

Chapter 1 : Jim Crow laws - Wikipedia

More than , New Yorkers cannot vote because of a conviction in their past. Almost half of these disenfranchised citizens have completed their prison sentence and are living and working in the community.

Consider that he was reporting from South Carolina in and he was black. A marker in New Orleans stands where Homer Plessy was arrested in His case ultimately reached the U. In , with Amendment XIV, the Constitution had finally given black men full citizenship and promised them equal protection under the law. Blacks voted, won elected office, and served on juries. However, 10 years later, federal troops withdrew from the South, returning it to local white rule. After a few weeks on the road, Stewart decided they would. True, terrorism against blacks â€” lynching, rape, arson â€” ran unchecked. True, many rural blacks lived under a sharecropping system little better than slavery. But Stewart noted many signs of change. He saw a black policeman arrest a white criminal. He saw whites casually talk with black strangers. Over the next 20 years, blacks would lose almost all they had gained. Worse, denial of their rights and freedoms would be made legal by a series of racist statutes, the Jim Crow laws. It came to mean any state law passed in the South that established different rules for blacks and whites. Jim Crow laws were based on the theory of white supremacy and were a reaction to Reconstruction. In the depression-racked s, racism appealed to whites who feared losing their jobs to blacks. In , in spite of its 16 black members, the Louisiana General Assembly passed a law to prevent black and white people from riding together on railroads. Ferguson, a case challenging the law, reached the U. Supreme Court in Two years later, the court seemed to seal the fate of black Americans when it upheld a Mississippi law designed to deny black men the vote. In , Louisiana had , registered black voters. Jim Crow laws touched every part of life. In South Carolina, black and white textile workers could not work in the same room, enter through the same door, or gaze out of the same window. Many unions passed rules to exclude them. In Richmond, one could not live on a street unless most of the residents were people one could marry. One could not marry someone of a different race. By , Texas had six entire towns in which blacks could not live. Mobile passed a Jim Crow curfew: Blacks could not leave their homes after 10 p. Georgia had black and white parks. Oklahoma had black and white phone booths. Prisons, hospitals, and orphanages were segregated as were schools and colleges. In North Carolina, black and white students had to use separate sets of textbooks. Atlanta courts kept two Bibles: Unwritten rules barred blacks from white jobs in New York and kept them out of white stores in Los Angeles. Humiliation was about the best treatment blacks who broke such rules could hope for. The country welcomed them home with 25 major race riots, the most serious in Chicago. White mobs lynched veterans in uniform. Black Americans fought back. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, founded in , and the Urban League publicized abuses and worked for redress. Protesters march against school segregation. Wikimedia Commons Though they drew support from both races, these groups barely stemmed the tide. The s and 30s produced new Jim Crow laws. By , a Swede visiting the South pronounced segregation so complete that whites did not see blacks except when being served by them. Jim Crow shocked United Nations delegates who reported home about the practice. He urged Congress to abolish the poll tax, enforce fair voting and hiring practices, and end Jim Crow transportation between states. Then, as commander in chief, Truman ordered the complete integration of the armed forces. He did not wipe out racism, but, trained to obey commands, officers complied as best they could. In Korea, during the s, integrated U. Back at home, when the new Eisenhower administration downplayed civil rights, federal courts took the lead. Both times, federal courts upheld segregation. Both times, the parents appealed. This time, the district appealed. The Supreme Court agreed to consider these three cases in combination with one other. In Topeka, Kansas, where schools for blacks and whites were equally good, Oliver Brown wanted his 8-year-old daughter, Linda, to attend a school close to home. State law, however, prevented the white school from accepting Linda because she was black. On May 17, , at the stroke of noon, the nine Supreme Court Justices announced their unanimous decision in the four cases, now grouped as Brown v. They held that racial segregation of children in public schools, even in schools of equal quality, hurt minority children. To some, the judgment seemed the fruitful end of a long struggle. Actually, the struggle had just begun. For

Discussion and Writing Imagine that you were born black in and lived until Would you have any faith in the U. Why or why not? How did Jim Crow laws affect the American image abroad? How did our foreign policy impact racial equality at home? Most laws are meant to promote the general welfare or protect society from an evil. Did Jim Crow laws serve these purposes? If not, what was their purpose? Under Jim Crow, black facilities were often of far poorer quality than those reserved for whites. Separate rarely meant equal. If blacks and whites had received equal treatment, would Jim Crow laws have been fair? Do you agree with the statement? Is it a valid reason to continue segregation? Read the 14th Amendment and explain how the Supreme Court used it to disallow segregation in the Brown decision. The History of Jim Crow.

