or amend-

Source: Civil Rights and Labor History Consortium, University of Washington

Explicitly racist policies had lasting consequences

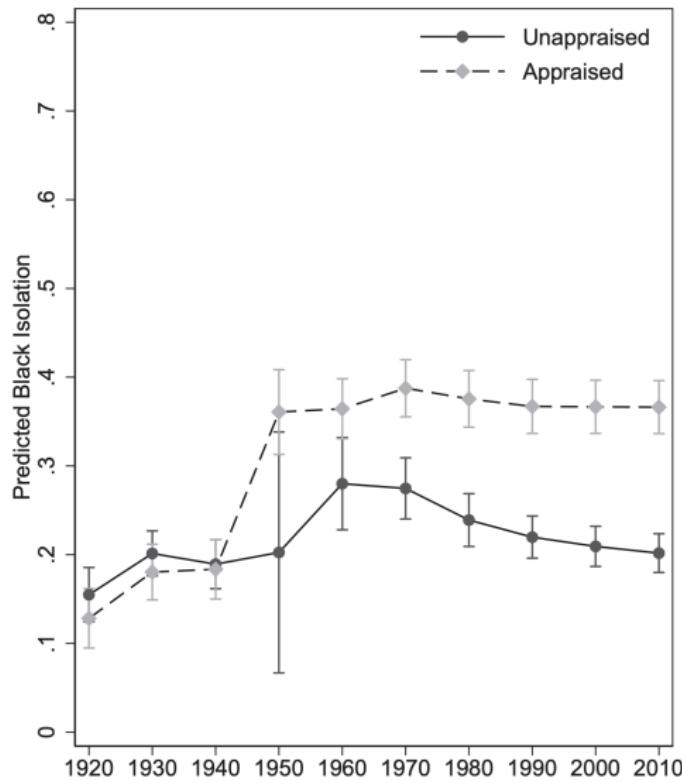


Figure 1 from Faber, J. W. 2020. [We built this: Consequences of New Deal era intervention in America's racial geography](#). American Sociological Review, 85(5), 739-775.

Wealth consequences of redlining

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In the suburbs,

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 - ▶ 44% owned their home in 1940
 - ▶ 62% in 1960

National estimates
from U.S. Census

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Oliver, M., & Shapiro, T. (2013). [Black wealth/white wealth: A new perspective on racial inequality](#). Routledge.

Additional resources

- ▶ Oliver, M., & Shapiro, T. 2013. [Black wealth / white wealth: A new perspective on racial inequality](#). Routledge.
- ▶ Faber, J. W. 2020. [We built this: Consequences of New Deal era intervention in America's racial geography](#). American Sociological Review, 85(5), 739-775.
- ▶ Massey, D. S., & Denton, N. A. 1993. [American apartheid: Segregation and the making of the underclass](#). Harvard University Press.
- ▶ Killewald, A., Pfeffer, F. T., & Schachner, J. N. 2017. [Wealth inequality and accumulation](#). Annual Review of Sociology, 43, 379.

What will we do next?

Over the next few classes,

1. Map racial segregation using [Social Explorer](#)
2. Document [racial wealth gaps](#) by coding in R
3. Discuss normatively should be done