

Notes from *Scene on Radio*, "White Affirmative Action"

"So **in white families**, money travels very differently. It travels from parent to adult child in the form of some kind of assistance. Not a big trust fund, but it might be that I can give you a down payment on a home. I can help you with school, pay for it or give you some assistance - Buy your books. I can buy you a car so you can work while you're in school. I have a home that you can live in so you can save some money. I have social security. As you are making your ways and paying your bills, you don't have to take care of me and your father. **In families of color**, because of this history, money travels from adult child to parent."

Median white household today has 13 times the assets of the average black household.

Average white family headed by someone who never finished high school has more generational wealth than the average black household headed by someone with a college degree.

White Affirmative Action

1618 Headright

White Jamestown and other settlers given plots of 50 or 100 acres if they worked the land

1705 Freedom dues

White indentured servants receive 50 acres, 30 shillings, 10 bushels of corn, 1 musket after service

1705 Virginia Slave Codes

Slave owners can correct slaves by physical punishment and even kill them

Made it illegal for Black people to employ white people

1785 Land Ordinance Act

White settlers buy formerly Native American land, up to 1 sq mile (640acres) at \$1/acre

Set aside land for public education system, only for white children

1790 Naturalization Act – white only

"Any alien, being a free white person" can apply for citizenship having lived in US for 2 years

Excludes people of color

1830 Indian Removal Act

Moved Native American Tribes west so white settlers could obtain their land east of the Mississippi

1862 Homestead Act

Allows white people to claim land (160 acres for 5 years of residence)

Had to be a citizen (not for enslaved people)

Transferred 10% of all public land to white citizens

1865 13th Amendment – convict leasing

Amendment made involuntary servanthood illegal except within the penal system. States then entrap former slaves into slave labor through rampant false or excessive charges.

1882 Chinese Exclusion Act

First law prohibiting immigration of a specific ethnic group

1922 Thind v. US

Supreme Court ruled a man of Indian descent was unable to become a naturalized citizen under the Naturalization Act because he was not a white man. Legal definitions of 'white' based solely on 'common sense'

1934 HOLC / FHA

Home Owners Loan Corporation refinanced tens of thousands of mortgages. Federal Housing Administration insured long term mortgages. Both based on racial 'red lining' system, excluding black neighborhoods. Financed \$120 Billion in new housing, 98% went to white families.

1935 Social Security

Excluded domestic and agricultural jobs, primarily African American

1944 GI Bill

Education, mortgages subject to Jim Crow segregation, limiting opportunities for Black vets. \$95 Billion for (primarily white) veterans, vastly widened wealth and opportunity gaps between races

1946 Hill-Burton Hospital Construction, Simkins v. Cone

Private entities receiving federal funds, including hospitals, could exclude employees and patients on the basis of race

2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

\$130 million of federal funds, only 3% Hispanic / 3% Asian / 1.5% Black

From Robin DiAngelo's *White Fragility* (p. 31)

Ten richest Americans: 100% white

US Congress: 90% white

US governors: 96% white

Top military advisers: 100% white

President and vice president: 100% white

US House Freedom Caucus: 99% white

Current US presidential cabinet: 91% white

People who decide which TV shows we see: 93% white

People who decide which books we read: 90% white

People who decide which news is covered: 85% white

People who decide which music is produced: 95% white

People who directed the 100 top grossing films of all time: 95% white

Teachers: 82% white

Full time college professors: 84% white

Owners of men's professional football teams: 97% white