

# ***An Analysis of the Attitudes and Behaviors of American Society towards Segregation After the Abolition of Slavery***

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**Abstract:** African Americans are often associated with weakness in the United States. They not only have a difficult life, but they also face discrimination and hatred as a result of their insecure employment. But, in reality, African Americans have faced a lot of pushback and struggle since the end of the nineteenth century, and they continue to do so to this day. Since the promulgation and implementation of the National Declaration of Human Rights, more than 170 states have launched varying degrees of anti-black movements: the United States Constitution states that all citizens have equal civil rights, and the federal government shall not deprive citizens of their liberties in any way. This paper focuses on the reasons for American society's perspective on this problem, as well as the related conduct throughout the segregation period. From a social standpoint, a complete and in-depth investigation and study of African Americans can assist in improving understanding, raise consciousness, and promote societal harmony and growth. This study investigates a wide range of American society's perspectives and behaviors on the topic of black segregation through a literature review and collects relevant materials to create a theoretical foundation for this paper. According to the findings of the study, under the segregation period, the majority of white people were treated unfairly because of the concept of white supremacy, while the majority of African Americans who opposed apartheid were for the same rights. At the same time, the minorities were white students and members of racial organizations who opposed it because they advocated equality. There are relevant pieces of literature about other groups and persons of other races other than African Americans who opposed the unequal treatment of African Americans throughout the segregation period. This component may be the subject of future investigation.

**Keywords:** Racial Segregation, Resistance Movement, White Supremacy, Unfair Treatment, Racial Discrimination

## **1. Introduction**

American scholars place a greater emphasis on employing developmental and non-discriminatory methodologies to explain social theories that have existed for a long time and are widely acknowledged and understood in the analysis of various attitudes and behaviors of African Americans. There aren't many such research and analyses because of the relatively long history and tiny literature on the black perspective on segregation. Equal legal protection for African Americans in

the United States is a critical prerequisite for the achievement, maintenance, and advancement of their human rights. From a social standpoint, the comprehensive and in-depth analysis of the black helps to deepen the study and understanding of social class and racial discrimination, to improve public awareness, to make segregation-related events that occurred after the abolition of slavery more known by people, to safeguard social on the immediate interests of the races, and to promote social harmony and development. This paper mainly studies why American society views the problem and behaves appropriately during segregation, discussed involving the black resistance movement, caused by white supremacist social unfair treatment of black races so serious and a rare point of view is that African Americans accept the white people and let them suffer unfair treatment. This paper employs the literature analysis method to investigate the various views and behaviors of society during this period by consulting a large number of pieces of literature and books on the issue of black segregation in American society, and collecting relevant materials, in order to provide different theories for this paper's research to aid in the in-depth study of the segregation period. The study of the black segregation system has significant practical and long-term implications for the study of American society. There are many black business entrepreneurs in the United States, yet their status in American culture is very low. Studying them will aid in the balancing of all classes' interests under the class rule.

## 2. Restrictions on African American Behavior During Segregation

When African Americans were discriminated against by whites during the segregation era, the main reason was that they were treated unfairly in social life, and the development of themselves and their descendants was severely hampered. African Americans are clearly segregated from whites in society and are not entitled to the same social benefits as whites. For example, they are not permitted to ride public transportation with whites or use the same public facilities as whites, and special buses and swimming pools are provided for African Americans. Between 1910 and 1920, Detroit's black population increased dramatically, and according to Olivier Zunz, the caste structure based on race relations and features that began to expand in the Detroit area in the nineteenth century became firmly entrenched [1].

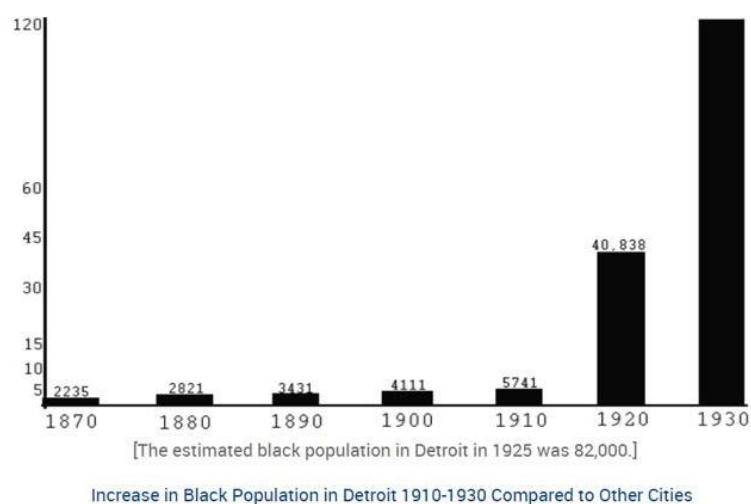


Figure 1 Black Population in Detroit, 1870-1930 (U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census)

Through contract limits and threats of violent life security, whites refused to prevent African Americans from relocating to white-focused communities. For example, in 1917, roughly 200 whites formed a violent and intimidating gang and pushed about 50 African Americans out of an apartment on Harper Avenue [2]. Thus, social exclusion plainly reflects the exclusion and discrimination of African Americans from housing, travel, and public places of activity.