Chapter 2 : The New Jim Crow - Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness Michelle Alexander

Under new policies in California, New Jersey, New York and beyond, "risk assessment" algorithms recommend to judges whether a person who's been arrested should be released.

About the Authors It is widely known and well documented that Americans used the law to keep African-American voters out of the electoral process throughout the Deep South. Constitution " which ended slavery, granted equal citizenship to freed slaves, and prohibited racial discrimination in voting. The uproar worked its intended purpose: Less known is that criminal disenfranchisement laws were part of the effort to maintain white control over access to the polls. Between and , a period when African-American men were, theoretically, granted greater voting rights state-by-state, and ultimately enfranchised by the Fifteenth Amendment, 19 states passed criminal disenfranchisement laws. By , 38 states deployed some type of criminal voting restriction. These laws disenfranchised convicted individuals long after their release from prison; many dictated that individuals released from prison could not vote unless they had been pardoned by the governor. States also adapted their criminal codes to punish those offenses with which they believed freedmen were likely to be charged, including bigamy, vagrancy, petty theft and burglary. The discriminatory impact of these laws and practices continues to this day. Given current rates of incarceration, approximately one in three of the next generation of black men will be disenfranchised at some point during their lifetime. But Jim Crow was not confined to the South. He made his home in northern states as well, perhaps most notably in New York. In fact, New York was the only state in the country to require blacks " and only blacks " to own real property in order to qualify to vote. And the law continues to have its originally intended effect: More than , New Yorkers cannot vote because of a conviction in their past. Almost half of these disenfranchised citizens have completed their prison sentence and are living and working in the community. New York should restore voting rights to people on parole. An important step towards full departure from our racist history is to restore voting rights to the thousands of New Yorkers who are living in the community. Moreover, the complicated eligibility standards established by the current Election Law result in the illegal de facto disfranchisement of New Yorkers who are eligible to vote. The system should be simplified by amending the law to restore voting rights automatically to all New York citizens as soon as they are released from prison. The New York Legislature should enact notice and public education requirements. To help rectify and eliminate some of the existing confusion among the county boards of elections and the general public, the Legislature should require the Department of Corrections, probation, parole and supervised release offices to notify people of their right to vote and to provide voter registration forms. The legislature should also require county election officials and criminal justice agencies to receive regular training on the voting rights restoration law and voter registration procedures. The State Board of Elections should initiate a public communications campaign to educate New Yorkers about voter registration for people with felony convictions. In addition to the notification of individuals who have been directly affected, the State Board of Elections should initiate a state-wide public communications campaign to clarify this issue for the New York population as a whole. Through public service announcements in print media, television, and radio outlets, as well as posting information on its website and those maintained by local boards, the State Board must make clear that people with criminal histories are eligible to vote in New York. The State Board of Elections should launch a statewide campaign to educate and register voters in minority communities. There is widespread confusion and distrust among minority communities in the state regarding voter registration and going to the polls. The State Board of Elections should launch a statewide campaign to encourage voter registration and participation in communities of color. About the Right to Vote Project The Right to Vote Project leads a nationwide campaign to restore voting rights to people with criminal convictions. Brennan Center staff counsels policymakers and advocates, provides legal and constitutional analysis, drafts legislation and regulations, engages in litigation challenging disenfranchising laws, surveys the implementation of existing laws, and promotes the restoration of voting rights through public outreach and education. About the Authors Charles J. Professor Ogletree is a prominent legal theorist who has made an international reputation by taking a hard look at complex issues of law and by

