

**Modern-Day Racial Segregation in the United States of America during the
Trump Administration
UNDERGRADUATE THESIS**



**UNIVERSITAS
ISLAM
INDONESIA**

Written by:

LALU MUH. SYAMAIDZAR TANDUR ALAM

20323248

**DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
FACULTY OF PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIO-CULTURAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM INDONESIA**

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Proposed to the Department of International Relations

Faculty of Psychology and Socio-Cultural Sciences

Universitas Islam Indonesia

As a partial fulfillment of requirement to earn

Bachelor Degree in International Relations



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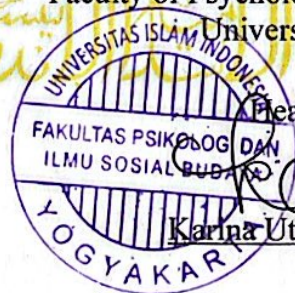
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Head of Department



Karina Utami Dewi, S.I.P., M.A.

Board of Examiners

- 1 Karina Utami Dewi, S.I.P., M.A.
- 2 Hangga Fathana, S.IP., B.Int.St., M.A.
- 3 Mohamad Rezky Utama, S.IP., M.Si.

Signature

Karina

Hangga Fathana

Mohamad Rezky Utama

STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

I hereby declare that this undergraduate thesis is the result of my own independent scientific work, and that all material from the work of others (in books, articles, essays, dissertations, and on the internet) has been stated, and quotations and paraphrases are clearly indicated.

No other materials are used other than those contained. I have read and understood the university's rules and procedures regarding plagiarism.

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18 January 2024,

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

COVER PAGE	i
AUTHORIZATION PAGE	iii
STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
LIST OF TABLES	vii
LIST OF GRAPHS	viii
LIST OF DIAGRAMS	ix
LIST OF PICTURES	x
LIST OF FIGURES	xi
ABSTRACT	xii
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	1
1.2	66
1.3	66
1.4 Research Scope	7
1.5	88
1.6	1010
1.7	1212
1.8	1212
<i>1.8.1</i>	1212
<i>1.8.2</i>	1313
<i>1.8.3</i>	1313
<i>1.8.4</i>	1313
1.9	1414
CHAPTER 2 FOUNDATIONS OF RACIAL SEGREGATION OF SPACE	15
2.1. Social Space and Alienation	15
Picture 1. Map of the Redlining Policy in Seattle, WA	18
Picture 2. Map of the Redlining Policy in Jacksonville, FL	19
2.2 Spatial Injustice	20
2.2.1	1220
2.2.2 <i>Resource Disparities</i>	21
Graph 1. Estimated U.S. Roadway Lane-Miles by Functional System	22

Graph 2. Proportion of U.S. Households Owning Vehicles by Racial Group	23
2.2.3 <i>Marginalization through Gentrification</i>	24
2.3 Abstract Space: Educational Disparities & Skill Mismatch	25
2.3.1 <i>Educational Accessibility in Abstract Space</i>	25
2.3.2 <i>Economic Marginalization in the Abstract Space</i>	27
Table 1. Distribution of Professional Occupations in the United States	29
CHAPTER 3 UNPACKING RACIAL SEGREGATION IN SPATIAL REALITIES	31
3.1. Triad of Spatial Analysis	31
3.1.1 <i>Economic Marginalization in the Abstract Space</i>	31
3.1.2 <i>Economic Marginalization in the Abstract Space</i>	32
Figure 1. Map of How the Redlining Policy Affects Modern-Day US Citizen’s Health	35
3.2. Dialectics of Space and Society	36
Figure 2. Denver Public Transport insecurity	38
Figure 3. Job Clusters Distribution	39
Figure 4. Ideally Distributed Jobs Based On Racial Elements vs. What Happened In Real Life	41
3.3. Government Policies	43
Diagram 1. Californian Population by Race	45
CHAPTER 4 CONCLUSION	50
4.1 Conclusion	50
Table 2. Conclusion of the Results of the Research Analysis	51
4.2 Recommendations	54
BIBLIOGRAPHY	56

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Distribution of Professional Occupations in the United States	29
Table 2. Conclusion of the Results of the Research Analysis	51

LIST OF GRAPHS

Graph 1. Estimated U.S. Roadway Lane-Miles by Functional System	22
Graph 2. Proportion of U.S. Households Owning Vehicles by Racial Group	23

LIST OF DIAGRAMS

Diagram 1. California Population by Race

45

LIST OF PICTURES

Picture 1. Map of the Redlining Policy in Seattle, WA	18
Picture 2. Map of the Redlining Policy in Jacksonville, FL	19

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Ideally Distributed Jobs Based On Racial Element vs. What Happened in Real Life	35
Figure 2. Denver Public Transport Insecurity	38
Figure 3. Job Clusters Distribution	39
Figure 4. Map of How the Redlining Policy Affects Modern-Day US Citizen Health	41

ABSTRACT

Racial Segregation is considered a relatively obsolete issue in many people's perspective. But in reality, it is an issue that is still ongoing in the United States today. In the era of President Trump's administration, a new rule was issued to overrule the previous administration's act that strengthened the Fair Housing Act of 1968. This caused the improvement of racially-motivated social justice in the US to stagnate. Although housing policies may be the primary focus of the problem of racial segregation, a complex network of other factors also contribute to this problem. The six measurements offered by the Theory of Mechanisms of Spatial Mismatch comprise these characteristics, and were utilized to formulate the study question: How did the factors of Spatial Mismatch Theory intersect to influence patterns of racial segregation in the United States during the Trump administration? The results of the analysis conducted based on these variables met all of the criteria, showing that there was modern-day racial segregation in the US during the Trump Administration.

Keywords: *Racial Segregation Dynamics, International Relations and Segregation, Trump Administration Policies Analysis, Urban Inequality Mechanisms, Systemic Factors of Racial Segregation, Inclusive Urban Policies Urgency.*

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Racial segregation has long been a significant issue in the United States. Enforced separation of racial or ethnic groups has resulted in one group having more advantages and resources than others. Segregation has caused disparities in educational opportunities, healthcare access, and economic mobility, among others. This problem has persisted for generations and has been shaped by historical, political, and economic factors that have contributed to the formation of segregated communities. The consequences of segregation have been severe and have had far-reaching impacts on American society (Massey 2004, 7–25).

The United State's modern-day racial segregation and discrimination crosses international borders and affects human rights worldwide. The continuance of racial segregation inside the US's boundaries resonates with the worldwide battle for social equity because it is based on the ideals of dignity, equality, and justice established in international human rights accords. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination clearly requires nations to end racial segregation, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights declares that discrimination based on race is against human rights.

Racial segregation's complicated nature and roots are sometimes overlooked in favor of a simplified association with the Jim Crow era and the legacy of racial persecution in the United States (David K. Fremon 2000). Although racial segregation has historical roots in the Jim Crow era and the age of racial chattel

slavery, its influence goes far beyond those particular time periods (Khanna and Matsumoto 2021). Segregation's complex forms and ongoing effects on modern society are missed when it is only seen through the prism of the past.

Contrary to common assumption, racial segregation in the nineteenth century was not a result of the labor system, as it is frequently linked with the southern states (Lassiter and Crespino 2010). Instead, it was predominantly a twentieth-century phenomena that was fueled by North-centric government policies. Although the Supreme Court case *Plessy v. Ferguson* is well-known for approving racial segregation in a variety of spheres of life, it did not establish an already-in-place system (*Plessy v. Ferguson* 1896).

In reality, *Plessy* was the result of a determined campaign to deny freedmen and their families the liberties and privileges enshrined in the Reconstruction Amendments that were passed after the Civil War (Thomas 1997). *Plessy* signaled the start of the Jim Crow era, which peaked several decades into the twentieth century, not the conclusion of an established system of racial apartheid.

Lynching serves as a somber reminder of the horrible racial terror of the Jim Crow era. Despite the fact that the Reconstruction era is frequently linked to racial violence, the Radical Republican Congress, presidents like Ulysses S. Grant, and others made significant progress in putting down nascent terrorist groups like the Ku Klux Klan through the passage of the Force Acts in the early 1870s and the use of federal military force (U.S. National Park Service 2021). It is crucial to keep in mind that the South was governed by the Freedmen's Bureau and subject to military occupation following the Civil War until the late 1870s (United States Senate 2017).

Segregation on the basis of race and economic class is no longer enough. It has developed into a ubiquitous force that significantly affects people's life chances by limiting access to the resources required for social and economic progress, including high-quality education, healthcare, employment prospects, and other resources (Rothstein 2017, 11). The persistence of segregation in America is evidence of the systemic and structural issues that are at the root of these injustices.

Recognizing segregation's significant impact on the allocation of resources and opportunities is necessary to comprehend the varied nature of segregation. It is a structural framework, not just the matter of where people live or work, that influences how likely it is that someone will succeed in life. Resources being concentrated in wealthy places prolong advantages for some while denying others access to the systems of support they need to grow and achieve.

Modern segregation has an impact on urban areas that extends beyond physical segregation; it fundamentally alters the social and economic landscape. Access to vital resources like high-quality education, healthcare, career prospects, and public services becomes drastically unequal as a result. As (Rothstein 2017, 10) stated “Individuals might experience long-lasting repercussions from growing up in racially and economically segregated neighborhoods, which can exacerbate already-existing inequities and restrict opportunities for upward mobility”.

The U.S. makes for an excellent case study to look at the effects of racial segregation due to its diversified population and complicated sociopolitical circumstances (US Census Bureau 2021). From 2017 through 2021, during the Trump administration, initiatives were made to combat segregation and advance inclusive housing practices. The distribution of wealth and income in the U.S. is

incredibly unequal, highlighting both the prevalence of poverty and the concentration of riches. This can be seen by the varied income between Black and White families in the US. The average net worth for Black families was reported to be \$60,973, where on the other hand, the average net worth for White families was sitting at a higher score at \$188,200 (Hutchful 2018).

Moreover, the effectiveness of the governments in combating segregation remains a topic of debate. In spite of the efforts made to address racial segregation, many challenges persist in the contemporary US. One of the most persistent challenges is the lack of affordable housing, which disproportionately affects communities of color (Harvard Law Review 2022). The excessive cost of housing in the US has led to homelessness and housing instability, pushing many families to live in cramped or inadequate homes which escalates the issue of racial segregation (Korver-Glenn 2021).

The continuation of the modern-day racial segregation, which is fueled by historical discriminatory policies, inadequate job opportunities between regions, and many more, is the issue that society faces today. Even though laws banning such practices were passed, their legacy remains today in the concentration of poverty and limited access to decent jobs and education in communities mostly inhabited by Black, Latinos, and immigrants (Massey and Denton 1990). Additionally, it is common for academics to contend that Trump administration initiatives, including the Preserving Community and Neighborhood Choice (PCNC) rule, fell short of adequately addressing the underlying cause of the modern-day racial segregation (NCRC 2021; McGann 2020, 4).

