

## **Article 1: Whose “Fault” is it?**

*This article addresses the issue of racial and ethnic inequality by laying out the central idea of freedom and determinism.*

- ❖ Think of when we were in class on Day 9 and Day 11
  - Choice and Chance Day 9
  - Race and Inequality Day 11
    - Race to the top video
    - The Starting line
- ❖ The article has many examples about putting yourself in certain situations and the way people may think in those situations.

This article is mainly about understanding the cause of human behavior - whether people act freely or whether their actions are shaped by factors and forces outside of their control “Freedom v. Determinism” debate.

Freedom v. Determinism:

- People think a lot like those who share similar experiences, like members of different social, economic, racial, and cultural groups.
- It is often in our personal interest to use one or the other perspective in order to arrive at an explanation that not only confirms our belief system, but also maintains our position in the socioeconomic hierarchy. This is where things get both complicated and revealing for how our society operates with regards to relations between different ancestry groups.

Why does the middle path remain elusive?

- Some of us remain in the center of this debate where we can account for both free decision-making and determining factors and forces? The simple answer is that the middle path requires more considered reflection and usually a firmer grasp of facts than most of us are willing to dedicate to the endeavor. We want and need the quick uncomplicated answers that are not found on the middle path. Reading little information or reading the title of the headlines, fills the empty spaces in our thinking, along with taking them to face value, then there is no need to delve further into the issues they address. In sum, such sound bytes might fill in some of the blanks in our thinking. But they cannot paint a coherent picture of the complicated world of human behavior.

Why do we inevitably lean one way or another?

- Most of us would say that when you do lean in one direction or the other, it is only because you have chosen the side debate that makes the most sense, the side that is more correct from a logical and rational understanding of the facts under consideration. However, research has uncovered is that we see the world not as it is, but as we are. In other words, none of us can be an unbiased observer because we select from a scene unfolding before us a scattering of information that fits into the views we have already formed (family, friends, authority figures have formed for us). So for example, you may only notice those headlines or hear the sound bytes that validate what you already believe to be true.

## **Article 2: 13 Issues Facing Native People Beyond Mascots and Casinos**

- Native communities throughout the United States face issues of mass incarceration and policing. The issue of mass incarceration is complicated by unresolved conflicts between tribal, federal, and state jurisdictions. Indians who commit crimes on tribal lands can be punished twice for the same offence, once in federal jurisdiction and in tribal court. “Native Lives Matter” is an

overview of unfairness faced by Native Americans in the criminal justice system; their voices have been ignored in the growing national conversation about policing and criminal justice reform.

- Native communities suffer from high rates of poverty and unemployment.
- The federal government is still stripping Native people of their land. The San Carlos Apache Nation and the Great Sioux Nation refuse and are fighting sales from the government and business interests.
- Exploitation of natural resources threatens Native communities. Indian nations often live near hydraulic fracturing and pipelines that pump oil out of indigenous communities.
- Native women and children in Native American communities suffer from violence. The women are 3.5 times more likely to be raped or sexually assaulted in their life than women of other races. 22% of Native children suffer from PTSD – equivalent to PTSD found in Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. People commit 80% of violence experienced by Native Americans not from the same race; tribes have won the right to prosecute Non-Native men who commit any violence against Native women on Indian reservations.
- The education system is failing for Native Students; in 2010, 51% of Native Americans graduated high school. As well as, inadequate federal funding, to the point where some schools on Indian reservations are deteriorated and structurally dangerous.
- Native families live in overcrowded, poor-quality housing. 40% of Native families who live on reservations are in substandard housing, one-third of homes are overcrowded and less than 16% have indoor plumbing.
- Native patients receive inadequate health care. Nearly one-third of Native Americans and Alaska Natives are uninsured, but are eligible to receive health care through Indian Health Services (IHS).
- Indian nations do not own their reservations lands, the federal government does. This prevents them from leveraging assets for loans and making it difficult to start a business or promote economic growth. 14.5% of Native Americans are unbanked.
- Native Americans have the right to vote but they often are unable to because there are no polling places nearby. Also these problems are compounded by high rates of illiteracy in some rural Native communities.
- Suicide is the second most common cause of death in Native American youth ages 15-24, which is two and half times the national rate.
- Native languages are dying, and the U.S. government is doing little to help. 130 “at risk” and 74 “critically endangered” native languages that are trying to survive. Educators want to teach young people native languages and cultures but there is a lack of funding and resources.
- Native Hawaiians and many other Native communities throughout the U.S. have never received federal recognition of their rights as Native people. This deprives them of basic services and limited rights of self-governances available to other Native communities. Recently the Obama administration announced that it would be streamlining the federal recognition process, making it easier for unrecognized Indian nations to secure their rights under the law.