working to secure the rights guaranteed by the Constitution for everyone equally under the law. Professor Ogletree earned an M. He also holds a J. Professor Ogletree is the author of *All Deliberate Speed: Reflections on the First Half-Century of Brown v. Wood* has designed and launched major reform campaigns around the country and provides legal counsel and strategic guidance to advocates, legislators and policymakers nationwide. She has authored several groundbreaking reports, numerous articles and is a frequent speaker and commentator on voting rights, criminal justice reform and racial justice issues. Wood was awarded the Eric. Prior to joining the Brennan Center, Ms. Budnitz clerked for the Honorable Joan M. Garima Malhotra is a Research Associate with the Democracy Program where she works primarily on efforts to restore voting rights to people with criminal convictions. Previously, she worked at Project Vote where she focused on increasing voter registration among low income and minority citizens.

Chapter 3 : Praise for The New Jim Crow - The New Jim Crow

Jim Crow New York provides readers with both scholarly analysis and access to a series of extraordinary documents, including extensive excerpts from the resonant speeches made at New York's constitutional convention and additional documents which recover a diversity of voices, from lawmakers to African-American community leaders, from.

With the assistance of some dangerous new allies, including the corrupt but powerful Bishop Dunkirk, Thomas and his dragon wife Bryndah level the charge of witchcraft against the new Earl, threatening his life and family, and all those who support him. Especially since the charge may more true than they imagined. Will the people he has led the charge to protect now come to his side in his time of need? My Life With and Without Jim Morrison ""The story takes hold of you from the first page to the last and will not let you go until that ending has manifested itself. Long live William Fylbrigge " - Valerie R. Russell weaves a story of olde that allows her reader to be transported to another place and time where wisdom is often overruled by witchcraft and fear. This is just great storytelling. The new document secured the right to vote for the great mass of white men while denying all but the wealthiest African-American men access to the polls. Jim Crow New York introduces students and scholars alike to this watershed event in American political life. This action crystallized the paradoxes of free black citizenship, not only in the North but throughout the nation: African Americans living in New York would no longer be slaves. But would they be citizens? The text is further enhanced by extensive introductory essays and headnotes, maps, illustrations, and a detailed bibliographic essay. View the Table of Contents. A Choice Outstanding Academic Title With so many document collections aimed at teaching scholars and students about slavery and race relations in the nineteenth-century South, it is refreshing and enlightening to read a collection that reminds us of the northern side of the story. This in and of itself makes it a valuable resource for researchers. Among whites there are pioneers, men of very good will and demagogues worthy of Jim Crow Mississippi. The black voices they present are not the predictable Frederick Douglass and, perhaps, Henry Highland Garnet. Without asserting the point, they demonstrate that many black people were trying to speak for themselves. Jim Crow New York introduces students and scholars alike to this watershed event in American political life. View the Table of Contents. With the publication of Liberty Tree, acclaimed historian Alfred F. Young presents a selection of his seminal writing as well as two provocative, never-before-published essays. Together, they take the reader on a journey through the American Revolution, exploring the role played by ordinary women and men called, at the time, people out of doors in shaping events during and after the Revolution, their impact on the Founding generation of the new American nation, and finally how this populist side of the Revolution has fared in public memory. Drawing on a wide range of sources, which include not only written documents but also material items like powder horns, and public rituals like parades and tarring and featherings, Young places ordinary Americans at the center of the Revolution. For example, in one essay he views the Constitution of as the result of an intentional accommodation by elites with non-elites, while another piece explores the process of ongoing negotiations would-be rulers conducted with the middling sort; women, enslaved African Americans, and Native Americans. From his award-winning work on mechanics, or artisans, in the seaboard cities of the Northeast to the all but forgotten liberty tree, a major popular icon of the Revolution explored in depth for the first time, Young continues to astound readers as he forges new directions in the history of the American Revolution.

Chapter 4 : The New Jim Crow - Wikipedia

The selective enforcement of minor ordinances, as many critics note, performs the same work today that segregation laws did in the past. But it would be inaccurate to call this a new form of Jim Crow.