In 1968, a researcher name John F. Kain provided an analysis on the foundation of this issue in his research, which resulted in a theory called the Spatial Mismatch Theory' (Offner and Saks 1971, 183). According to his research, there is a mismatch between the skills and qualifications of the local workforce and the jobs that are accessible due to the spatial concentration of poverty and limited access to employment opportunities in segregated communities (Kain 1968, 176). Therefore, in addition to the social and political consequences of segregation, there are also significant economic consequences that must be considered when addressing this issue (McKinney 2021; Lipsitz 2009).

The spatial mismatch theory also suggests that segregation and its negative economic effects have been made worse by the US' chronic housing shortage (Council et al. 1990, 206). Due to the spatial mismatch between their skill set and the jobs available in the area, low-income inhabitants are not only compelled to live in increasingly segregated communities due to a lack of cheap housing options, but they also face limited economic opportunities (Zhou, Wu, and Cheng 2013, 1826). This emphasizes how crucial it is to address the US's affordable housing dilemma as a fundamental element of any plan meant to lessen residential segregation and encourage economic mobility.

This present research aims to address racial segregation, an ongoing and complex issue that requires immediate attention and effective strategies. It considers the six factors used to measure racial segregation stated in the theory of Mechanism of Spatial Mismatch in the US. This research also converts the quantitative components into qualitative insights in order to incorporate the econometric-based framework of employment spatial mismatch into a narrative

setting. It uses a wide range of sources to examine racial spatial mismatch through case studies, statistical trends, and expert perspectives. It then develops a thorough narrative that graphically illuminates the difficulties and effects of employment socio-geographical mismatch.

In the context of international relations (IR), this research uses a carefully selected case study methodology to concentrate on the US. Because it experiences social inequality and reflects worries about diversity around the world, the US is a useful microcosm with larger implications. This focused approach guarantees that the study stays closely related to the wider IR discourse and provides useful insights and lessons from the US perspective.

1.2 Research Question

How did the impact of racial segregation affect the widening gap of racial discrimination in the United States of America during the Trump Administration?

1.3 Research Objectives

According to recent studies, racial segregation remains a pervasive issue in the United States (Rothstein 2017). The objective of this thesis is thus to assess the factors influencing racial segregation to determine why it has happened in the US. The Trump administration's implementation of the PCNC rule aimed to address this issue by providing guidelines for local governments to combat segregation. However, the effectiveness of this and other policies in reducing segregation in the US have been questioned. Furthermore, cause and impacting factors that exist in the segregated communities themselves also allow segregation to linger (Schill 2018).

1.4 Research Scope

The thesis examines the problem of the modern-era racial segregation in the US from 2017 to 2021 under the Trump administration. The US's significance lies in its unique challenges of housing affordability and racial discrimination, particularly in metropolitan areas. The US has received more analytical and theoretical focus during the past several decades. This is not unusual, but rather illustrative of the metropolitan futures, to put it succinctly. In keeping with this, the country's metropolitan areas have a sizable immigrant population and great racial and cultural variety (these are now the country's primary destination for immigrants). These multiethnic metropolises offer us the population diversity we need to draw conclusions beyond binary comparisons such as black-white, native-born-foreign-born, and male-female, despite being distinct from other large metropolitan regions that have recently or in the past received large numbers of immigrants. As a result, the US offers the essential diversity of a necessary complexity of links between race, ethnicity, gender, home, and work.

The starting point is during Obama's presidency, when the administration introduced a number of policies to address issues related to the modern-day racial segregation, such as the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) rule (Department of Housing and Urban Development 2015). This policy required cities receiving federal housing funding to conduct assessments of their housing policies and provide plans to rectify any segregation-related issues (Henry 2016, 5–17). The Fair Housing Act (FHA) was also hoped to play a role in combating segregation, as it prohibits housing discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion,

sex, familial status, or disability (Department of Housing and Urban Development 2015, 42273)

Nonetheless, the AFFH was formally abolished while President Trump was in office. Some perceived this action as part of a plan to win over white, conservative suburban voters. Critics contend that this measure exacerbated racial differences and undercut efforts to reduce the effects of decades of racial segregation in American neighborhoods (Cathey 2020).

The Trump administration replaced the AFFH with a plan that more loosely defines the standard for fair housing as access to an affordable and safe residence. The decision was likely to have little immediate practical impact because the agency had already suspended enforcement of the rule in 2018. The plan by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) appeared to be aimed at stoking racial tensions during an election year.

1.5 Literature Review

In the US, segregation has long been a problem that affects the field of social justice. It is critical to use the knowledge offered by experts in the sector to comprehend the nuances of modern-day racial segregation. This literature review examines key works that shed light on the historical context and contemporary challenges of segregation, as well as the effectiveness of housing policies in addressing this issue.

Douglas S. Massey's seminal work, "American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass," offers a comprehensive analysis of the causes and consequences of residential segregation in the United States. In his research of the

structural causes of segregation, Massey looked at issues such as institutionalized racism, economic disparities, and discriminatory practices. A fundamental grasp of the larger processes of segregation and its effects on underprivileged populations can be gained from Massey's research (Massey and Denton 1990).

Richard Rothstein's book "The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How the US Government Segregated America" is another significant literary contribution. In his analysis, Rothstein looked at how racial segregation in housing is both caused and maintained by governmental actions. The systematic aspect of segregation is emphasized by Rothstein's research, which underlines the role played by governmental organizations in maintaining uneven housing opportunities. His writings provide an invaluable framework for comprehending the larger historical background of segregation in the US (Rothstein 2017).

The paper "The Mechanisms of Spatial Mismatch," by Laurent Gobillon, Harris Selod, and Yves Zenou, shed light on the difficulties experienced by low-income inhabitants in segregated neighborhoods while examining the variables to measure segregation. The authors examined a number of spatial mismatch-related issues, such as housing and employment prospects, emphasizing how concentrated poverty and restricted job access feed negative cycles. The research provides insightful viewpoints on the effects of housing segregation and its wider ramifications for socioeconomic mobility (Gobillon, Selod, and Zenou 2007).

By gathering important publications on racial segregation in the US, this literature review closes a significant research gap. The study also takes into account research on how low-income residents are affected by segregation, which adds to our understanding of housing equity and social justice in the US.

1.6 Research Framework

In the intricate tapestry of racial segregation, the Theory of Production of Space by Henri Lefebvre stands as a guiding light, illuminating the interconnected web of societal structures, political decisions, and spatial configurations. As we delve into the specifics of this framework, navigating through the chapters of our exploration, its relevance becomes increasingly profound.

Social Space and Alienation:

Within the context of historical roots, Social Space and Alienation becomes a lens through which we uncover how societal power dynamics have actively shaped spaces for distinct racial groups. Lefebvre's theory guides our examination of how these divisions are not accidental but intentional, leading to the alienation of marginalized communities within the spatial fabric of society (Lefebvre 1992, 80–84).

Spatial Justice:

Transitioning to an analysis of government policies and political actors, Spatial Justice emerges as a critical dimension. Lefebvre's framing of the state as a central player in space production allows us to scrutinize policies and actions through the lens of justice. This component of the framework becomes indispensable in evaluating how governmental decisions contribute to or challenge racial segregation, focusing on equitable resource distribution and access (Lefebvre 1992, 377–79).

Abstract Space:

As we explore the altered conceptualization of space, driven by functionality and financial objectives, Abstract Space assumes prominence.

Lefebvre's critique of reducing space to economic or functional dimensions aligns with the transformations witnessed in the Trump era policies. This facet of the framework helps us dissect how abstract notions of space, divorced from the lived realities of marginalized communities, contribute to enduring racial disparities (Lefebvre 1992, 53–59).

Triad of Spatial Analysis:

Moving into the realms of racial segregation's impact, the Triad of Spatial Analysis offers a nuanced understanding of historical roots, especially through phenomena like redlining. The theory's triadic approach—perceived, conceived, and lived space—guides our exploration, unraveling the layers of how spatial perceptions, official planning, and actual experiences intersect (Lefebvre 1992, 31–33).

Dialectics of Space and Society:

In dissecting the impact of contemporary policies, Dialectics of Space and Society becomes our analytical core. This dimension reveals how Trump era policies have led to modern-day racial segregation, unraveling the intricate interplay of social relations, political decisions, and spatial arrangements (Lefebvre 1992, 85-92,99-105).

Spatial Dynamics and Everyday Realities:

Zooming into the consequences of low-level education and spatial mismatch, Spatial Dynamics and Everyday Realities brings to light the lived experiences of marginalized communities. This lens allows us to understand not only the impact on work dynamics but also how these factors reverberate into the

everyday lives of individuals, creating salary gaps and affecting behaviors beyond the workplace (Lefebvre 1992, 230–33).

The Theory of Production of Space is not a static theoretical construct. It is a dynamic guide, a compass that could steer us through the complexities of racial segregation, providing insight into historical injustices, contemporary policies, and the profound interconnections between societal structures, political decisions, and the spaces we inhabit. Through this comprehensive framework, we embark on an in-depth exploration of racial segregation's multifaceted dimensions.

1.7 Provisional Argument

Racial segregation remains a deeply entrenched issue in the United States, leading to disparities in education, healthcare, and economic mobility. Communities with separated demographics have formed as a result of this issue, which has historical, political, and economic foundations. The US still faces issues, as historical discriminatory practices continue to support residential segregation notwithstanding Trump's presidency. Based on the Production of Space Theory, which posits that the spaces created by historical and Trump era policies impact a mismatch on the social and urban structure (especially for marginalized communities) , this thesis argues that racial segregation in the US was still happening during the Trump administration from 2017 to 2021.

1.8 Research Method

1.8.1 Type of the Research

In this study, the authors used qualitative research methodology to find

research data. Qualitative research is a kind of literature-based research that prioritizes description and analysis.

1.8.2 Subject and Object of the Research

In this study, the research subject is the event of Racial Segregation, while the object of this research is the Trump's administration.

1.8.3 Method of Data Collection

This research is based on a literature study which consists of primary and secondary methods. In the primary method, the author examined the Official website of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Census Bureau, which includes census data, employment statistics, and housing market information. In the secondary method, the author collected and selected articles, journals, and books that were in line with the event of racial segregation in the US as research topics to help complete this research. The author also selected information published in the mass media, news, and internet, if the source could be proven reliable.

