



## Talk 1: Systemic Racism

Presented by Kyle Hardman,  
RVUUF Social Justice and Action Committee  
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Hello everyone, I'm Kyle Hardman and I'm going to be talking to you about the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. I volunteered to do these talks to fulfill educational goals of the Social Justice and Action Committee here at RVUUF.

I'm interested in political education in support of democracy, so I will try to be fair in my treatment of evidence and argument. That said, I am here to represent the Poor People's Campaign, so I can't claim to be unbiased.

The wide range of topics I will be discussing in these talks makes it impossible for me to be an expert on everything. In fact, I'm not an expert on any of it, but I hope that I know enough to be useful.

I don't have time to fully flesh out all of the ideas that I want to touch on. To help you learn more about the ideas that interest you, I'll tell you at the end how to get a version of these slides with references and notes.

## Today in the World

- Corruption and undemocratic governance
- Collapsing global economy
- Open racism
- Compromised ecosystem
- Extreme poverty and inequality
- Endless war
- Distorted moral narrative

There are a wide range of social, economic, political, and environmental problems in the world today.

Systemic crises are ignored because true solutions require changes to wealth and power inequalities, which does not benefit those in power, who are able to block change.

Solving each crisis on its own becomes increasingly difficult as governments become increasingly undemocratic.

# Introduction to the Poor People's Campaign



One solution is to try to take on many of the issues at once with a mass movement that can break through undemocratic barriers to change with sheer people power. The Poor People's Campaign aims to be just such a mass movement.

Photo from: <https://www.thenation.com/article/10-reasons-to-revive-the-1968-poor-peoples-campaign/>

PPC is endorsed by the UUA: <https://www.uua.org/racial-justice/poor-peoples-campaign>

## PPC History

- Civil Rights movement has succeeded in some major goals
  - Voting Rights Act of 1965
- Poverty and many other issues remained
- Poor People's Campaign (PPC) started in 1967 by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

See the plight of the poor not as an isolated problem, but as a dark reflection of the brutality and complacency of society.



"I think it is necessary for us to realize that we have moved from the era of civil rights to the era of human rights"  
– MLK

Some historical context about the PPC.

General PPC historical information from: <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/history/>

Photo source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/usnationalarchives/4101511358>

## PPC History

- Demands to improve the lives of the poor
  - Economic Bill of Rights
  - Better housing, education, and jobs
  - Address the systemic causes of poverty
- Martin Luther King assassinated in 1968 and PPC faltered
- PPC issues ignored for 50 years

“We are coming to ask America to be true to the huge promissory note that is signed years ago. And we are coming to engage in dramatic non-violent action, to call attention to the gulf between promise and fulfillment; to make the invisible visible.” – *MLK, in his last sermon*

## Rev. Dr. William Barber



- In 2018, Rev. Dr. William Barber restarted the PPC
  - Same basic goals, new knowledge and historical/social context
- Some accomplishments:
  - President of North Carolina NAACP 2006 - 2017
  - Founded Repairers of the Breach
  - A leader of Moral Mondays movement fighting for democracy in NC

Repairers of the Breach is one of the organizations backing the PPC:

<https://www.breachrepairers.org/>

"[Repairers of the Breach was] formed to educate and train religious and other leaders of faith who will pursue policies and organizational strategies for the good of the whole and to educate the public about connections between shared religious faith."

Rev. Dr. William Barber  
“When Silence is Not  
an Option”



Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z0AUVuPOIX8>  
This section starts at 3:30

## Organizing Themes

- Four major themes:
  - Systemic Racism
  - Poverty and Inequality
  - The War Economy and Militarism
  - Ecological Devastation
- Overarching issue of democracy
- Mass movement to save the moral soul of America
- Fusion politics: Support all issues, not just your own

Not currently included: Gender, sexual orientation, ability  
Maybe change Systemic Racism to Systemic Bigotry/Dehumanization?



## A Small Selection of PPC Demands

- An end to anti-**union** and anti-workers' rights laws
- Equity in **education**, ensuring every child receives a high-quality, well-funded, diverse public education
- Reinvestment in and the expansion of **public housing**, ensuring that all have a decent house to live in
- Relief from crushing household, student, and consumer **debt**
- An end to **mass incarceration** and the continuing inequalities for black, brown and poor white people within the criminal justice system
- 100 percent clean, **renewable energy** and a public jobs program to transition to a green economy that will put millions of people in sustainable living wage jobs
- An **immigration** system that ... keeps families together and allows us all to build thriving communities

Source: [www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/demands](http://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/demands)

## PPC Resources

- Website: **www.poorpeoplescampaign.org**
  - (Shortened to PPC.org on this slide)
- Demands of PPC, with supporting evidence and argument
  - PPC.org/**demands**
- Souls of Poor Folk
  - Evidence-based moral audit of American society
  - Good source of facts and arguments
  - PPC.org/**audit**
- Join the PPC
  - PPC.org/**join**

Oregon PPC chapter facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/OregonPPC/>

Concept paper for PPC from Kairos Center: <https://kairoscenter.org/poor-peoples-campaign-concept-paper/>

## Overview of this Talk

- Some racist atrocities:
  - Genocide of Native Americans
  - Black slavery and segregation
  - Exploitation and abuse of immigrants
  - Inhumane wars
- Need to narrow the focus
- **This talk:**
  - What is systemic racism?
  - Why is racism a growing problem today?
  - Immigration issues

## Systemic Racism



Photo: Prisoners at historical Angola prison (Louisiana State Pen) head out to the fields to do labor.