### **Article 3: The Pitchforks Are Coming... For Us Plutocrats**

- Nick Hanauer is a proud, unapologetic capitalist, and a 0.1%er. He wrote a special report to the other filthy rich people about how raising the minimum wage will cost jobs.
- Inequality is getting worse everyday and our country is becoming less of a capitalist society and more of a Middle Age society.

- Nick believes that the fundamental law of capitalism must be: "if workers have money, businesses have more customers. Which means a thriving middle class is the source of American prosperity."
- The minimum wage debate is that raising minimum wage costs jobs. Businesses will have to lay off workers. If you took Econ, then you were taught that if wages go up, employment must go down – the law of supply and demand.
- Fellow citizens are starting to believe that capitalism itself is the problem. Nick disagrees, when capitalism is well managed, is the greatest social technology ever invented to create prosperity in human societies. But capitalism left unchecked tends toward concentration and collapse.
- Balancing the power of workers and billionaires by raising the minimum wage isn't bad for capitalism; it's an essential tool, smart capitalist use to make capitalism stable and sustainable.

#### 4. Video: The Pathology of White Privilege

- What's wrong with the word 'underprivileged'?
  - First: it's a passively constructed term, a passive voice. Tim states that underprivileged is like the G-rated version bumper sticker, 'Stuff Happens'. That's bumper sticker that only a straight white upper middle class male could have made. Because anyone who isn't straight, male, white, or isn't upper middle class knows that stuff doesn't just happen. Stuff gets done by people to people.
  - Second: if we use the word underprivileged, then by definition, there must be an overprivileged. Over privileged is not a word that exists, Tim says lets talk about that. If we acknowledged that there are 2 to 3 million people being targeted for race-based house discrimination because they are people of color that is 2 to 3 million places that a white person can live. If people of color are being targeted and profiled and white people are not, that is an advantage. When Tim talks about white privilege, he isn't talking about materials or money, white privilege is real at the psychological level.
- Unburdened by race:
  - People of color in the classroom: if they under perform in a an academic environment, when they answer the question in class or if they mispronounce a word, or answer the question wrong, they have to wonder if they dropped the ball, not just for themselves, but for all those coming after them, who look like them, a job complex, on campus; they are constantly under scrutiny, constantly being questioned and second guessed. Do they really belong here? That is what it means to be white. White people never have to worry about their missteps, that our missteps, will be attributed to our racial defect of some sort.
  - Research is clear in the academic environment, those persons who constantly have to worry about whether or not their performance is going to trigger that negative group stereotype, the mere anxiety caused by worrying about test and classroom performance. So it's a huge advantage to have that one less thing to concern oneself with. To not have the burden of representation. Because for white folks we don't have to do that and they also know what other white people do wont stick to them.
  - Privilege: that privilege of not having to think about it, that privilege of not having to know someone else's reality, that privilege of being able to ignore it, and that privilege of benefiting from the inequality, having a certain leg up actually is very dangerous. In a country like ours, which encourages us to take advantage of our advantages, if I tell you that you have a privilege, your first inclination is not to get rid of that.
- Privilege and Pathology

