AFRICAN AMERICANS: LEGACY OF RACISM

**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

*Undoing Racism - Mary Scott Boria – CPT - 1/04*