<https://mic.com/articles/88461/a-modern-day-slave-plantation-exists-and-it-s-thriving-in-the-heart-of-america>

## Definitions

**“Systemic racism** includes **(A)** the complex array of antiblack practices, **(B)** the unjustly gained political-economic power of whites, **(C)** the continuing economic and other resource inequalities along racial lines, and **(D)** the white racist ideologies and attitudes created to maintain and rationalize white privilege and power.” – Joe Feagin, sociologist, in *Racist America*

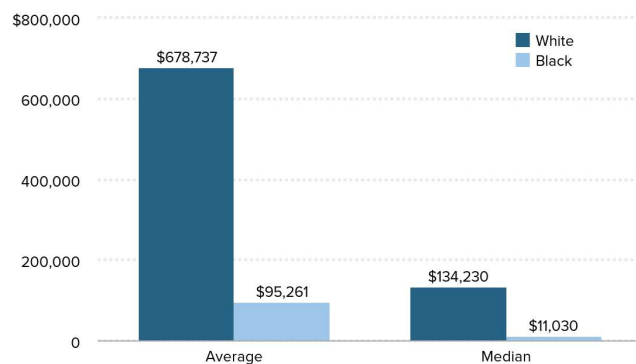
- Paraphrase: Whites oppress blacks to keep political power to keep stolen wealth while rationalizing it to victims and perpetrators
- Systems continue operating until their conditions for existence are removed
- Active resistance needed for change

Article about systemic racism that includes the quote from Joe Feagin:  
<https://www.thoughtco.com/systemic-racism-3026565>

## Racial Wealth Inequality

- Whites have a wealth advantage from exploiting non-whites
  - Exploitation continues
- Under capitalism, wealth recreates itself
  - Avoid paying interest
  - Invest in education, housing, or stocks
- Justice doesn't necessarily happen on its own

Median and average wealth, by race



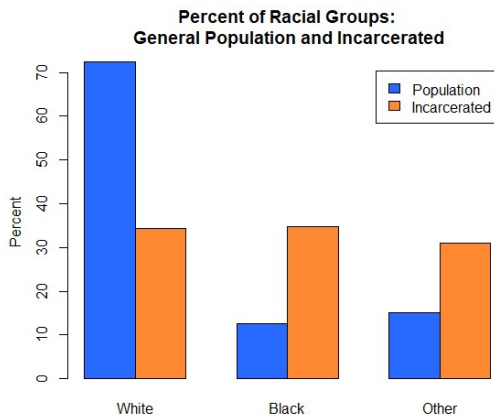
Source: Survey of Consumer Finance Combined Extract Data, 2013.

Economic Policy Institute

Data from:

<https://www.epi.org/blog/the-racial-wealth-gap-how-african-americans-have-been-shortchanged-out-of-the-materials-to-build-wealth/>

# Criminal Injustice



Whites under-incarcerated,  
nonwhites over-incarcerated

Usage rates

1.3



Blacks used marijuana at 1.3 times the rate of whites.

Arrest rates

3.7



Blacks were arrested for marijuana possession at 3.7 times the rate of whites.

Probability of arrest for same  
crime depends heavily on race

## Right-hand figure:

“Black Lives Matter: Eliminating Racial Inequity in the Criminal Justice System” Big resource with lots of information and potential solutions.

<http://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/black-lives-matter-eliminating-racial-inequity-in-the-criminal-justice-system/>

From article: “People of color are therefore more likely than whites to be arrested – in part due to differences in crime rates but also due to differences in police policies and use of discretion. Once arrested, people of color are also likely to be charged more harshly than whites; once charged, they are more likely to be convicted; and once convicted, they are more likely to face stiff sentences – all after accounting for relevant legal differences such as crime severity and criminal history.”

## Left-hand figure:

Incarceration rate data from: <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/p15.pdf>  
Appendix table 5, p 30.

Population demographics from 2010 census.