- White privilege also creates intense anxiety. If you are privileged, you are constantly afraid of who's gaining on you, coming to take what you have. They have to worry about terrorists, coming to take there stuff.
- They have a mentality of entitlement, the mentality that says, this is our world and we make the rules. But not so much; example, the mass school shootings, that happened in all nice white areas, almost every single one of them committed by a white upper middle class male, in a place where everyone said, "This wasn't supposed to happen here." Because privilege allowed them to let down their guard to the dysfunction and pathology that they thought only existed over there. Privilege means I don't have to know what my kids are doing in the basement, even though Dillion Klebold and Eric Harris are building 35 bombs in the basement. No kids of color could have gotten away with going to ace hardware looking for bomb supplies.
- Invasion of Iraq a good idea or bad idea? The people without privilege, they asked white America said, "hell yes, we must do this! They are going to greet us like liberators!" That's privilege speaking. People of color "uh.no" Because folks of color know that even if you don't have very much, folks without much will kill you for the little bit they have.
- Invasion doesn't bring liberation, and black and brown know it. Should have listened to them.

### **5.Historian Says Don't 'Sanitize' How Our Government Created Ghettos**

- Richard Rothstein a research associate at the Economic Policy Institute has spent years studying the history of residential segregation in America.
- The major reason why we have Ghettos in every metropolitan area is because federal, state, and local governments purposely created racial boundaries in these cities.
- Ghetto, as defined by Richard, a neighborhood that is homogeneous and from which there are serious barriers to exit.
- The New Deal's Public Works Administration led to the creation of segregated ghettos: its policy was that public housing could be used only to house people of the same race as the neighborhood in which it was located, but most of the public housing that was built in the early years was built in integrated neighborhoods, then built segregated public housing in those neighborhoods. So public housing created racial segregation where non existed before.
- The second policy- the Federal Housing Administration's overtly racist policies in the 1930s, '40s and '50s: In every metropolitan area in the country, the FHA gave builders loans through banks because they guaranteed loans at lower interest rates for banks that the developers could use to build subdivisions on the condition that no homes in those subdivisions be sold to African-Americans
- Real estate agents' practice of "blockbusting": in the ghettos, government policy denied adequate services and garbage wasn't collected frequently. African Americans were in crowded neighborhoods in the ghetto, housing prices and rents were much higher than similar housing in white areas because they had a smaller supply, which created slum conditions (basic laws of supply and demand).
  - When African-Americans managed to get out of the slums and buy a home in an area close to them, whites were convinced that the slum conditions were going to be brought to them. Real estate agents would go into white neighborhoods and scare the families into selling their homes for cheap to the real estate agents.

- The real estate agents used techniques like recruiting blacks from the ghetto to walk around to neighborhood with baby carriages... all to give the impression that this was turning into another black slum.

White families would sell their homes for cheap to the real estate agents who then would resell the home to African-Americans for way more because of the restricted supply, this policy was called “blockbusting” and it was a policy condoned by state licensing boards throughout the country.

#### **Article 6: Self-Segregation: Why It's So Hard for Whites to Understand Ferguson**

The shooting of the unarmed black teenager Michael Brown by a white officer in Ferguson, Missouri, and anger response by Ferguson's mostly black population, made the issue of race into a national focus.

Racial divide over Brown's shooting: before and after of white and non-white reactions. Before the shooting, there was a 15 point gap between the attitudes of white and non-white Americans: 44% of whites agreed that blacks and other minorities receive equal treatment in the criminal justice system, compared to 29% of whites. In 6 days of interviews conducted immediately after Brown's shooting, the gap had doubled to 32 points, with 48% of whites, compared to just 16% of non-whites, agreeing that the criminal justice systems treats blacks and other minorities fairly.

Michael McBride, an African American pastor, related his personal story of being beaten by 2 white officers in March 1999:

“This happened because they felt like I was not being obedient enough. The way they saw the world and me in their world created a certain kind of fear and reaction to my actions that caused me harm. I live with that experience as many folks of color live with that experience.”

- 2012 PRRI survey found that African Americans are far more likely than white Americans to favor “obedience” over “self-reliance.”

A conversation across the racial divide is that on average white Americans live in communities that face far fewer problems and talk mostly to other white people.

Results in the 2013 American Values Survey reveals just how segregated white social circles are. Overall social networks of whites are 91% white and only 1% black, 1% Hispanic, 1% Asian or Pacific Islander, 1% mixed race, and 1% other race. 75% of whites have entirely white social networks without any minority presence.