1.8.4 Process of the Research

The research process was carried out by selecting data based on reliable sources such as journals, books, articles, reports. For the data collection carried out in this research process, the primary source was the official report according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the secondary source was taken from news, reports, and other research studies. In the research process, the researcher also ensures whether the answers obtained have clear sources to quote. The researcher also selects the source of the research process following the topic in

question in the research so that the formulated problem can be easily answered and be understood.

1.9 Thesis Outline

In Chapter 1, the author explains how the background, objectives, significance, scope of the research, literature review, theoretical basis, provisional arguments, and methods used by the author support the research. These aspects are the opening information in this research.

Chapter 2 analyzes the Foundations of Racial Segregation in Space. Illuminating the factors that caused racial segregation in the US during the Trump administration.

Chapter 3 analyzes the Unpacking Racial Segregation in Spatial Realities. Showing the impact of the context discussed in chapter 2, which leads to the situation of modern-day racial segregation.

Chapter 4 presents the conclusion and recommendations of the research.

CHAPTER 2

Foundations of Racial Segregation of Space

In this chapter, the author delved into the intricate discussion on how the foundation of modern-day racial segregation is engraved in US society. To understand WHY the phenomenon of racial segregation happened in the US, we must first acknowledge the important factors that build this foundation. Analyzed through the lens of the Production of Space by Henri Lefebvre, there are three frameworks that could be used as a tool to understand the context of racial segregation in the US. These includes:

- Social Space and Alienation: Explained the historical roots and context of racial segregation in the US.
- Spatial Justice: Highlights government policies and the action of the Trump administration as the main political actor.
- Abstract Space: A situation where it alters the conceptualization of space and conditions to bring up the specific need on functionalities and financial gain of the policy maker.

2.1 Social Space and Alienation

The idea of Social Space and Alienation functions as a crucial lens through which to understand the complex web of social relationships, power dynamics, and alienation within the context of racial segregation during the Trump administration within the theoretical framework of the Production of Space. Social space refers to the spatial manifestation of social relationships (Lefebvre 1992, 68–70).

It entails examining how racialized communities occupy, interact, and coexist within particular locations in the context of racial segregation. Understanding the social fabric of neighborhoods and taking into account elements like interpersonal relationships, social institutions, and community involvement are necessary for properly analyzing social space. According to the Production of Space theory, alienation entails feeling cut off from or estranged from particular places (Lefebvre 1992, 370).

This could seem as marginalized communities feeling cut off from or excluded from places that have economic, social, or cultural significance when it comes to racial segregation. Examining the historical elements that lead to specific racial groups' exclusion from specific areas is necessary for the analysis of alienation. That is why, Redlining is absolutely necessary to begin the analysis of modern-day racial segregation in the US.

Redlining is the practice of discriminating against people who reside in minority communities, shown by a red line. This prejudice may be motivated by statistical or pure discrimination. It is important to note that discrimination in the housing market can also take the shape of prejudice in loans, mortgages, insurance, and the screening process for housing units. Additionally, institutional land use constraints like zoning laws that set minimum lot sizes to keep low-income minorities from relocating to White suburban neighborhoods may constitute indirect restrictions on the residential choices of Black families (Gobillon, Selod, and Zenou 2007, 2405).

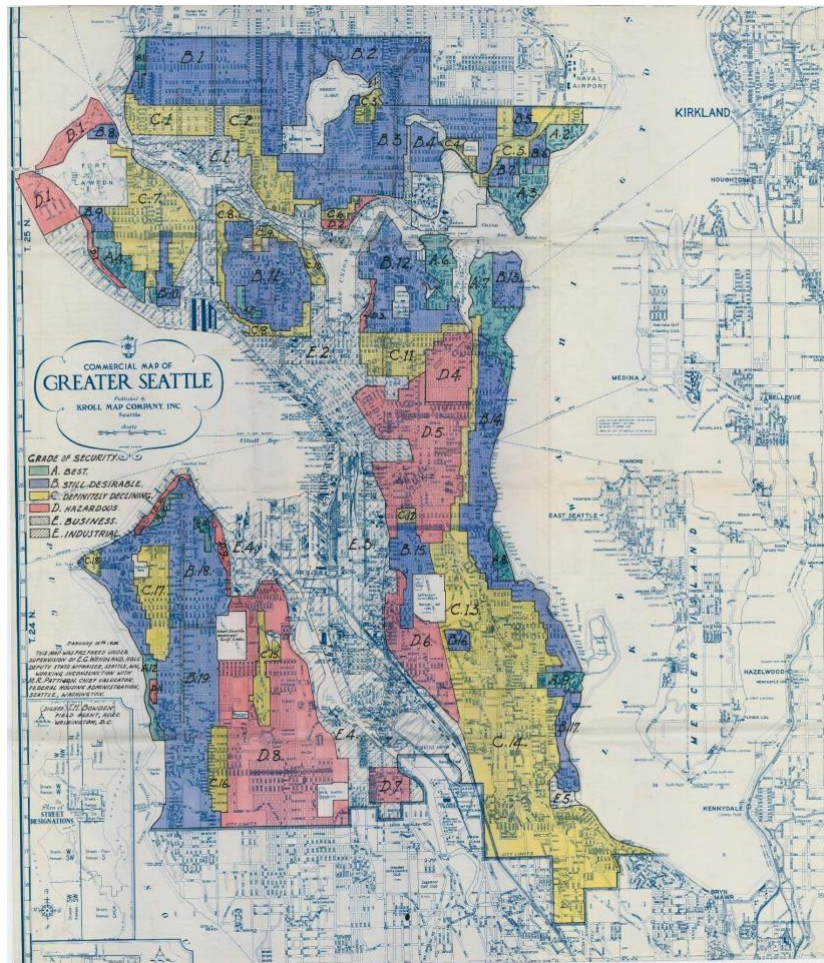
In an effort to stop foreclosures and increase the affordability of renting and owning a home, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the Home Owners'

Loan Act and the National Housing Act into law in 1933 and 1934, respectively, during the height of the Great Depression (Parrish 1994, 35). In order to accomplish these goals, the newly established Home Owners Loan Corporation (HOLC) developed maps to evaluate the risk of refinancing mortgages and established new guidelines for federal underwriting (Glock 2016, 6). These maps were used by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) to choose the regions where it would provide mortgage insurance. But HOLC maps based their assessment of risk in part on the racial make-up of a neighborhood, labeling these regions as hazardous and painting them red (Gotham 2000, 1534).

Redlining was a practice that prevented people of color, primarily Black people, from accessing federal underwriting and mortgage refinancing possibilities while maintaining the idea that people of color were financially hazardous and a threat to local property values. As a result, nonwhite families received just 2% of the \$120 billion in FHA loans distributed between 1934 and 1962 (Rothstein 2017, 67).

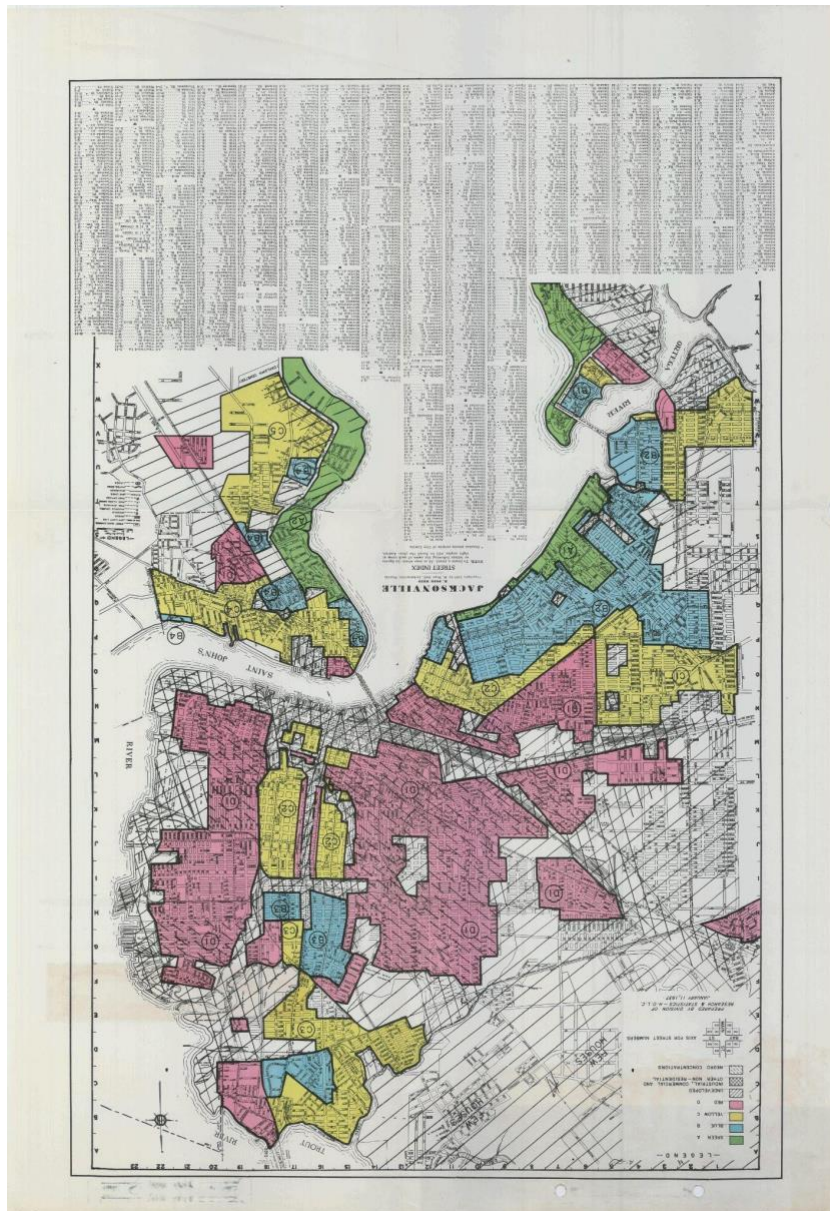
In 2019, more than 60% of the neighborhoods that the HOLC classified as "hazardous" in the 1930s still have poor to moderate income and 74% of them are primarily nonwhite (Hollenbach et al. 2021; Egede et al. 2023). In conclusion, federal action and investment has hampered wealth creation in black areas while increasing homeownership and affordable housing for countless white families. Picture 1 and 2 depicts how areas were redlined in the past.

Picture 1. Map of the Redlining Policy in Seattle, WA



Source: University of Richmond (Mejía 2022)

Picture 2. Map of the Redlining Policy in Jacksonville, FL



Source: University of Richmond (Mejía 2022)

Deciphering the historical background of Redlining is essential to understand the evolution of spatial alienation. Marginalized populations experience spatial estrangement as a result of systemic prejudices, discriminatory practices, and historical injustices. By examining this historical layer, we can see how spatial inequality still exists and learn more about the long-term effects of this policy.