R code for plot:

```
totalPrisonPop = 1316409
```

```
wboPrisPop = c(451100, 456600)
```

```
wboPrisPop = c(wboPrisPop, totalPrisonPop - sum(wboPrisPop))
```

```
popPris = matrix(nrow=2, ncol=3)
```

```
popPris[1,] = c(72.4, 12.6, 15)
```

```
popPris[2,] = wboPrisPop / totalPrisonPop * 100
```

```
rownames(popPris) = c("Population", "Incarcerated")
```

```
colnames(popPris) = c("White", "Black", "Other")
```

```
barplot(popPris, beside = TRUE, legend.text = TRUE, main="Proportion of  
Racial Groups:\n General Population and Incarcerated",
```

```
col = c(rgb(40/255,  
105/255, 255/255), rgb(1, 136 / 255, 50 / 255)))
```

```
mtext("Percent", 2, line=2.5)
```



## Cycle of Poverty, Lost Opportunity, and Crime

### Poverty and Crime

“Estimates report that nearly 40% of all crimes are directly attributable to poverty and the vast majority (80%) of incarcerated individuals are low-income.”

– Who Pays Report (.org)



Who Pays? The True Cost of Incarceration on Families is a good resource for information about the group punishment that our legal system imposes on the families of convicted people. <http://whopaysreport.org/>

The cycle on the right is supported by a range of research on each of the parts, but I have no specific reference for the whole cycle.

Angie Speaks about

# Black Radical Leftism

Find her on YouTube and Patreon

We've looked at some of the components and cycles of systemic racism. That doesn't, however, speak to the motivations and actions of those in power who perpetuate systemic racism and the harm that is suffered by its victims. This clip goes into more detail about those topics.

Angie Speaks covers a range of leftist topics, including American imperialism, racism, fascism, and labor issues, among others.

Video URL: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2GXC\\_s\\_XtYY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2GXC_s_XtYY)

YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUtloyZ\\_lu4BJekIqPLc\\_fQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUtloyZ_lu4BJekIqPLc_fQ)

Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/angiespeaks>

## Summary

- Racism is central in US past and present
- Systems of oppression keep people trapped
- Beneficiaries of the system oppose change
- No simple or isolated fixes: The racism is systemic
- Solutions require understanding of systemic problems

# Why is Racism Rising Now?



Photo from the infamous Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, VA. Racists carried tiki-torches down the street chanting “jews will not replace us”.

[https://www.dailyprogress.com/gallery/unite-the-right-torch-rally-at-university-of-virginia/collection\\_5c6e5f36-7f0a-11e7-ab60-ffcbb63bd035.html#3](https://www.dailyprogress.com/gallery/unite-the-right-torch-rally-at-university-of-virginia/collection_5c6e5f36-7f0a-11e7-ab60-ffcbb63bd035.html#3)

This event surprised a lot of people and has led to a reexamination of racism in American society.

One big question: Do people become racist due to personal moral failures or due to conditions in society? I’m sure there is some of both. Personal prejudices and immorality certainly make it easier for some individuals to be racist. However, racism exists in many times, places, and peoples and it seems to come in waves that depend on conditions in society.

Examples:

Fascism rose in Pre-WW2 Europe, not just Germany (also US).

Contemporary US and Europe both under austerity measures are seeing rise in racism and fascism.

Since racism keeps showing up, we need to understand why. If we focus only on racism as a

personal failing and minimize the societal causes of racism, we will miss solutions that might address important root causes.

NB: This section centers white people, because it is white people who are responsible for the vast majority of the racial hate and violence.

## Why is Racism Rising Now?

- Background: Decline of the American Empire and collapse of the global economic system
- Three related ideas:
  1. Resource competition creates an opening for racism
  2. Loss of wealth, self-esteem, and identity can create hate and toxic identification with whiteness
  3. Racist ideas openly pushed in the mainstream

## Resources and Racism

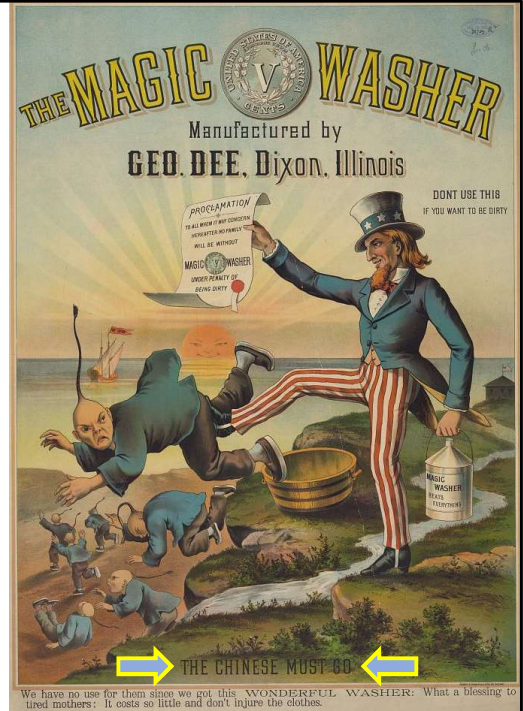
- Resources are the basis of life
- Resource scarcity creates conflict
- One option: Racial groups compete
  - Majority group has the advantage
- Material advantage for winning racial group
- Resource competition can create a material reason for racism
  - Although racism is probably often irrational



First off, I'll talk about how competition opens the door to racism.

## Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882

- Substantial Chinese immigration around 1850s gold rush
- Legal restrictions came quickly: Foreign Miner's Tax (1852)
- As gold was mined out, anti-Chinese sentiment sharpened
- The Act banned immigration from China for 10 years
- Resource competition heightened existing racism



General information and timeline: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese\\_Exclusion\\_Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_Exclusion_Act)

Cartoon (circa Chinese Exclusion Act): <https://www.loc.gov/resource/pgs.02758/>

On paper: "Proclamation: To all whom it may concern, hereafter no family will be without Magic Washer under penalty of being dirty."

Bottom: "We have no use for them since we got this WONDERFUL WASHER. What a blessing to tired mothers: It costs so little and don't injure the clothes."





## Number 2: How psychology is related to modern racism

Basic needs, like food and housing, are connected to human psychology. When people are put under material stress, mental stress is usually right there too. It's emotionally difficult to deal with needing something but being unable to get it. In addition, beliefs about what resources we are entitled to can have a big effect.

In this clip from Economic Update, a weekly radio/YouTube show, the host Richard Wolff is speaking with psychologist and hypnotherapist Dr. Harriett Fraad about how economic problems are resulting in social problems. Dr. Fraad focuses on how white male identity is threatened by the loss of the family wage in these times of imperial decline.

Economic update channels

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/democracyatwrk/>

Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/economicupdate/>

Economic update episode on Immigration and Capitalism (I haven't watched it yet, but it's on theme): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5NCFMY9S-PI>

## Identity and Frustration

- Many Americans face an identity crisis
  - Self-esteem hurt by loss of wealth, power, and opportunity
  - Self-hatred grows with repeated frustrations
- Solution for some: Identify strongly as white
  - Self-esteem helped by taking credit for white accomplishments
  - Self-hatred can be turned toward nonwhites (ingroup/outgroup)
- Psychological solution: Redefine white male identity
- Economic solution: Family wage for everyone

“Research also indicates that when people experience a drop in self-esteem, they become more likely to express prejudice. This tendency was demonstrated in an experiment that altered students' self-esteem by giving them bogus feedback after an intelligence test (Fein & Spencer, 1997). On a random basis, half the students were told they scored in the top 10% for their university, and half were told that they scored below average. Then, in what appeared to be an unrelated study, students were asked to evaluate a job candidate who was presented as either Jewish or Italian. The results showed that students who suffered a blow to their self-esteem later evaluated the candidate more negatively when she seemed Jewish than when she seemed Italian, whereas no difference was found among students who were given positive feedback about their intelligence. Moreover, students who received negative feedback about their intelligence showed a rebound in self-esteem after devaluing the Jewish candidate; that is, by putting down the Jewish candidate, they increased their self-esteem.” (This is sometimes called “downwards social comparison” – people feel better after thinking about how someone else is worse.)

From: <http://www.understandingprejudice.org/apa/english/page8.htm>

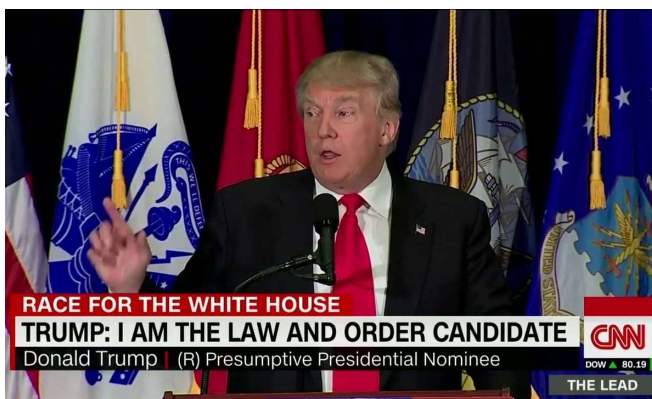
Some thoughts about racism from a psychological perspective.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/out-the-darkness/201801/the-psychology-racism>

More ideas about frustrations in life leading to problems with identity can be found in *The True Believer* by Eric Hoffer.

## Racist Ideas in the Mainstream: Republicans

Dog-whistles and coded language



“If we don’t defend Western civilization, then we will become subjugated by the people who are the enemies of faith, the enemies of justice,” – Rep. Steve King (R-IA)

Number 3: Racist ideas being openly pushed in the mainstream.

For people to be racist, they need the idea to be racist, which people are not born with. Racism is further supported by a variety of rationalizations, for example, explanations about why white people are better than the other races. Racists protect themselves from feeling bad about being racist in part by using these rationalizations.

The likelihood of someone learning about and coming to agree with a racist idea depends on lot on them actually hearing the idea, preferably repeatedly. Racism is probably high right now in part because racist propagandists are strongly pushing racism in politics and the media.