In a 2012 survey found that black Americans report higher levels of problems in their communities compared to white. The major problems in their communities: lack of jobs, lack of opportunities for young people, lack of funding for public schools, crime, and racial tensions.

#### **7. My Wedding was perfect – and I was fat as hell the whole time**

In summary:

- Lindy wrote about how she was the fattest she ever was on her wedding day and how happy she is to be herself. She talks about how women do not have to “fix” their body, chase after the most “flattering” outfits, be somebody’s dark secret, or beg for permission to be happy.
- Lindy “well, I don’t hide any more in my everyday life, and I definitely wasn’t going to hide at my wedding.” She also talks about beauty and fat acceptance and how fat women are trying to prove that they can wear the role of male fantasy and traditional roles just as thin women can.

- “I am interested in expanding the realm of self-expression for fat people.” – The can and can’t wear, the MUST get married, MUST be beautiful, and if you don’t, you’re not truly happy.
- One of the strongest conflicts Lindy navigates is the one between feminism and the capitalism that is so deeply interwoven into weddings. Capitalism is not feminist but is preying on cheap labor so other people can get rich. The wedding industrial complex has convinced us that the only ‘good’ weddings are the weddings that cost the most. Lindy sees weddings, as a tradition, a ceremony, and those things are important in all cultures. “Choose your rituals, but make them yours.”

### **8. Michelle Alexander: Locked Out of the American Dream**

- Michelle Alexander published her book *The New Jim Crow* on dehumanizing system of incarceration.
- Alexander has traveled the country to meet everyday Americans and advocates working to end mass incarceration in America
- Hard to get a job if you are a convicted felon
- Americans have fear of immigrants coming over to take jobs, educational resources, and drain our tax base in your county. These fears have lead to the get-tough movement. Get tough on those immigrants who violated the law by crossing over. This movement, directed toward immigrants is the same kind of indifference that we have seen in the war on drugs has led to the rise of mass incarceration.
- The great escalation on the drug war was under President Clinton, who created laws banning drug offenders from federal financial aid for schooling upon their release and banning drug offenders and people with criminal convictions from public housing.
- Politics over the years are trying to appease poor working class whites not trying to encourage solidarity across racial and class lines.
- More African Americans under correctional control today, in prison or jail, on probation or parole than were enslaved in 1850.
- Michelle thinks we ought to commit ourselves to building a human rights movement in this country, a human rights movement for education, not incarceration, for jobs, not jails. A movement that will end all these forms of legal discrimination against people released from prison, discrimination that denies them basic human rights to work, to shelter, to education, to food.
  - She believes that the system, the way it is designed currently, does not allow for that kind of policy change to occur.
- For this movement, we would have to be committed to building an underground railroad for people who are released from prison, people who need help finding shelter and food as they try to make a break for real freedom. But we also have to be willing to work for abolition at the same time. Abolition of the system of mass incarceration.
- Attorney General Eric Holder has begun to advocate for some reform of our mandatory minimum sentences. He has begun a modification of the Justice Department’s charging policies so that certain low-level, non-violent drug offenders, with no ties to gangs or cartels, will no longer be sought by federal prosecutors for minimum sentences.
  - Mandatory minimum sentences for drug crimes and nonviolent crimes have been reduced. Prison populations have been declining but federal prison is still rising because most of the people incarcerated are there due to drug offenses and immigration violations.

- Legislators have begun to ease up on mandatory minimum sentences and prison populations are declining because the state prison cannot afford the prisons anymore.
  - They cannot maintain massive systems without raising taxes on predominately white middle class.
- Motive to send people to prison:
  - Largest private prison company in the US, The Corrections Corporation of America sent a letter to 48 governors offering to buy their state-run prisons in exchange for a promise to keep prisons 90% capacity.
  - Crime rates are low but incarceration rates are higher.

## **9. Gay and Lesbian High School Students Report ‘Heartbreaking’ Levels of Violence**

A study by the Youth Risk Behavior Survey looked at sexual identity for the first time.