Overview[edit] Though the conventional point of view holds that racial discrimination has mostly ended with the civil rights movement reforms of the s, Alexander posits that the U. Were present trends to continue, Alexander writes, the United States will imprison one-third of its African American population. When combined with the fact that whites are more likely to commit drug crimes than people of color, the issue becomes clear for Alexander: The culmination of this social control is what Alexander calls a "racial caste system ", a type of stratification wherein people of color are kept in an inferior position. Its emergence, she believes, is a direct response to the Civil Rights Movement. It is because of this that Alexander argues for issues with mass incarceration to be addressed as issues of racial justice and civil rights. To approach these matters as anything but would be to fortify this new racial caste. Thus, Alexander aims to mobilize the civil rights community to move the incarceration issue to the forefront of its agenda and to provide factual information, data, arguments and a point of reference for those interested in pursuing the issue. Her broader goal is the revamping of the prevailing mentality regarding human rights, equality and equal opportunities in America, to prevent future cyclical recurrence of what she sees as "racial control under changing disguise". She argues that when people of color are disproportionately labeled as "criminals", this allows the unleashing of a whole range of legal discrimination measures in employment, housing, education, public benefits, voting rights, jury duty, and so on. She expects similar reluctance and disbelief on the part of many of her readers. She believes that the problems besetting African American communities are not merely a passive, collateral side effect of poverty, limited educational opportunity or other factors, but a consequence of purposeful government policies. Alexander has concluded that mass incarceration policies, which were swiftly developed and implemented, are a "comprehensive and well-disguised system of racialized control that functions in a manner strikingly similar to Jim Crow. During the mids, as the use of crack cocaine increased to epidemic levels in these neighborhoods, federal drug authorities publicized the problem, using scare tactics to generate support for their already-declared escalation. More aggressive enforcement of federal drug laws resulted in a dramatic increase in street level arrests for possession. Disparate sentencing policies the crack cocaine v. During the past three decades, the US prison population has exploded from , to more than two million, with the majority of the increase due to drug convictions. The US incarceration rate is eight times that of Germany, a comparatively developed large democracy. In the capital city of Washington, D. Alexander borrows from the term "racial caste", as it is commonly used in scientific literature, to create "undercaste", denoting a "stigmatized racial group locked into inferior position by law and custom". By mass incarceration she refers to the entire web of laws, rules, policies and customs that make up the criminal justice system and which serve as a gateway to permanent marginalization in the undercaste. Once released from prison, new members of this undercaste face a "hidden underworld of legalized discrimination and permanent social exclusion". The rate of incarceration in the US has soared, while its crime rates have generally remained similar to those of other Western countries, where incarceration rates have remained stable. The current rate of incarceration in the US is six to ten times greater than in other industrialized nations, and Alexander maintains that this disparity is not correlated to the fluctuation of crime rates, but can be traced mostly to the artificially invoked War on Drugs and its associated discriminatory policies. At the other end of the social spectrum are the young black men who are under active control of the criminal justice system currently in prison, or on parole or probation â€”approximately one-third of the young black men in the US. Criminal justice was not listed as a top priority of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights in and , or of the Congressional Black Caucus in According to her, mass incarceration is "the most damaging manifestation of the backlash against the Civil Rights Movement", and those who feel that the election of Barack Obama represents the ultimate "triumph over race", and that race no longer matters, are dangerously misguided. Americans want to believe that everybody is capable of upward mobility, given enough effort on his or her part; this assumption forms a part of the

national collective self-image. Alexander points out that a large percentage of African Americans are hindered by the discriminatory practices of an ostensibly colorblind criminal justice system, which end up creating an undercaste where upward mobility is severely constrained. She contends that the system does not require overt racial hostility or bigotry on the part of another racial group or groups. Indifference is sufficient to support the system. Alexander argues that the system reflects an underlying racial ideology and will not be significantly disturbed by half-measures such as laws mandating shorter prison sentences. Like its predecessors, the new system of racial control has been largely immune from legal challenge. She writes that a human tragedy is unfolding under our watch, and *The New Jim Crow* is intended to stimulate a much-needed national discussion "about the role of the criminal justice system in creating and perpetuating racial hierarchy in the United States".

