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# AFRICAN AMERICANS: LEGACY OF RACISM

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## *History*

200 years of legal slavery

Constitutionally sanctioned  
discrimination: 1896 Plessy vs. Fer

Tacitly endorsed economic  
discrimination:

- exclusion from jobs and unions
- segregated schools deny skills
- mortgages and loans denied

Vigilante violence:

- sheriffs in KKK in south
- lynchings as family events
- police brutality unchecked

## *Result*

- No accumulated wealth = poverty
- No inheritance
- No family land / farm / business
  
- Low access to education / training = unemployment or underemployment
- Excluded from power centers (networks / contacts)
  
- No capital
- Uneducated parents have harder time being resource for kids
- Culturally reinforced “inferiority”
- Parents can’t support education or help with mortgage
- Economic resources must be shared
  
- Lack of faith in “justice” system
- Fear / animosity toward police
- Collective memory = anger and mistrust