2.2 Spatial Injustice

An examination of the Trump administration's actions via the theoretical framework of Henri Lefebvre's Production of Space reveals a startling reality: the recurrence and reinforcement of racial segregation through spatial injustice.

2.2.1 *Selective Urban Development*

A pattern of selective investment is evident when analyzing the spatial dynamics of urban development during the Trump administration. Policies that prioritized some communities over others helped to solidify already-existing racial inequities. Spatial inequality was made worse by the distribution of resources and infrastructure projects, which tended to disproportionately benefit mostly White communities.

In August 2020, the PCNC rule was released (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 2021, 23). This rule eliminated the majority of HUD grantees' obligations to address fair housing issues and redefined the word "fair housing" in addition to rescinding the 2015 Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) rule.

Grantees must "actually promote fair housing" in order to comply with the PCNC regulation, which recognized that compliance "requires more than simply not discriminating" (HISTORY 2018). Critics counter that this threshold was not met in the rule's execution . Rather, it made way for laws and procedures that strengthened racial segregation.

To reinstate meaningful execution of the Fair Housing Act's AFFH provision, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published

an interim final rule (IFR) in June 2021 titled Restoring Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Definitions and Certifications (HISTORY 2018). The PCNC rule, which was in conflict with both statutory requirements and established court precedent, was repealed by the IFR (The Guardian 2020).

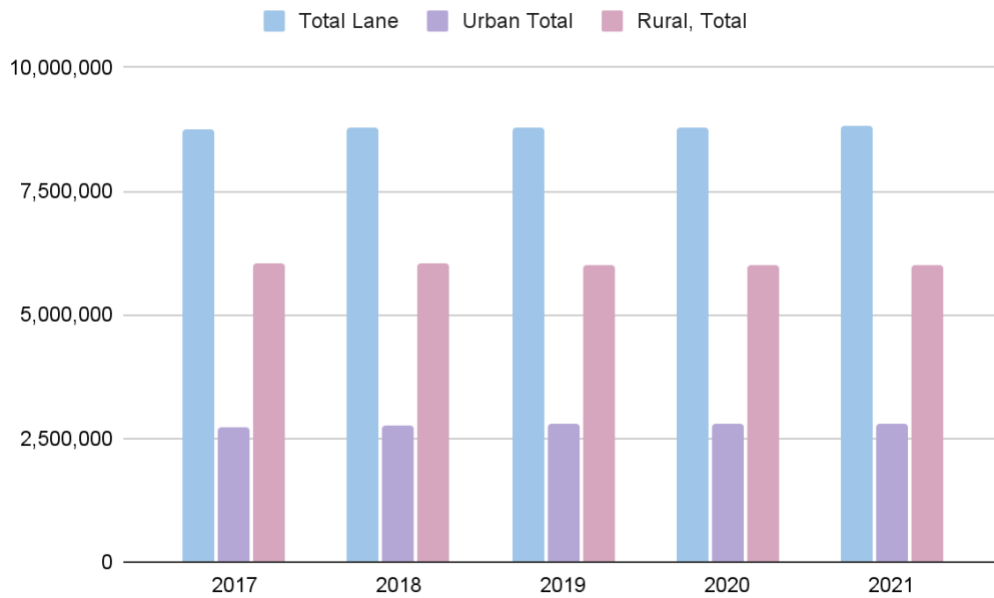
The National Low Income Housing Coalition's president, Diane Yentel, called Carson's justification for repealing the rule "nonsense." She even tweeted that the Fair Housing Act aimed to reverse years of social engineering involving discriminatory housing practices that resulted in segregated neighborhoods. "Shameful for a HUD Sec to be so willfully ignorant of (housing) history and so disdainful of his obligation to uphold law." (A. B. C. News and Flaherty 2020) The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law's president and executive director, Thomas Silverstein, referred to it as a "full-frontal assault on the rule of law and an insult" to the groups and others who spoke out against the action. "The civil rights movement will fight this tooth and nail," he declared in a statement (A. B. C. News and Flaherty 2020).

2.2.2 *Resource Disparities*

For many years, the federal government has funded roads almost four times more than it has for public transportation, including buses and subways. The ecology, racial and economic fairness, and other issues are affected by this policy decision. The road network will inevitably continue to grow as a result of federal funding for highways being directed toward public transit, which will inevitably result in resource restrictions that will affect public transportation systems' ability to operate (Paul and Taylor 2021).

The amount of road space in the United States, expressed in lane miles, increased by 9% between 1990 and 2020 (U.S. Department of Transportation 2023). A single road lane spanning a mile is equivalent to one lane mile. Consequently, a 20-mile stretch of a two-lane roadway is also 40 lane-miles, as is a 10-mile length of a four-lane roadway.

Graph 1. Estimated U.S. Roadway Lane-Miles by Functional System



Source: U.S. Department of Transportation (2023)

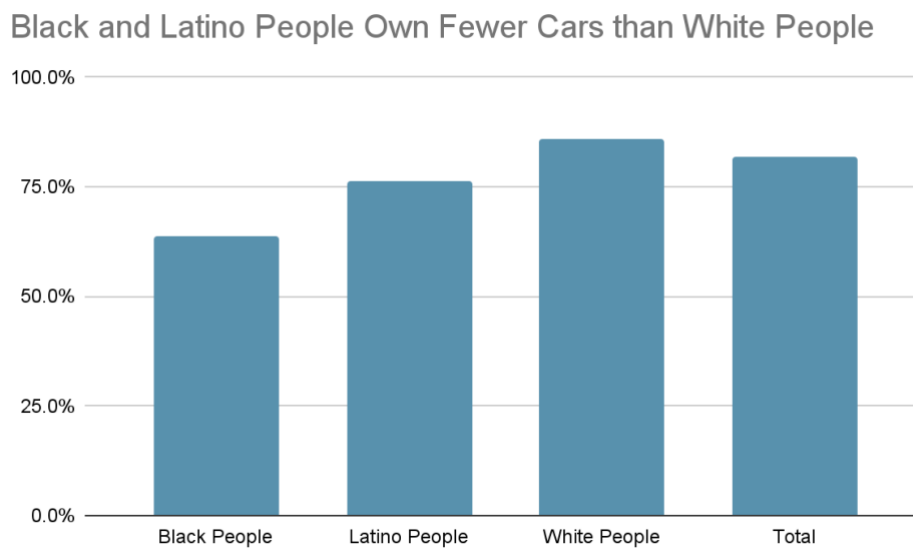
However, the sharp increase in urban roads is hidden by this total figure. Over this time, the total area of urban roadways increased by almost 67%, and, more specifically, the area of urban interstate highways increased by nearly 73%, while the entire area of rural roadways decreased by around 6% (Sen 2022). Urban sprawl has been subsidized by federal subsidies for transportation.

In the meantime, the backlog of maintenance and repairs for public transportation systems has been estimated by various sources to be between \$90 and \$176 billion (American Public Transportation Association 2023). The current

federal infrastructure legislation has allocated \$39 billion in additional money for transportation, which is less than half of the lower estimate of this maintenance backlog (and less than a quarter of the higher estimate).

Naturally, those without a personal car—roughly 18% of all families in the United States—are marginalized in a society where having a vehicle is necessary for even the most basic personal mobility. For some people, the level of exclusion might even be substantially worse.

Graph 2. Share of U.S. households owning vehicles by racial group



Source: (U.S. Census Bureau 2019)

According to U.S. Census Bureau data shown above, the percentage of households that own a personal automobile is significantly lower for persons of color than for white people. In 2019, compared to roughly 82% of all families and 86% of White households, only two-thirds of Black households owned cars (U.S. Census Bureau 2019).

2.2.3 *Marginalization through Gentrification*

Urban policies have been a major driver of gentrification, which has turned into a tactic used to uproot traditionally oppressed groups. The forced movement of minority communities resulted in the disruption of established neighborhoods and the promotion of racial segregation. This was caused by policies that supported upmarket construction and disregarded inexpensive housing solutions.

Trump's policy that exacerbated the problem of marginalization is also shown on Robert Manduca's paper, "The Spatial Structure of U.S. Metropolitan Employment." He discovered that rather than being centralized, employment is spatially concentrated in American urban centers. Job opportunity is bimodal, with very few blocks having very high employment densities and the majority having no jobs at all. About 75% of occupations in the 100 largest MSAs have been found to be on the 6.5% of constructed land in Census blocks where there are at least twice as many jobs as persons (Manduca 2021, 1358). Despite the wide variations in the physical density at which cities are built, these relative proportions are remarkably constant across them. This shows that while it is true that Trump administration policies aim to create more job opportunity, at the same time it is discouraging minorities to reside not on urban or city center area, because that is where the jobs are located.

Within these findings, we all now should realize that the policies of the Trump administration emerge as active agents in the perpetuation of racial segregation. By perpetuating spatial injustices through selective urban development, resource disparities, discriminatory practices, gentrification, and barriers to equal opportunities, these policies have left a lasting imprint on the

spatial landscape, deepening racial divides and hindering progress toward a more just and equitable society.

2.3 Abstract Space: Educational Disparities & Skill Mismatch

Abstract space, as used in Henri Lefebvre's "The Production of Space," is a conceptual space that is isolated from social practices, lived experiences, and local specifics. It's a space that's frequently boiled down to functional and economic terms, ignoring the wide range of ways individuals use and perceive it. Lefebvre criticizes the simplifying of space to an abstract idea, contending that this might result in a disregard for the social, cultural, and subjective aspects of space. In this way, abstract space tends to overlook the social behaviors and ordinary life that give space its meaning in favor of economy, efficiency, and usefulness (Lefebvre 1992, 56–57).

By using the abstract space lens to analyze skill mismatch and low education levels, we can investigate how practices that prioritize abstract and quantitative factors may fail to take into account the complex educational requirements of particular populations. It entails looking at how the varied and contextualized realities of various settings and communities might not line up with abstract ideas of skill requirements or educational goals.

2.3.1 Educational Accessibility in Abstract Space

Abstract space, as conceptualized by Lefebvre, allows us to transcend the immediate economic dimensions of educational disparities. It unveils an abstract spatial architecture where educational opportunities are not uniformly distributed (Lefebvre 1992, 207–10). This spatial aspect contributes to the perpetuation of skill

mismatch as certain communities find themselves in spaces with limited access to quality education.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which was first passed in 1965, was reauthorized in 2015 and became the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). ESSA limited federal meddling in state education decision-making while allowing states some leeway in matters of accountability (Brown Department of Education 2020).

The federal government's strategy for putting ESSA into effect changed under the Trump administration. When states tried to get clearance for their ESSA plans, the administration adopted a very deferential stance (Wallach and Kennedy 2022). This indicates that rather than offering strict supervision or guidance, the federal government mostly respected the state-level decisions regarding the application of ESSA.

