I. Main points

A. Historical view demonstrates that racism was just not

a glitch in an otherwise non-racist society

B. Political institutions that supposedly embodied the highest

ideals of our society resisted to the last, with violence, indifference 1830s Abolitionist movement

1. Supreme Court - Dred Scott

a. blacks are non-persons, less than human

b. "property" that can be taken into new

territory

2. Congress - Fugitive Slave Law- 1850

a. blacks had to prove they were not escaped

b. slave owner only needed affidavit from

friend

3. Lincoln

C. Racism is not just personal racism, racial hatred, stereotyping, but institutionalized

1. denying people their rights

2. differential access to social resources

3. institutionalized poverty is the main way racism

takes shape in our society

II. Post-civil war to the 1960s a different form of racial oppression took shape in American society: economic, political, violent

A. Economic - free at last - south

1. 9/10ths of blacks lived in south, which was still

an agrarian economy with emerging mining and mills

2. Blacks excluded from new jobs, and given no land

after the war except Sherman

3. land given to slave owners, or sold in large sections

to land speculators

4. blacks were contract labor, or tenant farmers

B. Economic - north -

1. discriminatory hiring practices, kept blacks in

specific low wage sectors

2. unions excluded blacks, last hired first fired, scabs

3. blacks were displace by newly arriving white immigrants

C. political -south

1. after 1877 Great Compromise 15Th not enforced

2. blacks disenfranchised, no pres, congress, or supreme court 1965

3. 14th not enforced, Supreme Court ruled Civil Rights

Act of 1875 unconstitutional, states can define the

rights of their citizens

4. 1913 segregation in federal buildings

5. Plessy vs Ferguson 1896 "inequality is the law of the land

6. 1920s forced sterilization of blacks

D. violence

1. after 1877 increased violence

2. thousands of blacks hanged and burned from late

nineteenth to middle of 20th century

3. lynching not a crime, no pres, no congress

4. KKK not one person convicted of lynching until 80s

5. white race riots, E. St. Louis, Chicago, Detroit, LA

III. De facto segregation and poverty

A. US is highly segregated, minorities in pockets of poverty

in inner city urban areas, also in suburbs, when an area

gets to be more than 8% blacks ws move out 🡨?

1. 86% of whites live in suburbs that are less than

1% black

2. In Chicago 71% of blacks live in areas 9/10th black

In Detroit 61%, in Philadelphia, same in most

major cities and becoming more concentrated 80s

to 90s

2. 3 out of 5 poor blacks and Latinos live in urban areas

3. blacks and Latinos in "high poverty" 40%

4. increase in poor-poor

B. Power and poverty - social construction of the urban ghetto

1. not just wealth 3x thrifty diet = $15,000 for 4

2. excludes from social resources and opportunities

C. policies and programs send resources elsewhere, exclude

minorities and other poor, and show no regard for their

effect

1. black migration - white flights

a. govt subsidy of white flights

b. despite law loans outside of urban areas to

suburbs - no reinvestment

2. deindustrialization - 1992

a. South Central LA and neighborhoods adjacent

75,000 high paying manufacturing jobs in one

four year period 1978-1982, GM, Bethlehem

Steel, Goodyear, and Firestone

b. 20,000 jobs lost in year prior to riot

c. only growth in jobs, sweatshops, unsafe, unhealthy, and illegal conditions and wages

d. unemployment rate is 50%

e. few banks and declining supermarkets in

minority communities

3. federal abandonment

a. govt spending lost 3/4 trillion from

1980-1995

b. continue to fund suburbanization

c. urban renewal

4. state and local tax abatements for urban renewal

a. ball parks and high rises

b. business exclusion

D. Declining quality of life

1. poverty

a. high poverty areas 40% increased total from

1970 3.7 million to 1990 10.4 million

b. Increase in poor-poor 39% of those in poverty

c. Children in poverty and minority children

a. 20% in poverty 1972-3.4 million to

1993 15.7 million

b. minority 1 in 2 under 3

4. decaying infrastructure

a. Germany and Japan spend 3 to 4x

the amount the US does on infrastructure

b. 7200 public works projects on hold because

of lack of funds

c. doing these projects would create 420,000

jobs in one year

d. 40% of bridges need to be reworked

5. Housing crisis - slumlording, gentrification, wharehousing, so-called urban renewal

a. half of all tenants pay more than 30% of

their income for rent, that is above the

definition for affordable housing

b. since 1970 rents have 3x and incomes have

2x

c. 50s 2/3 could afford a house on less than one

quarter of their income, 90s 1/10

d. 19 million face threat of homelessness, 1/5

families

6. schools - property tax

7. health and health care

a. Disease - 5xto 6x the chance of dying of infectious

disease

b. Immunization - % is below some third world

countries, El Salvador, Uganda, North Korea, Cuba

i. NYc 40% compared to other Industrial

nations 100%

ii. tuberculosis coming back with resistant

strains

c. Infant Mortality rate - Bed Stuy same as Chile and Malaysia

d. hospitals shutting down, refusing treatment

e. 43 million uninsured

f. backroom clinics for treatment

g. doctors disproportionate

8. environmental racism

a. Chicago 162 toxic hot spots 60 % are in areas

predominantly African American

b. highest industrial toxic releases in minority area

c. same with illegal dumping and led poisoning

9. auto dependency and inadequate public transportation

a. freeways, garages, highways destroy inner

city areas

b. take up space air pollution - 86 million in areas

that don't meet standards

10. crimes, drugs, and gangs

D. continued discrimination

1. housing and insurance

2. police and violence

3. health care

IV. why institutionalized racism?

A. someone to blame for the ills of society - don't look at the unequal distribution of wealth, income, or resources, find

a straw man

B. source of low wage labor, welfare reform created a pool of mostly women at the mercy of min wage or below

C. high profit slumlording, high prices 8% grocieries, interest

D. workers for social control, criminal justice - social workers