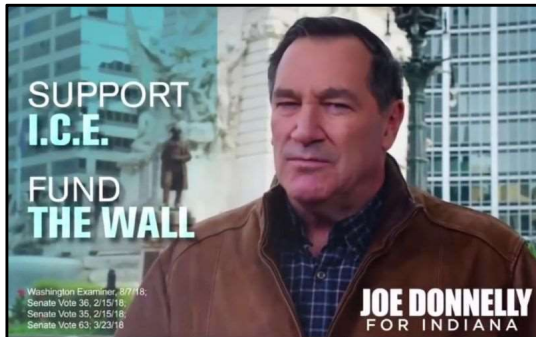
Huffington Post article on Steve King opening up with white supremacist talking points.  
[https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/iowa-rep-steve-king-austria-white-nationalist\\_us\\_5bca4851e4b0a8f17eec6001](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/iowa-rep-steve-king-austria-white-nationalist_us_5bca4851e4b0a8f17eec6001)

Trump “I am the Law and Order candidate”. “Law and Order” is a racist dog-whistle meant to communicate with other racists while avoiding mainstream scrutiny.  
<https://everydayfeminism.com/2017/05/politicians-racial-dog-whistles/>

<https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2016/07/donald-trump-law-and-order-richard-nixon-crime-race-214066>

## Republicans Light (Now only 62% R!)

- Sen. Joe Donnelly (D-IN) campaigning on Trumpist racism
- “Vote blue no matter who!”



How does a Democratic candidate supporting Trump’s border wall affect perceptions of the party for Hispanic people? How will it affect voting nationally? In my opinion, “Vote blue no matter who” is a call to not think about these questions.

Article on Joe Donnelly running on the republican platform:

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/indiana-sen-donnelly-backs-border-wall-new-ad-gop-pounces-200416519.html>

62% article from Joe Donnelly’s campaign website: <https://joeforindiana.com/updates/joe-donnelly-votes-president-trump-62-percent-time-new-study-shows/>

## Mainstream Media

- Warning: Subconscious normalization of Nazism ahead

## Mainstream Media

“In Ohio, amid the row crops and rolling hills, the Olive Gardens and Steak 'n Shakes, Mr. Hovater's presence can make hardly a ripple. He is the Nazi sympathizer next door, polite and low-key at a time the old boundaries of accepted political activity can seem alarmingly in flux. Most Americans would be disgusted and baffled by his casually approving remarks about Hitler, disdain for democracy and belief that the races are better off separate. But his tattoos are innocuous pop-culture references: a slice of cherry pie adorns one arm, a homage to the TV show Twin Peaks. He says he prefers to spread the gospel of white nationalism with satire. He is a big Seinfeld fan.”

Quoted article: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/25/us/ohio-hovater-white-nationalist.html>



## Mainstream Media

- The article on the Nazi Hovater was in the New York Times
- Criticized for normalizing Nazism
- Associative memories link Nazism to neutral or pleasant Americana
- NYT defended the article as trying to raise awareness about Nazism
- Normalization is not awareness

Quoted article: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/25/us/ohio-hovater-white-nationalist.html>

Some criticisms of the article:

<https://qz.com/1138080/the-problem-with-the-new-york-times-normalizing-profile-of-nazi-sympathizer-tony-hovater/>

[http://www.slate.com/articles/news\\_and\\_politics/jurisprudence/2017/11/how\\_the\\_new\\_york\\_times\\_let\\_a\\_facebook\\_fascist\\_off\\_the\\_hook.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/jurisprudence/2017/11/how_the_new_york_times_let_a_facebook_fascist_off_the_hook.html)

In addition to neo-Nazis, the NYT also gave the benefit of the doubt to Hitler for many years:

<https://www.currentaffairs.org/2018/07/how-horrific-things-come-to-seem-normal>

<https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/1922-new-york-times-hitler/>

NYT writer Maggie Haberman has a relationship with Donald Trump that may be unethical and certainly appears to have many of the worst characteristics of access journalism.

Link: <https://www.newsweek.com/trump-leaker-media-book-coverage-871448>

The NYT opinion page has some fairly right-wing writers:

+ Bret Stephens, who started his career at the Times with a climate change denial piece.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/03/public-editor/bret-stephens-climate-change-liz-spayd-public-editor.html>

+ Bari Weiss is an Op-Ed staff editor and writer with right-wing ideology. Quote: "Other than this instance, Brett Kavanaugh has a reputation as being a prince of a man":

<https://www.mediamatters.org/video/2018/09/18/ny-times-bari-weiss-other-instance-brett-kavanaugh-has-reputation-being-prince-man/221347>

The idea that the media is too liberal or too left-wing is right-wing propaganda. In Manufacturing Consent, Noam Chomsky says that it would make sense for there to be a supposed liberal bias in the media. If the media is biased left, then ideas to the left of the media might be more likely to be seen as too extreme to consider.