This strategy implies that the federal government's engagement in K–12 education policy changed during the Trump administration, moving away from emphasizing oversight and equity. It's possible that certain communities found themselves in situations where they had less access to high-quality education as a result of the decision to place less emphasis on monitoring and equity. This is because states might not be held responsible for guaranteeing fair access to high-quality education for all pupils in the absence of robust federal oversight. Furthermore, policies might not be created or carried out with an emphasis on equity in a way that guarantees all students—especially those from underrepresented groups—have access to the tools and opportunities they require to achieve.

The issue still exists despite the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) lobbying Congress to provide districts and schools with resources for educators to advocate for increased funding for professional development under Title II, Part A of ESSA, as well as support in building educators' capacity to ensure that effective practice is supported (Wong 2020). While governments may have broader priorities, advocacy groups focus on localized needs. Contrasts arise when policies neglect specific communities, leading to spatial disparities.

If the educational prospect is neglected like these findings, it could lead to a situation where in the long term, these students who came from marginalized communities suffer a skill mismatch situation. Which will be explained in the next subsection.

2.3.2 *Economic Marginalization in the Abstract Landscape*

The understanding of abstract space highlights the consequences of skills mismatch on the economy. It exposes a spatial hierarchy in which the skill levels of the occupants make some communities or types of people more commercially feasible (Lefebvre 1992, 230–31). Communities that experience a mismatch in skills frequently find themselves in liminal situations denoted by economic exclusion.

In the US, skill mismatch is a major challenge, especially for Black Americans and other minority groups. This problem persisted and in some cases even got worse under the Trump administration (Mitchell 2021). A skill mismatch occurs when a worker's abilities do not match those needed for the employment available in their field (Gobillon, Selod, and Zenou 2007, 2402). People may not be

able to locate occupations that fit their skill set or they may be working in positions that do not fully utilize their skills, which can result in underemployment or unemployment. This talent mismatch can be made worse for Black Americans and other minority groups by a number of different circumstances. These circumstances consist of unequal access to educational opportunities, discrimination in the workplace, and residential segregation that may restrict employment prospects (Bertrand and Mullainathan 2003).

The study "Geographical Skills Mismatch, Job Search and Race" by Michael A. Stoll investigated whether there is a mismatch in geographic skills between high-skill job concentrations and the locations of less educated minorities, especially African Americans. The study shows that comparable Blacks and Latinos have a regional skills mismatch with less educated Whites (Stoll 2005, 707). Less educated Blacks and Latinos tend to look for work in areas with higher concentrations of high-skill jobs, while similarly qualified White workers tend to look for work in areas with lower levels of these concentrations due to racial housing segregation and the higher share of high-skill jobs near Black and Latino residences (Han 2016, 20). Nevertheless, additional data shows that the less educated Black and Latino population's private search behavior does not compensate for this mismatch. These results support the hypothesis that minority workers' regional spatial search patterns appear to be concentrated around their residential areas, in part due to the higher expenses (relative to Whites) associated with expanding their geographic search (Stoll 2005, 699).

In the Trump administration, based on extracts from the Economic Policy Institute Current Population Survey that was conducted in 2019, the information in

the table below clearly illustrates the current disparity in Black and Latino workers' representation in professional occupations as a whole. However, there remains a disparity in the distribution of Black and Latino professionals across professional occupational groupings (Kassa, Wilson, and Miller 2021, 2). Examples of professions with much greater rates of Black and Latino professional representation are community and social services, although legal professions trail well below the overall professional workforce for both groups. Notable is the stark underrepresentation of Black professionals in the physical, social, and biological sciences, as well as in architecture and engineering.

Table 1. Distribution of Professional Occupations in the United States

	White	Black	Latino
Total workforce	61.4%	12.8%	17.4%
All professionals	70.5%	10.0%	9.8%
Management occupations	72.5%	8.9%	10.8%
Business and financial operations occupations	69.7%	9.7%	9.1%
Computer and mathematical science occupations	64.0%	10.5%	8.9%
Architecture and engineering occupations	69.5%	5.9%	8.1%
Life, physical, and social science occupations	67.6%	6.0%	8.7%
Community and social service occupations	60.8%	20.5%	12.8%
Legal occupations	79.8%	6.9%	6.2%
Education, training, and library occupations	73.8%	10.0%	9.7%
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	71.6%	8.2%	12.0%
Health care practitioner and technical occupations	69.3%	10.9%	6.9%

Source: US Census Bureau (2019)

These findings clearly show that essentially, the abstract space view in the context of skill mismatch draws attention to the spatial features of economic inequities as well as their magnitude, highlighting the need for more sophisticated and context-sensitive approaches to workforce development.

As we conclude this exploration of the second chapter, the intricate dance between historical roots and context, as elucidated through the concept of alienation and social space, unveils the profound cause on racial segregation. The narrative delves into the intricate policies, unraveling not only patterns of ignorance but also the persistent segregation that defies conventional expectations. As we navigate the complexities of skill mismatch, cultivated by education disparities within the conceptual framework of abstract space, a spatial hierarchy emerges, perpetuating economic marginalization. This chapter sets the stage for Chapter 3, where we will scrutinize the impacts that are caused by all these pretexts, bringing us closer to understanding the "how" of modern-day racial segregation in the United States.

CHAPTER 3

Unpacking Racial Segregation in Spatial Realities

In this chapter, the author analyzes the “how” of racial segregation based on the Production of Space by Henri Lefebvre. The complex network of the impacts of racial segregation in the US under President Trump's presidency are explored in this chapter. The author intends to offer a thorough grasp of the complex nature of racial segregation throughout this time through this investigation.

3.1. Triad of Spatial Analysis

The Triad of Spatial Analysis offers a comprehensive framework for comprehending space that goes beyond its physical characteristics by taking into account the three dimensions (which will be discussed later). It recognizes that perceptions, plans, and lived experiences are intricately entwined with the reality of space, which extends beyond its physical manifestation (Lefebvre 1992, 33).

3.1.1 Perceived Space

The instantaneous, sensory experience of the physical world is known as perceived space. It's how people use their senses—sight, hearing, touch, and smell—to directly experience and interpret the spaces around them (Lefebvre 1992, 38, 194–203). Perceived space in the context of racial segregation refers to how people of different races view and interact with areas around them. This could include the environment in general, the existence of cultural symbols, and the sense of safety or threat.

In the previous chapter, we examined Social Space and Alienation, delving into the intricate cause of racial segregation. With the theoretical framework in place, we can now apply the right lens to analyze specific situations of seen space. We investigate perceived space in a variety of urban contexts, using the

fundamental concepts from Chapter 2's Social space and Alienation as a context. A deep understanding of the subtleties inherent in spatial arrangements can be gained by applying Lefebvre's triad and the relationship between societal history context to extract the spatial configurations.

The legacies left by the government policies of Redlining shapes how space is perceived differently between communities and races. The labeling of urban areas home to communities of color as "hazardous", has had lasting impacts in the US. The practice is now illegal, but has contributed to persistent racial segregation and disparities. This has altered people's perceptions of these areas, often associating them with decline and disinvestment (Berkley and Letzing 2020).

3.1.2 Conceived Space & Lived Space

The planned dimension of space is known as conceived space. It deals with the codified concepts, plans, and depictions of space used by organizations, legislators, urban planners, and other governing bodies. Whereas lived space is the subjective, everyday experience of space by individuals or communities. It's the space as it is inhabited, used, and interpreted in daily life, shaped by routine practices and activities (Lefebvre 1992, 38–39). Examining lived space in racial segregation involves understanding the daily experiences of individuals from different racial backgrounds. It includes how they move through and interact with spaces, the challenges they face, and the impact of spatial arrangements on their quality of life.

Government initiatives have been targeted for fostering racial division in the US during the Trump administration. For example, the Trump administration's National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) methodically reduced employees' ability

to organize unions and participate in collective bargaining. The Labor Department branch that investigated discrimination against federal contractors was going to be abolished by the Trump administration (McCaskill 2020). In addition, the Trump administration outlawed conversations pertaining to gender and race—two essential ideas in diversity education (McCaskill 2020). Last but not least, segregation was strengthened by the Trump administration's new housing regulations.

According to Gobillon and colleagues' Spatial Mismatch Hypothesis (SMH), low-skilled minorities living in inner cities in the United States have poor labor market results because they are cut off from suburban job prospects (Gobillon, Selod, and Zenou 2007, 2418). This notion was supported by a large body of empirical research that was sparked by this assumption.

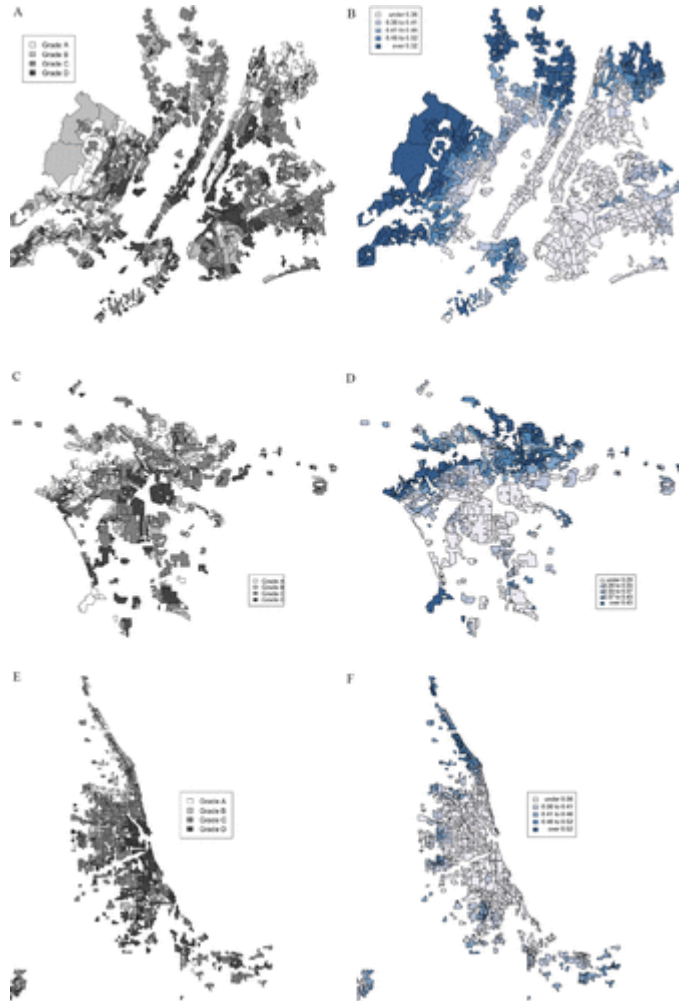
According to data, segregation increased in over 80% of the country's major cities between 1990 and 2019 (Semuels 2021). According to FBI data, there has also been an unusual upsurge in hate crimes since Trump's election, with the majority of these offenses occurring in counties where he won with greater percentages. From the available data which spans over 25 years, it was the second-largest surge in hate crimes, surpassed only by the spike following September 11, 2001 (Williamson and Gelfand 2019).