- 8% said they were either Gay, lesbians and bisexuals and in high schools the teens were more prone to depression and bullying than straight people.
- They were also 3x more likely to get raped.
- Twice as likely to be threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.
- 40% reported considering suicide at least once
- 29% attempted suicide before
- Gays were more likely to use drugs than straight people
- 1.3% of straight students said they used heroin
- 6% of gay people used heroin
- 3.2 % of students chose “not sure” about their identities
- Drop-out students and untruthful students were not accounted for so that must be kept in mind

- Dr. Mermin (director of the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention at the C.D.C) said “Nations are judged by the health and well-being of their children”
- Dr. Elizabeth Miller, the chief of adolescent and young adult medicine at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh says that the homophobic attitude towards gays implicates a large group of youth, which leads to abusive relationships.

The survey next year will include questions on gender to count transgender teenagers that might be ready for a pilot test in 2017. This means they will be ready to have a big voice for law changes.

Green Dot is a program that trains students to support victims of bullying. Better access to these programs will also be included with help from friends, schools and communities. Teens must have conversations about safe and respectful ways to intimacy

## **10. What drives success?**

Ethnic, religious and national-origin groups are doing much better than Americans overall. Many Iranian, Chinese-Americans are top earners and Mormons have become the top executives in corporate America. This is important to remember. And you can't say materialistic happiness is better than a well-

lived life. Jews account for a third of the current Supreme Court; over two-thirds of Tony Award-winning lyricists and composers; and about a third of American Nobel laureates. Much of the success can be blamed on rich parents passing down money to their children, which accounts for a small percentage of the US.

Many Indians, Asians immigrants suffer economically when they come here. New York City's selective public high schools like Stuyvesant and Bronx Science in 2013 school year, Stuyvesant High School offered admission to nine black students, 24 Hispanics, 177 whites and 620 Asians. Among the Asians of Chinese origin, who were mostly children of restaurant workers. Many groups like Hispanics and people from African countries are climbing up the higher education ladder.

- By 1990, United States-born Cuban children — whose parents had arrived as exiles, many with practically nothing — were twice as likely as non-Hispanic whites to earn over \$50,000 a year. All three Hispanic United States senators are Cuban-Americans.
- 2005 study of over 20,000 adolescents found that third-generation Asian-American students performed no better academically than white students.

Successful groups in America today share three traits that propel success. The first is a **superiority complex**, a deep-seated belief in their exceptionality. The second is opposite **insecurity**, a **feeling that you or what you've done is not good enough**. The third is **impulse control**.

Asian parents seem to always say, “a 99% isn’t good enough” pushing them to work harder and that’s why they seem to have the lowest self-esteem as they rank up the highest grades. Other immigrants often worry about if they will fit in with society, which impacts confidence.

Ethnic and religious pride can sometimes turn into intolerance of its own. For most of its history, America did pretty much everything a country could to impose a narrative of inferiority on its nonwhite minorities and especially its black population. Over and over, African-Americans have fought back against this narrative, but its legacy continues. P. Diddy says that the negativity of African history encourages him to be the best. If a group of people believes in the system that they are naturally disadvantaged, then they actually are. Successful people don’t think like that. It’s the pride in a person that allows them to gain those 3 characteristics that makes someone successful.

But one reason groups with the cultural package we’ve described have such an advantage in the United States today lies in the very same factors that are shrinking opportunity for so many of America’s poor. Disappearing blue-collar jobs and greater returns to increasingly competitive higher education give a tremendous edge to groups that disproportionately produce individuals driven, especially at a young age, to excel and to sacrifice present satisfactions for long-term gains.

Sonya Sotomayor’s book *My Beloved World* explains how she went up to the smartest girl in school and asked her how to study. She soon moved to attend Princeton. In the novel, Sonya says it’s rather easy to escape the poverty when you do extraordinary things to overcome the odds. Research shows that perseverance and motivation can be taught to young children. The biggest efforts to inspire a child have to be done when they are young and formable.