Manufacturing Consent on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AnrBQEAM3rE>

The NYT editorial staff is open (with their writers) about being explicitly pro-capitalist, which is to say that they do not feel the need to question the goodness or correctness of capitalism. Accepting capitalism as good without considering or allowing argument fits the definition of bias. This is not an accidental bias, it is a bias passed down by the editorial staff. <https://fair.org/home/top-nyt-editor-we-are-pro-capitalism-the-times-is-in-favor-of-capitalism/>

## Summary

- Money is tight for a lot of people
  - Racist solution: Push down non-whites for benefit of whites
- White male identity is threatened
  - Hateful and violent backlash to maintain privilege
- Politicians and media are pushing racist ideas
  - While ignoring economic solutions
- These factors combine to turn some people into hateful racists
- What other options are given in the mainstream?

I don't have time to really get into solutions here, but I find that a better understanding of a problem often leads my imagination to start coming up with solutions or to notice solutions more readily.



# Immigration



Americans often think of immigration as being almost a morally good thing that the United States has done for the rest the world. Yet, there is a clear dark side to immigration, with a long history of harassment and exploitation of immigrants.

In the Obama years and still today, harsh immigration enforcement was often justified as a “deterrent”, keeping away a mass of immigrants that we don’t have room or jobs for. The following quotes from Hillary Clinton and Barak Obama come from contexts in which they are defending harsh immigration enforcement while shifting blame to immigrants who often lack better options.

Hillary Clinton in 2014: "We have to send a clear message: just because your child gets across the border doesn't mean your child gets to stay."

Obama in 2015: "I'll tell you what we can't have, it's these parents sending their kids here on a dangerous journey and putting their lives at risk."

When they get here, we arrest them and put their lives at risk. Clinton and Obama put the onus on parents to protect their children from our immigration system by not coming here, even if the immigrants have a legitimate asylum claim.

Although immigration law is no longer openly racist as it once was, the system still produces racist outcomes. In particular, given that most undocumented immigrants are from central and south America, harsh immigration enforcement is leading to there being a permanent underclass of oppressed immigrants who are divided from the general population.

In this section, I'm going to talk about some issues in the immigration system that have a racial component.

Article about harsh immigration policy as deterrent (with Hillary and Obama quotes from above):

<https://www.businessinsider.com/us-history-of-putting-families-in-cages-didnt-start-with-trump-2018-6>

Photos:

Statue of Liberty: <https://pxhere.com/en/photo/8501>

Children in Obama's cages in 2014: <https://qz.com/1291470/photos-immigrant-children-detained-at-the-placement-center-in-2014/>

## Examples of Racism in Immigration Law

- Various bans and restrictions
  - E.g. Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882
- Immigration Act of 1924
  - Countries limited based on number of US residents from that country ... in 1890
- Immigration Act of 1952
  - Less racism
  - More about qualifications for labor
  - But racism from sponsor Sen. Pat McCarran (D-NV)
- Hidden racism certainly remains in the system

“In all of its parts, the most basic purpose of the 1924 Immigration Act was to preserve the ideal of U.S. homogeneity.” – *U.S. Department of State Office of the Historian*

“In all of its parts, the most basic purpose of the 1924 Immigration Act was to preserve the ideal of U.S. homogeneity.” I read this as an admission of racist intent, which seems fairly clear.

From the US government: <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1921-1936/immigration-act>

Academic article on history of racism in US immigration:

<https://scholarship.law.berkeley.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1264&context=blrlj>  
1924 Act: Immigration quotas for countries based on number of people in US with that national origin, but based on 1890 numbers which preceded waves of immigration of Southern and Eastern European Catholics and Jews.

Immigration Act of 1952:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immigration\\_and\\_Nationality\\_Act\\_of\\_1952](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immigration_and_Nationality_Act_of_1952)

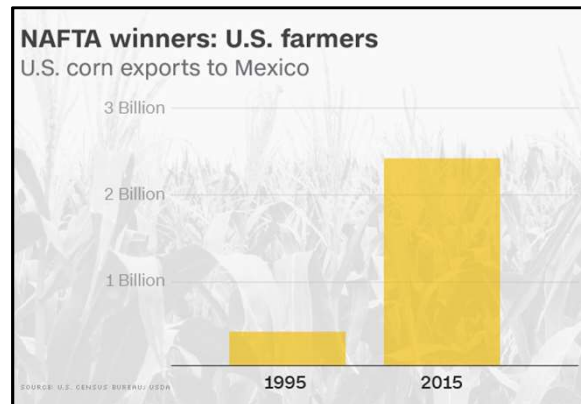
Senator Pat McCarran (D-NV), who sponsored the Immigration Act of 1952, said in 1953: “I believe that this nation is the last hope of Western civilization and if this oasis of the world shall be overrun, perverted, contaminated or destroyed, then the last flickering light of humanity will be extinguished.

we have in the United States today hard-core, indigestible blocs which have not become integrated into the American way of life, but which, on the contrary are its deadly enemies.