The impact of policymaker's interests mandailing among the historically segregated community does not end here. The study titled "Redlines and Greenspace: The Relationship between Historical Redlining and 2010 Greenspace across the United States," conducted by researchers from the University of California (UC) Berkeley–UC San Francisco (UCSF) Joint Medical Program, UC Berkeley School of Public Health, and UCSF School of Medicine, provides a

compelling analysis of the relationship between historical redlining practices and present-day urban green spaces. Released in 2021, this research shows critical insights into how discriminatory housing policies from the past continue to influence the distribution and quality of green spaces in urban areas across the United States. In this study, the research utilized the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), a remote sensing measure that assesses the presence of live green vegetation within an area. They applied this index to urban areas in Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York City that had been previously graded by the HOLC. The HOLC, a government agency established in the 1930s, categorized neighborhoods into four grades based on their perceived “mortgage security,” a practice that resulted in discriminatory redlining.

Figure 4. Map of How the Redlining Policy Affects Modern Day US Citizens

Health



Source: UC Berkeley (2021)

The study's visual data is presented in two sets of images for each metropolitan area. The first set (A, C, E) represents the HOLC grades assigned to each area. The second set (B, D, F) illustrates the NDVI quintiles for 2021, with deeper shades of blue indicating higher levels of vegetation (Nardone et al. 2021, 5).

These results unequivocally show that the Trump administration's policies have a significant negative impact. This has ramifications for minority communities

residing in these locations in terms of health hazards and economic mobility, and it also aligns with the larger context of IR regarding racial discrimination. Because of these practices, racial segregation is maintained, which transcends national boundaries and becomes a global problem. Global concerns are raised by the unequal distribution of opportunities and resources as well as the ensuing health disparities that are a result of these spatial strategies. The substantial differences in living circumstances across racial groups inside a country serve as a prism through which the international world perceives concerns about equality and human rights. The entanglement of local policies with international relations becomes more evident as we explore the influence of the conceived space which leads to space that they lived in, highlighting the relationship between spatial impacts and discourses on global equity and human rights.

3.2. Dialectics of Space and Society

A strong framework for examining the effects of racial segregation is provided by Dialectics of Space and Society, particularly when considering the government's inequitable spatial policies. With the use of this framework, which explores the reciprocal relationships between power dynamics, societal institutions, and physical configurations, racial segregation was maintained in a sophisticated manner (Lefebvre 1992, 90–92).

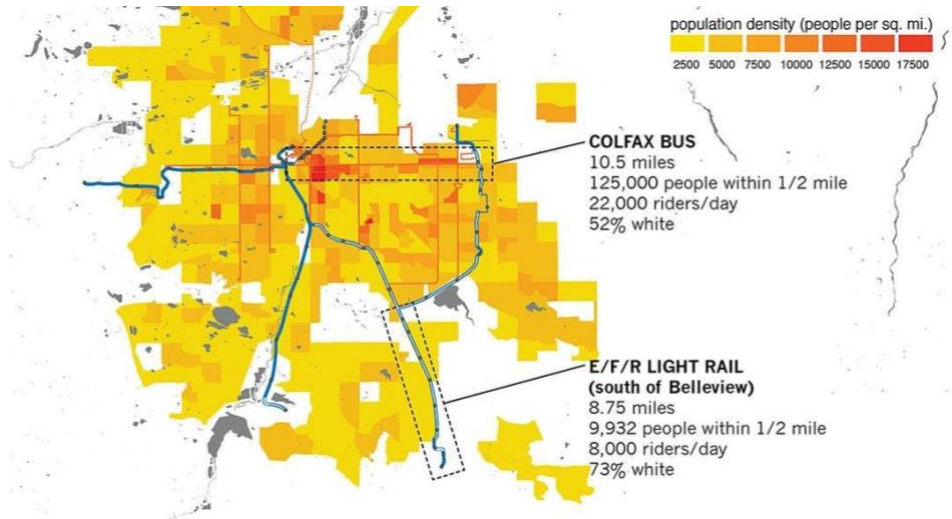
The Dialectics of Space and Society framework is closely linked to the effects of racial segregation, as seen by the situations examined in the preceding chapter. The PCNC rule serves as an example of selective urban development, which integrates into the perceived space. Understanding how the government

constructs metropolitan areas selectively—often preferring some groups over others—is essential to comprehending the representations that influence how we perceive space. The concept incorporates resource disparities, which occur when the government distributes money in an unequal manner. This is demonstrated by the large budget for public transportation, which serves a small section of the population. This illustrates the planning component, showing how public decisions about resource allocation have a direct bearing on how cities are laid out spatially, giving preference to certain areas over others.

The impact of these policies could be seen in many areas. In the context of public transportation spaces itself, in actuality, shows how policy makers conceived the space ingrained in the structures that transit companies manage and run. They have inherited deeply ingrained systems, ways of thinking, and decisions of the past. Initially, politicians and city planners have encouraged driving, which has discouraged public transportation and ultimately resulted in the removal of train lines from the streets. Their goals are centered on the growth and development of the city and frequently coincide with those of the wealthy (Schnee 2022). It creates an environment where racial policies abound, including zoning laws, mortgage lending guidelines, and deed restrictions which are meant to preserve white suburban areas. Race has long been a factor in transportation in the US. Even actions that appear to be related to technology can have racial consequences, sometimes with deliberate intent. For example, historically, "Suburban" signified white in US society, and "urban" meant Black (McEvoy 2020). Suburban areas were growing while urban ones were shrinking. Suburban places appeared safe and urban ones threatening. The future belonged to corporate campuses, business parks,

and malls in the suburbs; downtown areas were having difficulty remaining relevant. This perspective on the world is, of course, still prevalent.

Figure 3. Denver Public Transport insecurity



Source: Kinder Institute for Urban Research

The way transit is financed and constructed makes this clear. It is seen in infrastructure and in the way that cities allocate their funds. One of the possible study cases for this (as shown on the figure above), is the Denver public transport insecurities that discriminate against people of color. The busiest transit route in Denver is a mixed-traffic bus route, yet an expensive light rail line was constructed for suburban routes with little patronage (Spieler 2020).

Gentrification-induced marginalization is a lived experience entwined with social space and alienation. It results from spatially spread job possibilities that push marginalized communities toward metropolitan centers. The framework unravels how particular groups are marginalized, alienated, or displaced within different geographical arrangements by analyzing the power dynamics at work.

Marginalization through Gentrification, a consequence of spatially distributed job opportunities that force marginalized communities into city centers,

is a lived experience embedded in social space. One of the severe consequences is where many marginalized communities live in the non-metropolitan areas of the state: the rural areas. Figure 2 depicts this in greater detail.

Figure 1. Job Clusters Distribution



Source: Wang and Wen (2021)

The map displayed in Figure 2, shows that many minority communities experience spatial distribution of jobs because of the non-ideal spread of the job itself, which focuses on mostly white populated areas while at the same time neglecting the rural areas lived in by minority groups and communities.

Minority communities, including Black communities, may also experience this mismatch. According to the spatial mismatch theory, there is a discrepancy between the locations of acceptable job prospects and people's places of residence. If minority communities—including Black communities—are situated distant from employment hubs, this may disproportionately impact them.

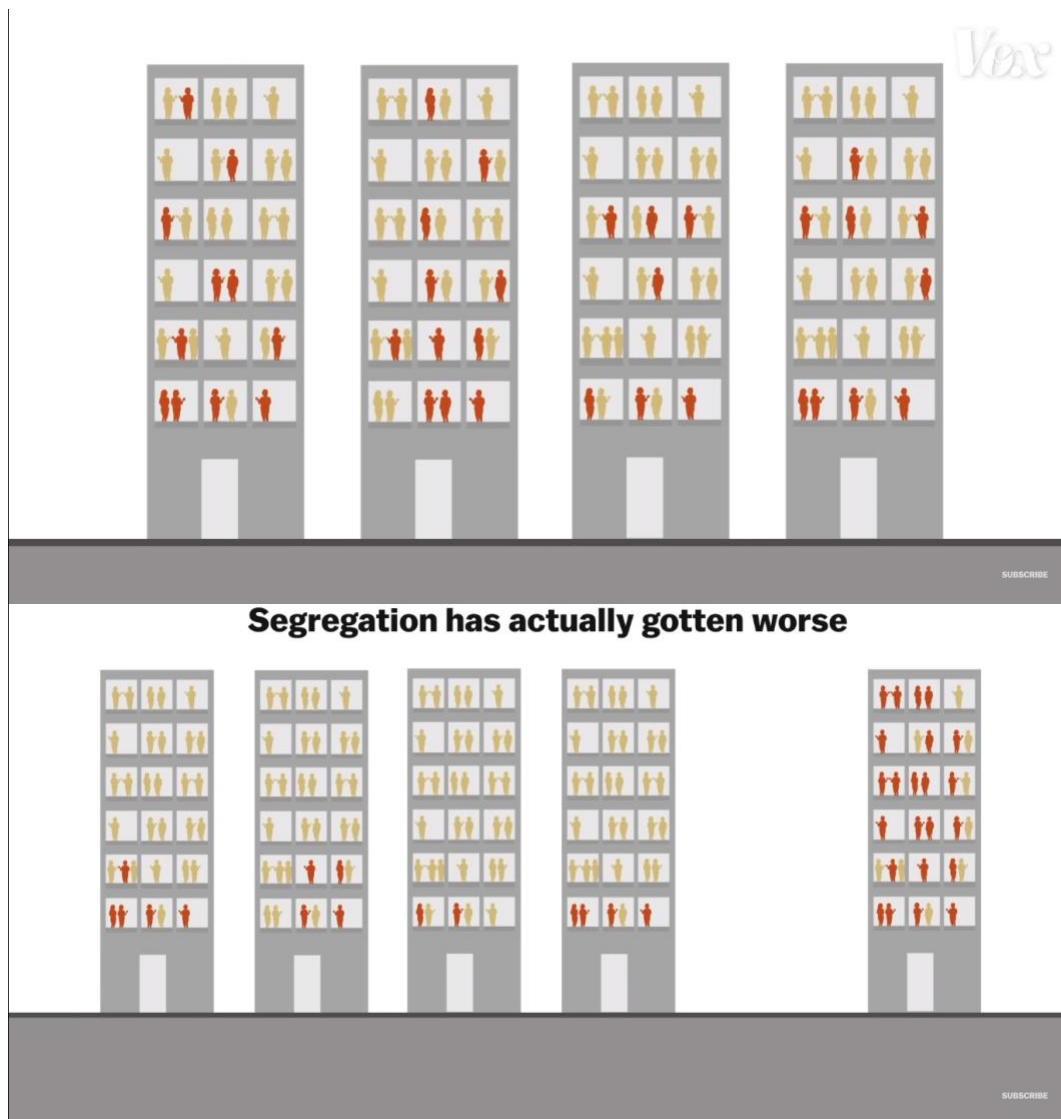
Additionally, an intriguing discovery made by Bingbing Wang's research relates to the the top nine income groups that are classified as higher income groups, and the bottom ten that are lower income groups. Based on their investigation, they discovered that, at a distance of 1-2 miles, neighborhoods with incomes below the sample's 20th percentile had a negative coefficient of -0.3465. According to this coefficient, a 1% rise in homeownership (for example, from 60% to 61%) for the neighborhood where the income is below the 20th percentile is linked, at a distance of 1-2 miles, to a 0.3465% drop in the number of jobs in the construction sector (Wang and Wen 2021). Additionally, they discovered that the distances of 2-3 and 3-5 miles had positive coefficients. This suggests that, at a distance of 1-2 miles, construction does not match the homeowners in the lower-income group, but does match at a greater distance of 3-5 miles (Wang and Wen 2021).