The United States itself was born with an outsize belief in its own exceptionality, with a goal to be better than aristocratic Europe (Thomas Jefferson sent a giant moose carcass to Paris to prove that America’s animals were bigger than Europe’s) and a Puritan inheritance of impulse control. America has always been its best when it had to overcome adversity on the world stage.

## **11. The original Underclass (long article)**

Today less privileged white Americans are considered to be in crisis. The social breakdown of the white Americans is beginning to look like what happened decades ago with African Americans. Opiate addictions and rising mortality rates with middle-age whites. In the 2016 campaign, “regular Americans” were drawn to Trump. Kevin Williamson blamed the low-income white Americas of Trump’s victory. Economically low-income neighborhoods are meant to die-off because of their fiscal value. What is to blame the White Americans by the liberal have theorized that what drives drug abusive is despair over their lost of perch over the country’s pecking order. Whites also don’t like the pressure of other races passing them on the social ladder because they are white and naturally feel like they deserve to be better.

For England, the “new world” aka the US could serve as a giant workhouse for people that were “the awfuls” of the England. The king even asked people to take street children to America. There is a myth that the English came to America for other reasons. But, this act didn’t erase the England-like social class system. The Puritans were actually obsessed with power. By 1770s only a few hundred White Puritans owned most of the land. The biggest stigma about “White trash” is the aspect of homelessness or landlessness. The founding fathers thought only the poor were to serve on the continental army. Whites scattered all over the country. In 1930, there was a slang book like a dictionary for white street slang. Eisenberg says that the whites that lived in the South and Appalachia were a subset of low-income Americans. Trailers were the homes given to war industry workers that gave the term “trailer trash” its name to “redneck identity”. J. D. Vance Wrote a novel called *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis*, his family fits the description of white trash as many of his family members have tried to kill someone and burn things down. His mom was smart and didn’t fit the white trash description and encouraged J.D. Vance to work hard. She then began to do heroin and go downhill. This is often a stereotype of the American hillbilly. Since JD was smart, he could’ve gone to any state school in Ohio, but instead he went to the Marines first, then Ohio State University. He isn’t used to the fancy restaurants and life he saw while at school. He was also considered really different because he was from such a small town in the mountains. Sometimes he wonders why people so poor like him don’t become successful too. He considers himself lucky. Where does blame stop and sympathy begin?

During WW2, Appalachian community began to think that the modern American system wasn’t built for them. Vance thinks the government can’t really be blamed for the hillbillies in America.

A case can be made that the central Appalachia needs a better way to become successful. The lower classes have been disregarded since America was discovered, and the difference between classes has never been more significant. The elite economy is now designed in a “winner takes all” structure. The highly educated are way more likely to get a job. Why is the white low-class becoming anxious, depressed and addicted to drugs? Things were much better back in the day in cities that DIDN’T get left behind. Trump’s aim at these white trash have become foreigners who have been ignored.

- People voting for Trump are higher on the social ladder
- Many homeless white trash went to North Carolina, politicians called them very mean lazy people.
- 1821, term “white trash” was first published.
- Anti-slavery advocates thought that the only thing keeping whites above the blacks were the fact blacks were being enslaved.
- The government and corporations welcomed China into the World trade organization and moved jobs overseas.
- The gov’t declined the coal industry, which hurt white Americans.

## **12. I used to lead tours at a plantation. You won't believe the questions I get about slavery.**

This young girl worked as a tour guide in a plantation and heard these comments:

“Yeah well Egyptians enslaved Israelites, so I guess what goes around comes around”  
“Dragging the topic of slavery brings down America”

People were often asking ignorant questions about slavery. Typically white people.

The most common preconception people have about slavery:

1. *People think slaveholders “took care” of their slaves out of the goodness of their hearts, rather than out of economic interest.*
2. *People know that field slavery was but think household slavery was pretty all right, if not outright a sweet idea.* The slaves that worked in households were the ones that the newspapers would put wanted ads about.
3. *People think slavery and poverty are interchangeable.* People don't get that slavery was often violent, filled with assault and sexual assault.
4. *People don't understand how prejudice influenced slaveholders' actions beyond mere interest.* Slaveowners believed that black skin could handle a beating because it was thicker and any complaining was a form of being ungrateful.
5. *People think loyalty is a fair term to apply to people held in bondage.* A tourist asked the girl if slaves were loyal because they had a place to stay and sleep.