Today, as never before, untold millions are storming our gates for admission and those gates are cracking under the strain.“

## NAFTA and Migration

- 1994: NAFTA opens US/Mexican border to more trade
- Small Mexican corn farmers outcompeted by US agribusiness
- Jobless, many sought work in US
  - Undocumented status allowed agribusiness to pay low wages
- NAFTA led to more immigration
- US agribusiness profited two ways



CNN article on effects of NAFTA:

<https://money.cnn.com/2017/02/09/news/economy/nafta-farming-mexico-us-corn-jobs/index.html>

NPR article: <https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2017/08/07/541671747/nafta-s-broken-promises-these-farmers-say-they-got-the-raw-end-of-trade-deal>

Figure from: <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/04/27/5-facts-about-illegal-immigration-in-the-u-s/>

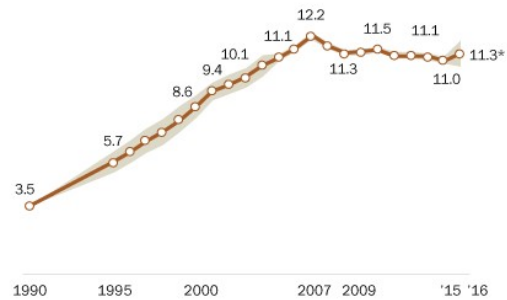


## Undocumented Immigration Stabilizing

- Undocumented immigration has stabilized or declined from 2007
  - Great Recession?
  - Increased immigration enforcement?
- About 3% of the population is undocumented immigrants
- No reason for immigrant panic
  - Except racism

**Estimated unauthorized immigrant population in the U.S. lower in 2015 than in 2009**

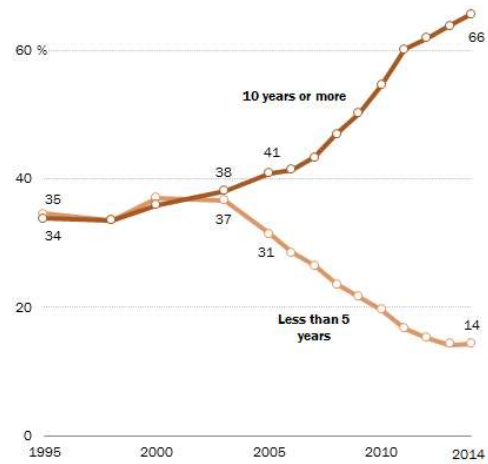
*In millions*



Undocumented immigrant count stabilizing (and more): <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/04/27/5-facts-about-illegal-immigration-in-the-u-s/>

## Undocumented Immigrants are Staying

- 2 in 3 undocumented immigrants here for a decade or longer
  - Ready to assimilate?
- Official path to residency: Leave and apply to return
- Policies like this deter assimilation



Undocumented immigrants staying longer (and more): <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/04/27/5-facts-about-illegal-immigration-in-the-u-s/>

## ICE

- Unicorn Riot released leaked ICE *Undercover Operations Handbook*
  - Agents operate outside of the law
- ICE makes cruel arrests
  - Arrest immigrant custodians of detained children
  - Creates culture of fear
  - Discourages assimilation

“[The handbook] describes how to recycle **profits** from **potentially illegal undercover operations** into **secret budgets** where money can be used to ... **make payouts** to other agencies and **foreign governments.**”

“... the command structure for ICE agents to **obtain approval to break federal laws**, as well as policies for **creating false identities** and **inserting falsified records into government databases.**”

“ICE employees are directed to **conceal the 'Undercover Operations Handbook'** from discovery by defense attorneys for clients prosecuted as a result of DHS activities.”

Quotes from UR article “Icebreaker Pt. 5 – Confidential Homeland Security Undercover Operations Handbook”

<https://www.unicornriot.ninja/2018/icebreaker-pt-5-confidential-homeland-security-undercover-operations-handbook/>

Immigrants come forward to take custody of children held by the government. ICE arrests them for status violations.

<https://splinternews.com/ice-is-now-arresting-people-who-step-up-to-take-care-of-1829208476>

ICE agents pose as good Samaritans returning a wallet to arrest green-card applicant.

<https://splinternews.com/ice-agents-reportedly-posed-as-good-samaritans-returnin-1829637105>

## Family Separation: Child Prisons

- Shiloh Treatment Center imprisons immigrant children separated from their parents
- Forcible administration of psychoactive drugs to achieve compliance
  - “One child was prescribed 10 different shots and pills ...”
  - One over-drugged girl repeatedly injured herself falling
  - Hard to do without racial dehumanization
- In 2014, US Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee called for Shiloh to be shut down
- “... nearly half of the \$3.4 billion paid to [child detention] companies in the last four years went to homes with serious allegations of mistreating children.”