In addition to these results, Janeria Easley's study has offered further perspectives on the variations in employment accessibility among various racial and ethnic groups. Compared to whites, Asian and Hispanic subpopulations have less access to jobs, but compared to blacks, they have more. There are notable differences in the availability of jobs by nativity and educational attainment within the Asian and Hispanic subpopulations. Asians and Latinos who are foreign-born have less access to the labor market than Asians and Latinos who are native-born, and those with less education have less employment access than those with more education (Easley 2018, 1813).

Right now, readers must be wondering, “if there are more jobs in the city center, where there are a lot of black people living, why are they still segregated”? Here’s an illustration by Alvin Chang, a Journalist from Vox, of a research by

Cornell and Penn State University, which was conducted during the Trump administration, showing modern-day racial segregation in job distribution, which perfectly explains this situation:

Figure 1. Ideally Distributed Jobs Based On Racial Elements vs. What Happened In Real Life



Source: Vox (2019)

As we can see there are two parts to the picture above, both showing the distribution of jobs based on race at a company level. The top one shows the supposed scenario that happens with growing job opportunities in the city center area, where balanced racial quantities exist between races. The thing is, this is not what has actually happened. People of color are not being represented at white majority companies as they supposed to. The nether part shows that they got more opportunities at a company that is non-white instead (Hall, Iceland, and Yi 2019, 5).

The findings' power dynamics highlight the intricate relationship between work distribution and geographical arrangements, which has a particular effect on underprivileged groups. The spatial distribution of jobs becomes an instrument of power in the context of marginalization through gentrification, steering communities, especially minority groups, toward metropolitan centers. Figures above illustrate a lopsided distribution of jobs that prioritizes white-populated places while ignoring rural areas where minority groups are primarily represented. The power dynamics are further complicated by the idea of spatial mismatch. It draws attention to the disparity that exists between residential locations of minority communities, particularly Black neighborhoods, and acceptable work possibilities. These communities suffer disproportionately from limited job access if they are located distant from employment hubs, which exacerbates already-existing racial disparities. The impacts of racial segregation, as analyzed through the Dialectics of Space and Society framework, are deeply rooted in the contexts established in the context provided by governmental policies. It underscores the reciprocal relationship between societal structures, power dynamics, and spatial arrangements,

revealing how selective urban development, resource disparities, and gentrification contribute to the perpetuation of racial segregation.

3.3 Spatial Dynamics and Everyday Realities

In Chapter 2, we explored the idea of "Abstract Space," emphasizing how racial issues can be reduced to functional and economic elements. Now, in Chapter 3, we examine the tangible effects of racial segregation using the framework of Spatial Dynamics and Everyday Realities, paying special attention to the effects of inadequate education leading to skill mismatch. The impact of racial segregation on skill development is exposed through the combination of the concepts of Abstract Space, Spatial Dynamics, and Everyday Realities (Lefebvre 1992, 230–33). The concrete effects that people experience in particular spatial situations are now transformed into abstract space, which reduces racial issues to economic and utilitarian elements. Skill mismatch becomes more than simply an abstract idea when it comes to historical, institutional, and policy-driven spatial arrangements that deny some ethnic groups access to higher education.

The worrying issue of skill mismatch leads into income inequality that disproportionately harms Black professionals was also brought to light by the sharp divisions seen in the professional workforce in the United States during the Trump administration. This discrepancy is highlighted by the 2019 statistics, which also presents a dismal image of the labor market.

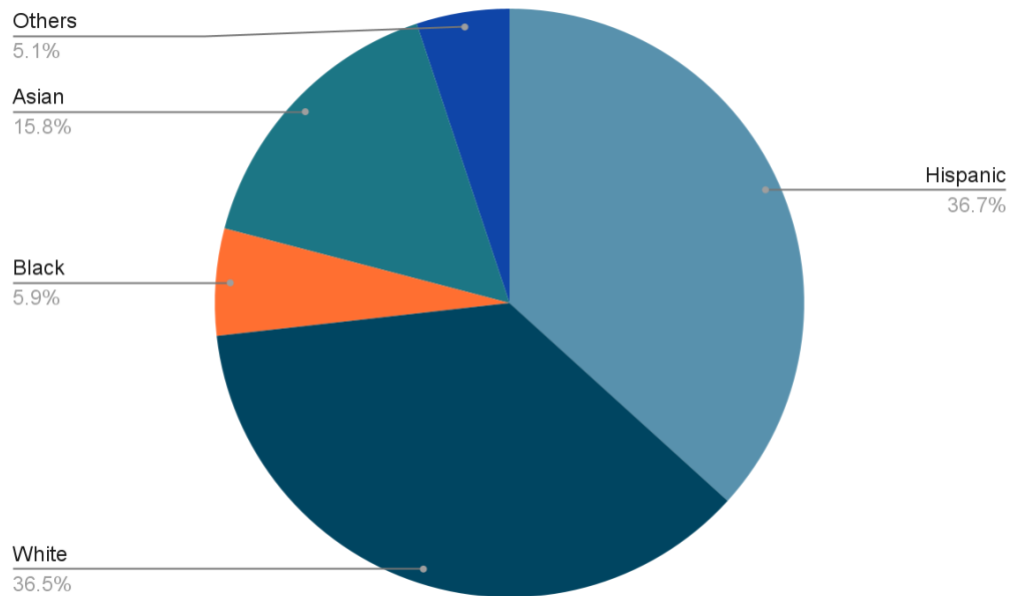
With an average wage of \$1,288 in this intricate landscape, the whole professional workforce accounted for about 70.5% of all professionals (Kassa, Wilson, and Miller 2021, 3). Just 10.0% of the professionals in this workforce were Black, and their average wage was \$1,045, much less than the national average.

This stark disparity between professionals of Black and White backgrounds is a telling sign of the problem of skill mismatch.

Additionally, this data shows that Black professionals were more likely to get jobs in the public sector as opposed to the private sector. Even though the public sector offers jobs and necessary services, the disparity in income is particularly alarming in this situation. Compared to their white colleagues, Black professionals make significantly less money on average (\$1,045 per month). These figures clearly show a mismatch in skill sets, with Black professionals not receiving the kind of compensation that would have been expected given their education and experience. This economic inequality was a serious problem that needed to be addressed in order to improve everyone's access to a fair professional environment, yet it seems that it was a common scene on the 2017-2021 timeline.

With these findings we now know that low education level and skill mismatch leads also into a mismatch in salary. This gap in income distributions, could also alter the everyday life of these marginalized individuals. Nonetheless, this analysis should be conducted by viewing the lens of the employer which is a smaller part of the US labor market institutions.

Diagram 1. California Population by Race



Source: Statista (2007)

Income gaps are a harsh reality in the complex fabric of the US's labor market, and they particularly affect Black and Latino families. The fact that these communities are disproportionately concentrated at lower socioeconomic levels reflects an unsettling trend. If we were to take California as an example, as in the diagram above, it is a great study case to see how Labor Market Institutions have denied racially segregated communities in the US, although California does not necessarily represent the US. Despite Blacks, Latinos, and Asians making up a sizable 44% of all Californian families, they only make up 12% of those with incomes that are over the 90th percentile (Thorman, Payares-Montoya, and Herrera 2023, 2). When studying the lower echelons of the income distribution, a more gloomy story comes to light. Here, a startling 56% of households at or below the 10th percentile are Black or Latino. This dramatic disparity reflects a depressing income disparity, where Black families earn only \$0.60 and Latino families just

\$0.52 for every dollar earned by white families (Thorman, Payares-Montoya, and Herrera 2023, 3).

A complicated network of factors that are intricately integrated into the labor market's structure are the root source of these disparities. Education disparities that persist make progress less likely. The unequal opportunity distribution in local job markets is the cause of this disagreement. Additionally, the possibility of incarceration exacerbates these inequities by preventing a significant portion of Black and Latino people from moving up the economic ladder (UC Berkeley Labor Center 2017). These disparities are exacerbated by the corrosive force of prejudice, which permeates the job market.

However, the story does not end here. It extends to corporate boardrooms and hiring practices. Companies often inadvertently stray from recognizing the vital role played by low-wage workers in executing their strategies. The hidden costs of high turnover rates remain unmeasured, and management practices that could enhance the productivity and retention of these workers often languish unimplemented. This oversight underscores a critical imbalance in resource allocation, with more attention lavished upon salaried workers, leaving hourly workers, who constitute over 40% of the U.S. labor force, in the shadows (UC Berkeley Labor Center 2017).

Many businesses are struggling to deal with the inescapable fact that low-wage jobs sometimes entail tedious, unappealing, and perhaps dangerous work. The duties can include long commutes, facility cleaning, or even working tough 12-hour days. As a result, employers of low-wage workers have grown to tolerate a high rate of turnover among this group of employees and consider it as an inevitable part

of these positions. Employer surveys highlight the scope of this issue; over half believe yearly turnover rates exceed 24%, and nearly a quarter believe rates reach a startling 50% (PwC 2021).

