Policymaking Process: A Primary Source Case Study
Complexity of Civil Rights

- Political Freedoms (Voting, Elections)
- Economic Freedoms (Employment)
- Intellectual Freedoms (Education)
- Social Freedoms (Housing, Public Spaces, Transportation, Private Business Access)
Dallas Bus Station
Texas sign

WE SERVE WHITE'S only
NO SPANISH or MEXICANS
Jim Crow Laws
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WE WANT WHITE TENANTS IN OUR WHITE COMMUNITY
Types of Housing Segregation

- De Juris (by law) enacted and enforced by local and state governments (Black Codes), private communities
- De facto (by fact) encouraged and by private citizens and companies (refusal to sell or rent through personal or company policy)
“Over the past century, residential segregation in the United States has undergone two radical transformations. The first occurred between 1910 and 1960, as African-American migration to cities met with white hostility and produced massive ghettos in almost every major city.”
“The second transformation is still ongoing, according to recently released data from the 2010 census. Segregation has declined steadily from its mid-century peak, with significant drops in every decade since 1970. As of 2010, the separation of African-Americans from individuals of other races stood at its lowest level in nearly a century.”

“Fifty years ago, nearly half the black population lived in what might be termed a “ghetto” neighborhood, with an African-American share above 80 percent. Today, that proportion has fallen to 20 percent.”
Federal Government In-action

United States Government from 1780s to early 1900s took almost no action in building or monitoring residential housing as far as discrimination or funding.
World War I and Beyond

Funds and loans for shipbuilding industry to house workers during World War I leads to U.S. Housing Corporation
Great Depression (1929-1939)

- Programs initiated under Hoover in ‘31-32
- Federal Home Loan Bank System
- Reconstruction Finance Corporation
- Did not deal with discrimination but reflected increased economic influence of fed govt
Providing Debt Relief

- Home Owner’s Loan Corporation (HOLC) – refinanced homeowner mortgages with longer payment terms and lower interest rates
  - 1 out of every 5 mortgages in U.S.
  - Only for employed
  - 100,000 foreclosures

- Farm Credit Administration (FCA) – helped farmers refinance their mortgages
Larger Role under Roosevelt

- National Housing Act of 1934 establishes Federal Housing Administration (under Executive Branch) = insurance

- **National Housing Act** (1937) – subsidized loans for builders willing to build low-cost housing (replace slums)

- Federal Loan Agency – 1939 reorganization
World War II Ends in 1945

1942 Roosevelt had created National Housing Agency (NHA) by Executive Order [replaced by Housing and Home Finance Agency (HHFA) in 1947]

Where are we going to house all the veterans?

Housing Shortage!!!!!
The GI Bill

The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act, or GI Bill, helped returning soldiers

- Attend college
- Set up businesses
- Buy homes
Truman’s Domestic Program

Truman tried to continue FDR’s New Deal programs
- Expansion of Social Security
- Minimum wage from 40¢/hr to 75¢/hr
- Public housing
- Environmental and public works
- National health insurance
- Civil Rights Bill

Most rejected by Congress
Truman’s 1949 Housing Act

- Extended $1 billion in loans to cities to redevelop slums and blighted lands
- Reauthorized building of 800,000 low-rent public housing units
- Expanded loan programs

- In 1950 all programs cut back in scale and funding (gotta fight the Ruskies!!!)
Dwight D. Eisenhower

President from 1953 to 1960

Only Positive Action on Civil Rights: Enforcing Desegregation of Education
Eisenhower’s Conservative Measures

- Ended government price and rent controls
- Vetoed a school construction bill
- Cut aid to public housing
- Small tax reductions
- Ended the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC)
- Reduced aid to the TVA
Chief Justice, Earl Warren, and the Supreme Court took on many social issues, including: civil rights, freedom of the press, separation of church and state, and:

- **Due Process** – courts have to treat the accused fairly when trying a case
- **Reapportionment** – made the drawing of political districts more fair
States ignored the ’54 Brown decision, so Feds were sent in.
Little Rock, Arkansas 1957
Poverty During the 50s

- 1 in 5 Americans lived below the poverty line
- Michael Harrington wrote about them in *The Other America*
  - Single Mothers
  - Elderly
  - Minority Immigrants
  - Rural Americans
  - Appalachians
  - Native Americans
- African Americans made 51% of what whites earned
Decline of the Inner City

- Urban areas became home to poorer, less educated minorities
- **Urban Renewal Programs** designed to improve conditions by tearing down slums & building high-rise projects
1957 Civil Rights Act

- Lyndon B. Johnson, as Senate majority leader, guides the passage of this bill that deals largely with **voting rights**

- Many southern Democrats opposed Johnson and many Texan constituents send mail to Johnson over the bill
The New Frontier (1961-1963)

Kennedy’s agenda was known as the New Frontier. It focused on:

- Education
- Health Insurance
- Department of Urban Affairs
- Migrant workers

Congress did not approve much of it
March on Washington 1963

President Kennedy was pushing for a civil rights bill.

To show support, 500,000 African Americans went to Washington D.C.
March on Washington 1963
The event was highlighted by King's "I Have a Dream" speech in front of the Lincoln Memorial. August 28, 1963.
Assassination of JFK

- John F. Kennedy was shot in Dallas, Texas on Nov. 22, 1963

- **Lee Harvey Oswald**
  - Marxist
  - Spent time in the Soviet Union
  - Later killed by **Jack Ruby**

- **Warren Commission** – concluded that Oswald was the lone gunman
Lyndon Baines Johnson

- Vice President to JFK
- Sworn into office on Nov. 22, 1963
- From Texas hill country
- Graduated from Southwest Texas State Teachers College
- Served in World War II
LBJ’s Great Society

- Johnson wins election of 1964
- **Great Society** was LBJ’s vision of a more perfect and equitable society the US could become

**War on Poverty**
- Economic Opportunity Act
- Job Corps.
- VISTA
- Medicare and Medicaid
- Headstart
Civil Rights Act of 1964

- Banned segregation in public places such as restaurants, buses
Lyndon B. Johnson ’63-’68

- Pushed Civil Rights Act through Congress
- Passed more pro-civil rights laws than any other president
Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ)

- Civil Rights Act of ’64
- Civil Rights Act of ’68
- Voting Rights Act of ’65
- 24th Amendment banning poll taxes
Housing & Civil Rights

- September 1965
  Congress authorizes the new Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Robert Weaver heads HUD as first African-American cabinet member
- www.biography.com/
1960s Housing Policy Task

1) Groups of 2 or 3 conduct policymaking investigation

2) Review exhibits of various documents and identify & explain their relation to important government concepts listed in the guide

3) Return and obtain another exhibit, repeat

4) Complete the questions on their worksheet and be ready to share their findings in class
Example: HUD budget letter

**Concepts:**

**Bureacracy:** executive agency is requesting budget

**Power of Congress:** Congress determines spending

**Check & Balance:** Congress oversees funding of Executive agencies