Quotes below are from this article: <https://www.revealnews.org/blog/immigrant-children-forcibly-injected-with-drugs-lawsuit-claims/>

“One child was prescribed 10 different shots and pills, including the antipsychotic drugs Latuda, Geodon and Olanzapine, the Parkinson’s medication Benztropine, the seizure medications Clonazepam and Divalproex, the nerve pain medication and antidepressant Duloxetine, and the cognition enhancer Guanfacine.”

“(My daughter) tells me that she has fallen several times and has injured her head and arms, to the point that she ended up in a wheelchair, because the medications were too powerful and she couldn’t walk.”

In 2014, US Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee called for Shiloh to be shut down, citing “physical violence, unreasonable and excessive use of physical restraints, administering emergency medications without notice to governmental authorities, and **several deaths of minor children while in custody.**”

Private prison industry is profiting from increased immigrant detention:

<https://www.npr.org/2017/11/21/565318778/big-money-as-private-immigrant-jails-boom>

## Immigration and Democracy

- 66% oppose family separation (27% support)
- 82% for allowing some undocumented immigrants to become legal residents
  - Versus 14% saying to deport them all
- 79% support for allowing Dreamers (DACA recipients) to apply for citizenship
- PPC demands immigration reform
  - The majority supports reform in important areas

82% allow some undocumented immigrants to become residents:

<http://cdn.cnn.com/cnn/2018/images/01/19/rel1a-trump2c.shutdown2c.immigration.pdf>

79% Dreamers citizenship: <https://poll.qu.edu/national/release-detail?ReleaseID=2512>

Characteristics of immigrants that should not matter (Questions 37, 38, and 39):

<https://poll.qu.edu/national/release-detail?ReleaseID=2515>

What characteristics of immigrants should **not** matter?

Race 97%, Religion 86%, Economic class 86%

Family separation: <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/6/18/17475740/family-separation-poll-polling-border-trump-children-immigrant-families-parents>

66% oppose, 27% support, net -39

Republicans: 55% support, 35% oppose, net +20



## PPC Demands

- **Democracy:** Restore VRA, automatic voter registration, early voting, same-day registration, election day holiday, paper ballots
- End racist gerrymandering and felon disenfranchisement
- Statehood for Washington, D.C. (and Puerto Rico?)
- Immigration reform
- Criminal justice reform
- Racial equity in education
- Equal pay for equal work
- **Mass movement needed to enact change**



Selected from: [www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/demands](http://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/demands)

We demand the immediate full restoration and expansion of the Voting Rights Act, an end to racist gerrymandering and redistricting, early registration of 17 and 18 year olds, the implementation of automatic registration to vote at the age of 18, early voting in every state, same-day registration, the enactment of Election Day as a holiday, and a verifiable paper record. We demand the right to vote for the formerly incarcerated.

We demand the reversal of state laws preempting local governments from passing minimum wage increases, and the removal of Emergency Financial Management positions that are unaccountable to the democratic process.

We demand an end to placing persons on the federal bench who have a record of standing against voting rights.

We demand statehood, voting rights and representation for the more than 690,000 people in Washington D.C.

We demand a clear and just immigration system that strengthens our democracy through the broad participation of everyone in this country. This includes providing a timely

citizenship process that guarantees the right to vote. It also requires protecting immigrants' abilities to organize for their rights in the workplace and in their communities without fear of retribution, detention and deportation.

We demand that First Nations, Native Americans and Alaskan Native people retain their tribal recognition as nations, not races, to make substantive claims to their sovereignty.



## Closing Quote

“The dispossessed of this nation - the poor, both white and Negro - live in a cruelly unjust society.

They must organize a revolution against that injustice, not against the lives of the persons who are their fellow citizens, but against the structures through which the society is refusing to take means which have been called for, and which are at hand, to lift the load of poverty...

There are millions of poor people in this country with very little, or even nothing to lose. If they can be helped to take action together, they will do so with a freedom and a power that will be a new and unsettling force in our complacent national life.”

– Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in *The Trumpet of Conscience* (written 1967)

Quote parts from: [https://www.facebook.com/pg/OregonPPC/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/OregonPPC/about/?ref=page_internal)

## Acknowledgements

- RVUUF for providing this space
- Social Justice and Action for providing support
- PPC for informational materials
- Everyone who helped promote these talks
- The people who helped to run this event today

## Questions

Better question topics:

- PPC and mass movements
- Systemic racism and dehumanization
- Psychology and emotion in politics
- Political ideology
- National and international politics

Upcoming talks:

**Poverty and Economic Inequality**  
Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 pm

**War Economy,  
Ecological Devastation,  
and Moving Forward with the PPC**  
Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm

Slides with references and notes available at:  
[www.rvuuf.org/engage/justice](http://www.rvuuf.org/engage/justice)