### **3. Limitations on the Development of African Americans during the Segregation**

Apart from the unjust treatment of African Americans in social advantages, segregation also hampered their progress. Black and white students could not attend the same school and obtain the same education. They could only attend black children's special schools. Simultaneously, people from many sectors of life, such as school teachers, tell black children in numerous ways that they are doomed to be mediocre, unable to achieve the heights and achievements of white people, which limits the mental growth of African Americans [3]. Due to a lack of resources during the segregation era, black children had substandard education. Their schools were ill-equipped, teachers were few, and the education system was flawed. Parents' concerns and opinions were not acknowledged. This regular problem in the schooling of black children has established an entrenched impression in society that African Americans do not have great potential. Whites are hesitant to offer African Americans resources beyond basic schooling because they fear they are burdening black children with unneeded educational costs. African Americans were not allowed to study in the same educational setting as whites until segregation was abolished [4].

### **4. Reasons and Behaviors for Supporting the System of African American Segregation**

Martin Legassic's model of the relationship between white British and black South African acceptance of the causes of segregation in the twentieth century concluded that segregation was mobilized and formed to preserve the power of the white group, and that racial thinking was the main cause of segregation over and above racial differences [5]. And more social support for racial segregation in the United States because they have the idea of white supremacy, many years ago both sides of the plantation economy began to slave owners controlled by violent blows to legalese killing the black people physical, formation of the concept of curing, white people's cognition and ideas are correct, black people must obey the obedient. The strict thinking that developed over a century ago is difficult to change, and it has influenced the attitudes of multiple generations of white people. Whether it is the elite rich class, the working class, or regular impoverished white folks, they all have deeply ingrained attitudes and passionately insist on white supremacy [6]. Because of this inflexible idea, white people subconsciously discriminate against black people and refuse to receive the same social treatment as black people. Their prejudice and inequitable treatment of race are most visible in daily life, professional development, culture, and education. In terms of career advancement, white employers and white workers consistently prohibit blacks from gaining skilled employment, higher and better pay, treatment, and civil rights, and it is difficult for blacks to fight because doing so may cause more harm [7]. In terms of life and education, black people are not allowed to ride the same bus or swim in the same pool as white people, and most black children receive just a rudimentary education.

### **5. Causes and Actions Against the African American Segregation System**

In American society, the majority of those who fought apartheid were black. The other grounds against segregation were that it was morally wrong and unfair, much like the arguments against slavery were presented for moral reasons against organizations that discriminated against blacks. In

response to unfair social inequality, black people carried out some opposition movements, such as demonstrations, uprisings, or public statements by prominent persons. The announcement of Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson's campaign in 1984 stunned the black community and his followers across the country, having a significant impact on the anti-apartheid movement. Jesse Jackson began speaking out against apartheid in 1967, and his name appeared in newspapers as an opponent of apartheid. Jackson spoke at a number of black political conventions, promoting the black agenda and encouraging blacks to become more involved in local and international politics. He also condemned the US government's assistance to a white nationalist dictatorship [8]. Apart from criticism from prominent blacks such as Jesse Jackson, the anti-apartheid feelings had moved from the black community to white students and several religious organizations by 1980. These students and organizations boycotted the apartheid system in Seattle, Boston, and New York by striking courses and prohibiting American businesses from doing business with South African corporations [9]. Because of the decline of the plantation economy after the Civil War, blacks and whites continued to come to and settle in Memphis. By 1870, the black population had reached 40% to 50% of the total local population. Blacks and whites often competed for jobs and housing in this little community. For a better existence, the local blacks created an influential tiny black middle class and a sizable working class. Even in the 1880s, African Americans were eligible for the local Memphis city convention and the state convention, but restricted voting laws and violence prohibited organizers from re-electing African Americans [10].

## **6. African American Acceptance of the Causes and Practices of Segregation**

In terms of black opinions against apartheid, the majority of society is opposed by blacks and allied uprising movements. Some blacks have various perspectives toward apartheid's unjust treatment, and they accept whites' unfair treatment. Accept these people, let them be different from white people, because they don't know the truth of the matter, what they know is what social and historical tell them, they don't have access to the truth of the matter only observe social family tell them the information of these hurt the behavior of the black, so accept them [11]. The most essential reason James says such a completely different point of view to accept of damaging society is that he wants to gain the true fair is fair social cognition, social public perceive black and white as the same, they have the same potential, they can achieve the same success, not only is the social fair treatment. However, just battling against society and the apartheid system would not deliver the justice James desired, and such activity would also put his life in danger [12]. So, in a letter to his nephew, James advocated an entirely different viewpoint than the black mainstream of society: accept these innocent white folks.

## **7. Conclusion**

This paper primarily studied the American society for the reason of black attitudes held by segregation, and the corresponding behavior, listed under segregation blacks suffered unfair treatment, analyzes why the American society for or against segregation, and also studies the black people in the face of attitude and behavior of the system. It finds that blacks were treated unfairly in terms of growth and social treatment throughout this time period and that American society backed racial segregation because of the ideology of white supremacy. The majority of the opponents were African-Americans fighting for their civil rights. Others opposed segregation because they thought it was morally wrong. A minority number of black individuals accept unfair treatment because they believe white people are innocent. Because the event described in this paper occurred relatively recently, there is seldom literature on challenging the segregation system except for blacks, thus future research can focus on this aspect.

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