Informing people about slavery isn't about history but about humanity.

## **13. An unnoticed Struggle: A concise History of Asian American Civil War (Long one)**

The article starts by talking about how the term “Asians” cannot be simply put into one category because there are so many different backgrounds within different types of Asians.

**Wong Kim Ark, Kajiro Oyama, Vincent Chin** were men that were part of the Asian American civil rights movements that struggled with **immigration, land laws and hate crimes**. This slowly opened the door for the whole Asian community.

- Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882: All immigration from China was banned for 10 years + Chinese people in the US could not gain citizenship

In the 1880s, Chinese American citizens were required to have documentation on them at all times in risk of immigration. When the Chinese first moved to the US during the gold rush, the discrimination was not yet existent.

- The Foreign Miners' Tax was established in 1852, which heavily taxed the Chinese despite their bad income
- 1868: Burlingame Treaty with China, U.S. officials expressed less of a welcome to the Chinese
- Transcontinental Railroad required Chinese cheap and hard labor, which were brought in as contract laborers

- Civil Rights Act of 1870: Guaranteed immigration rights and defended the Chinese; The Act never made it out of the Senate.
- Chinese Massacre of 1871: Chinese Americans living in Los Angeles' Chinatown were attacked in the
- Dennis Kearney and the Workingmen's Party did speeches across the country, to get workers against Chinese laborers.
- In 1924, Chinese laborers, merchants, professionals had to go through a huge vetting process at Angel Island before coming into the US.
- Magnuson Act of 1943- all classes of Chinese be allowed to enter the U.S. again (only 105 per year)
- Immigration Act of 1965 that many immigrants from Asia would be welcomed in.
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Many people feared that the thousands of Chinese immigrants would not return to their homeland and would steal American jobs. But, by the Chinese staying, it was said to help the bad economic situation after the Civil War. Even though California is a liberal state, it still enforced such racist and anti-immigration policies against the Chinese. The Chinese mostly owned laundry stores and could not get jobs anywhere else. President Roosevelt said he did not want to let a mass of Chinese immigrants into the US.

Kajiro Oyama was a **Japanese** farmer in California that was forced from the west coast for not being arrested during the WWII. When the Oyama family got back to their property, it was owned by the government under the **Alien Land Laws**.

- February 19, 1942: President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which allowed the deportation of Japanese immigrants. They basically had a week to get their shit together and be ready to be deported.
- Ronald Reagan's Civil Liberties Act of 1988- provided each internee \$20,000 in reparations for their unjust treatment during the war.

The Japanese were sent to camps with really shitty conditions and some of them died. Then they were asked to fight for the USA in the war. (More than 33,000 Japanese Americans fought for the US). Only after 50 years Americans started to not be as racists towards Asians.

Vincent Chin was brutally murdered because he was Asian in 1982 by Ebens and Nitz. Neither of them spent anytime in jail... This brought the Asian-American community together. This was the turning point in history.

Asians have little representation in the US political system. Asians did protests in the 80s and 60s to reach equality. In education, most people assume Asians are really smart. But, SATs scores are across the board for all Asians.

#### **14. How Prison Labor is the New American Slavery and Most of Us Unknowingly Support it**

Modern day slavery is still allowed due to a loophole in the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which states “as punishment for crimes”. But, big corporations have lobbied for a broader term of a “crime”. Nowadays there are more dark people performing mandatory unpaid acts than in 1830. No countries in the world have incarcerated their own citizens as much as the USA. 1 in 100 adults were incarcerated in the US in 2014. 86% of prisoners have been locked up for a non-violent/victim-less crime.