But this viewpoint is fundamentally flawed because of a major misjudgment. Companies frequently and incorrectly assign the reasons for this high turnover rate, claiming that employees are naturally restless and always looking for new jobs. In truth, management tactics that are erroneous or poorly carried out frequently cause employees to head for the exit. Surveys of low-paid workers offer a startling contrast, showing that they have a high propensity to stick with their current employers. Surprisingly, 51% of individuals surveyed had worked for their respective organizations for four or more years, with 17% claiming a decade or more of experience (Parker and Horowitz 2021). Their pay remained firmly entrenched inside the low-wage threshold despite their lengthy employment.

Research reveals two crucial characteristics that support low-wage employees' commitment to demanding jobs despite the mystery that frequently surrounds this choice. First off, when choosing between job prospects, these hourly workers give location a high priority. Their choice of workplace frequently reflects a strong desire to work at a particular location. The difficulties people encounter with transportation are largely related to this inclination. A convenient commute greatly strengthens their loyalty to a company because for many people, commuting is a big barrier. A startling 64% of people who were asked why they had previously changed employment said it was because it was easier to get to work. This factor significantly outweighs others, including compensation (43%) and coworker support (41%) (Freedman 2023; Watkins 2023). Surprisingly, surveys showed that

most employers were ignorant of the critical importance given to location and transportation. They repeatedly failed to list the ease of the commute as one of the top five factors affecting employees' decisions to switch jobs in the evaluations.

Second, low-wage workers choose stability first over all else since they are battling the severe hardships of poverty. They are frequently keen to avoid the potential inconveniences that come with switching to another company. Their lives are characterized by a variety of obligations, such as caregiving responsibilities and the constant juggling of work and personal matters. Many of them put in long hours and frequently hold down numerous jobs to make ends meet. People who live in households with annual incomes of less than \$40,000, and occasionally even less than \$20,000, teeter perilously on the verge of homelessness, hunger, and financial ruin (Pazzanese 2022). Sadly, companies routinely ignore these unpleasant facts, failing to understand the critical role that security and stability play in the lives of their low-wage workers. This discrepancy highlights the need for businesses to better comprehend the tremendous stresses these workers are under and to recognize the value of stability and security within their workforce.

This low pay and rigorous schedules of hourly workers situation, have a significant impact on the conduct of those who work in these occupations on a daily basis. One important factor is the hard nature of low-paying jobs, which frequently involve boring, uninteresting, and occasionally hazardous duties. Hourly workers may have to deal with lengthy commutes, long workdays, and physically demanding work during their 12-hour workweeks. These circumstances impact people's daily lives, impacting not only their professional lives but also their overall existence as human beings. For low-wage workers, stability emerges as a critical

worry. People in these circumstances, struggling with the extreme hardships of poverty, value stability over the possible inconveniences of changing occupations. Stability is crucial because of the intricacies of their life, which include caring obligations and the ongoing balancing act between job and personal affairs. Stability becomes essential to overcoming the obstacles people encounter in their daily lives as well as a preference connected to their job.

These results provide insight into how the nature of hourly labor affects workers' daily life through aspects like location, stability, and job demands. Outside of the office, these circumstances have an effect on their personal lives, affecting choices, priorities, and general well-being. Gaining an understanding of these subtleties is essential to appreciating the complex ways in which low-wage workers' job experiences interact with their wider circumstances.

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

4.1 Conclusion

The Theory of Production of Space shines through the tangled web of American spatial geography, shedding light on the dark edges of racial segregation. Through the course of this article, we will examine the historical underpinnings of segregation, identify its modern forms, and unravel its underlying strands. Based on Henri Lefebvre's theory, we explore the domains of Social Space and Alienation, explore the complexities of Spatial Justice, and consider the conceptual changes in Abstract Space as a result of policy dynamics.

As the archaeological site, Chapter 2, "Foundations of Racial Segregation in Space," reveals the historical facets that have molded the spatial dynamics of racial disparity. While Spatial Justice highlights the political theater, with the Trump administration as a major player arranging policies that became spatial dividers, Social Space and Alienation reveals the historical puzzles, revealing the birth tale of racial segregation. By conceptually redefining spatial frameworks, or "Abstract Space," we can use it as a crucial lens to see past the obvious and uncover the underlying functions and financial constraints that influence policy decisions.

Chapter 3, "Unpacking Racial Segregation in Spatial Realities," brings the consequences of racial segregation more into sharp relief. The Triad of Spatial Analysis breaks down the effects of historical redlining, showing how spaces that are perceived, thought, and lived in still reverberate with the spectral sounds of discriminatory actions. As Dialectics of Space and Society take the stage, they

create narratives of racial segregation that are relevant to today's world by exposing the complex interactions between policies during the Trump administration. The physical effects of academic gaps and spatial mismatch are highlighted by Spatial Dynamics and Everyday Realities, which also weaves income gaps into the lives of marginalized people, impacting not just their career paths but also the fabric of their everyday lives. To make see the conclusion easier, the table below highlights the result of analysis of the impacts and causes of modern-day racial segregation from the Production of Space Theory:

Table 2. Conclusions from the Results of Research Analysis

Key Factors Analyzed	Actors & Interests	Main Insights and Conclusions
Social Space and Alienation: Historical roots and context of racial segregation.	Franklin Delano Roosevelt's administration: Created the HOLC to bounce-back the US economy after the great depression in 1920s.	Reveals that the cause of Racial Segregation through historical context and political dimensions of racial segregation is highly crucial and systemic because of Redlining policies.
Spatial Justice: Government policies and Trump administration as the main political actor.	Trump's administration: Created urban development policies focusing on highly profitable & populated areas, neglecting the important aspect of fair housing development.	Highlighted the role of the Trump administration's policies that leads to the increased severity of the cause of racial segregation for marginalized people because of the redirection towards the geographical and urban aspect of their workplace.
Abstract Space: Altered conceptualization of space, focusing on functionalities	Trump's administration: Favored the reduction of government intervention and	Proves the fact that modern-day racial segregation starting on early life of education and skill developments because lack of fundings by the government. This

and financial gain.	spending, conservatively believed that market should play more significant role in shaping education so the government could redirect the fundings into other priorities such as tax cuts.	causes, collectively sponsored by the Trump Administration as the main political actor.
Triad of Spatial Analysis: Impact of redlining on perceived, conceived, and lived space.	Marginalized communities: Wanted to get out of the effect of Redlining policies (moving to another area or communities) but suffers from the aspect of perceived space which leads to the place they conceived and lived.	Demonstrated the enduring impact of historical redlining, the evolving consequences of contemporary policies that leads the marginalized communities complies with mortgage rejection hence the ‘high-risk’ that they economically possess since coming from once a poor livelihood (even most of these neighborhood are still considered as low-income until today). This leads not only to financial vulnerability but also health risk because of lack of green spaces in once redlined area.
Dialectics of Space and Society: Impact of Trump-era policies on modern-day racial segregation.	Marginalized communities: In the result of the spatially developed urban areas, forcing the change of interests for marginalized communities stripping them from the freedom choice of geographical space in their life, to a pursue of economic equalities only available in city centers.	The dialectics that consist mismatch between geographical factors and spatially distributed job opportunities creates the reciprocal relationship between societal structures, power dynamics, and spatial configurations. These consequences segregated certain communities from experiencing equal rights in many forms of urban livelihood, deepening the gap that is visibly seen on the dialectics of society.
Spatial Dynamics and Everyday Realities: Impact	Marginalized communities: Wanting to close the salary gap to earn	Stressing insights into the everyday lives of marginalized communities affected by spatial inequalities on low-education

of low-level education and spatial mismatch on salary gaps and behavior.	more, making them to sacrifice more time and energy just to make the same amount of what other races made.	level and lack of possessed skills. This leads to the changing of marginalized people’s behavior not only during worktime but also daily life because they usually have to spend more time to commute and work to earn the national salary average. Made them tolerate the insufficiently fair work terms that impacts their everyday realities into a widening gap of spatial dynamics.
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Source: Based on Measurement Factors from the Theory of ‘Production of Space’ (1992)

At the core of our inquiry was a pivotal question: How did the impact of modern-day racial segregation influence the widening gap of racial discrimination for marginalized people in the United States of America during the Trump administration? In seeking answers, the Theory of Production of Space emerged as an indispensable guide, its multifaceted nature allowing us to navigate the intricate layers of historical legacies and contemporary complexities. As we traversed this theoretical landscape, our research question found resolution in the seamless interplay of historical injustices, political decisions, and the everyday struggles of marginalized communities. The results of this research highlighted how urgent it is to address these complex problems in their entirety, taking into account the subtle differences between each element and how they all work together to maintain racial segregation directly affected by the Trump administration’s policies.

The Production of Space Theory highlights each component, which adds the proof to a complicated story of systemic issues that disproportionately impact communities of color that were caused and impacted by the widening gap in urban

settings. In addition, the analysis highlights the interdependence of geographical, economic, and social inequality, prompting a need for inclusive and equitable urban policies.

Our research on modern-day racial segregation uncovered connections with larger international discourses on social justice and human rights, illustrating the findings' international applicability. Spatial injustice has an effect that transcends national boundaries. By closely examining the policies and procedures enacted during the Trump administration, we shed light on the consequences of these acts both in the US and abroad in terms of equality and nondiscrimination. Global discussions about socioeconomic rights and equitable development are resonant with the glaring differences in income, education, and opportunities for vulnerable communities. Thus, our findings transcend national lines and encourage discussion about the critical need for a more inclusive and just society as well as the extensive effects of racial segregation on a global scale. Upon amalgamating these strata, the scrutiny of racial segregation amid the Trump administration provides a distinctive perspective for IR experts to scrutinize the convergences of national policies and worldwide ramifications. The discrepancies revealed by the Production of Space Theory highlight the need for a thorough grasp of the global implications of systemic injustices and force a reevaluation of how domestic policies are interpreted internationally.

4.2 Recommendation

It is critical to acknowledge the complexity and limitations of this research on the Production of Space Theory's application to Modern-Day Racial Segregation

in the United States of America during the Trump Administration. Although this study offers insightful information, racial segregation is still a complex and ever-evolving problem. This study predominantly draws upon extant data and the contextual framework of the Trump administration. Nevertheless, the intricacies of racial segregation necessitates continuous investigation and evaluation. Future studies should investigate more dimensions of each element under investigation in an effort to gain a more thorough understanding. Additionally, in light of the dynamic character of society, continual data collection and updates will be necessary to preserve the research's timeliness and relevance. Furthermore, cooperation with organizations and US governmental entities could improve the range and depth of data that is available, especially in areas where marginalized people make up the majority of the population. A more sophisticated understanding of racial segregation through interdisciplinary collaboration with public policy, geography, and sociology is the goal that should be pursued. With this, the author must acknowledge the flaws and difficulties in this research and see it ultimately as a first step toward additional investigation and improvement in the quest for a more just and equal society.

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