- Whole Foods offsets “high wages” paid to 3<sup>rd</sup> world producers with unfair wages in America. Also, the corporation has prisoners in Colorado raising that expensive fish and goat cheese for \$0.74 cents a day.
- McDonald’s workers that sew uniforms make very little money.
- Wal-Mart buys from prison factories and farms, often times the workers work long hours without enough water breaks and such.
- Victoria’s Secret has prisoners sewing “Made in America” tags in place of the “Made in Honduras” tag.
- AT&T fired all union members in 1993 to increase profit. AT&T also used inmates to work at their calling centers, barely paying them \$2 a day.
- BP oil hired almost ALL African-American inmates to clean up the oil spills in the ocean, this made a lot of people mad but nothing was done about it.

Inmates are not “forced” to work, but they have nothing better to do and often have fines to pay such as family support. Note: In Texas, prisoners are forced to work without getting paid. Prisoners in Texas can work in prison-support jobs OR in the agribusiness department, where they farm for places like Whole Foods. If the prisoner refuses to work, he goes to solitary confinement. Essentially corporations’ is to lower operational cost.

## **15. The immigration debate we need**

Trump’s deportation and executive orders dominate discussions. The author of this article is a refugee from Cuba that believes in the benefits of allowing refugees in. The article talks about how there are trade-offs to allowing immigrants in. Such as how much of a price are the Americans willing to pay and exactly who will pay it? Over the past 30 years, 1/3 of immigrants were high-school dropouts. Wages fell 6%. Lower wages mean more profit for many employers so immigration can increase the wealth of Americans. But, included in the trade-off is the factor that immigrant’s most-often times lose. Another disadvantage is that immigrants created an annual fiscal shortfall of \$43 million to \$299 billion. In recent decades, there has been a slow down in the rate at which the economic status of immigrants improves over time. Years ago immigrant’s economic progress improved much more over generations than nowadays. Mass immigration also discourages assimilation (mixing with other kinds of people) because: Say an entire neighborhood speaks Spanish; there is no huge incentive to learn English. A recent University of California study says that microaggressive statements such as “America is a melting pot” insults people because it makes them feel the need to assimilate to the dominant culture. European countries have stated that there is no universal law that guarantees integration even after many generations. The article talks about how illegal immigration needs to be reduced and the wall will work, but not completely because people overstay their Visas either way. But what about the 11-million-plus undocumented immigrants already here? Many immigrants live in peace and their sudden deportation would not represent the compassionate America that many of us envision. An easy way to improve this would be to grant citizenship for people illegally here to speed up the process. Trump’s recent comments on immigration came off as racist and xenophobic, and to marginalize anyone who agrees. The 2 sides to this issue is whether people agree with the “America First” proposals.

## **16. Police Body Cameras: What do you see?**

Professor Stoughton did a study on police brutality/body cameras and police footage based on beliefs about law enforcement. You should honestly just skim through these videos instead of just reading these small summaries. This one actually takes like 5 minutes.

Video 1 (Chest pump). The body camera on a policeman shows a man getting very close (it looks aggressive), but in reality, from another angle the suspect is just chest-bumping the policeman in a friendly way. This is a way to show how different angles on a situation versus just looking at the body

camera can be deceiving. The jerk movement exaggerated what was going on in the body camera footage, proving that different perspective matters.

Video 2 (Running suspect). In the video the suspect is standing by a car, the policeman with the chest camera asks him to take his hands out of his pocket. He starts running and falls on the ground, the policeman is screaming, “stop reaching for my gun”. In reality, the viewer of the video cannot actually see the suspect reaching for the gun. Another bystander video shows the suspect not doing anything wrong. People tend to take the viewpoint of the camera angle in which they see from.

Video 3 (Traffic stop). The dashcam footage shows the officer approaching the car asking the driver to stay in the car. The suspect darts out of the car, but in reality he just ran out of the car because he there was a bee in his car. The flailing action by the suspect and policeman can depict a dangerous act done by the suspect. People who tend to trust police officers are more likely to agree with all of their actions. What we see in police video footage tends to be shaped by what we already believe.

Body cameras can have a positive impact. In San Diego, complaints about officers fell 40.5 percent and use of “personal body” force by officers dropped by 46.5 percent after officers adopted body cameras, according to a 2015 report from the city’s police department. People expect more from body cameras than technology can deliver.