Chapter 5 : A Brief History of Jim Crow - Constitutional Rights Foundation

Just as Jim Crow segregation laws spread throughout the South in the 1890s and early 1900s, black people in New York suffered from written and unwritten rules against racial mixing in marriage.

When southern legislatures passed laws of racial segregation directed against blacks at the end of the 19th century, these statutes became known as Jim Crow laws. South for freedmen, the African Americans who had formerly been slaves, and the minority of blacks who had been free before the war. In the 1890s, Democrats gradually regained power in the Southern legislatures, having used insurgent paramilitary groups, such as the White League and the Red Shirts, to disrupt Republican organizing, run Republican officeholders out of town, and intimidate blacks to suppress their voting. Extensive voter fraud was also used. Gubernatorial elections were close and had been disputed in Louisiana for years, with increasing violence against blacks during campaigns from onward. White Democrats had regained political power in every Southern state. Blacks were still elected to local offices throughout the 1890s, but their voting was suppressed for state and national elections. Democrats passed laws to make voter registration and electoral rules more restrictive, with the result that political participation by most blacks and many poor whites began to decrease. Voter turnout dropped drastically through the South as a result of such measures. By 1900, only blacks were registered, less than 10%. The growth of their thriving middle class was slowed. In North Carolina and other Southern states, blacks suffered from being made invisible in the political system: They effectively disappeared from political life, as they could not influence the state legislatures, and their interests were overlooked. While public schools had been established by Reconstruction legislatures for the first time in most Southern states, those for black children were consistently underfunded compared to schools for white children, even when considered within the strained finances of the postwar South where the decreasing price of cotton kept the agricultural economy at a low. For instance, even in cases in which Jim Crow laws did not expressly forbid black people to participate in sports or recreation, a segregated culture had become common. Most blacks still lived in the South, where they had been effectively disfranchised, so they could not vote at all. While poll taxes and literacy requirements banned many poor or illiterate Americans from voting, these stipulations frequently had loopholes that exempted European Americans from meeting the requirements. In Oklahoma, for instance, anyone qualified to vote before 1866, or related to someone qualified to vote before a kind of "grandfather clause", was exempted from the literacy requirement; but the only persons who had the franchise before that year were white, or European-American males. European Americans were effectively exempted from the literacy testing, whereas black Americans were effectively singled out by the law. He appointed Southerners to his Cabinet. Some quickly began to press for segregated workplaces, although the city of Washington, D. Is there any reason why the white women should not have only white women working across from them on the machines? He appointed segregationist Southern politicians because of his own firm belief that racial segregation was in the best interest of black and European Americans alike. How complete the union has become and how dear to all of us, how unquestioned, how benign and majestic, as state after state has been added to this, our great family of free men! Blight notes that the "Peace Jubilee" at which Wilson presided at Gettysburg in 1913 "was a Jim Crow reunion, and white supremacy might be said to have been the silent, invisible master of ceremonies. Great Reunion of In Texas, several towns adopted residential segregation laws between 1890 and the 1910s. Legal strictures called for segregated water fountains and restrooms. Butler, 1890, stipulated a guarantee that everyone, regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude, was entitled to the same treatment in public accommodations, such as inns, public transportation, theaters, and other places of recreation. This Act had little effect. With white southern Democrats forming a solid voting bloc in Congress, due to having outsize power from keeping seats apportioned for the total population in the South although hundreds of thousands had been disenfranchised, Congress did not pass another civil rights law until 1875. The company successfully appealed for relief on the grounds it offered "separate but equal" accommodation. Louisiana law distinguished between "white", "black" and "colored" that is, people of mixed European and African ancestry. The law had already specified that blacks could not ride with white people, but colored people could ride with

whites before A group of concerned black, colored and white citizens in New Orleans formed an association dedicated to rescinding the law. The group persuaded Homer Plessy to test it; he was a man of color who was of fair complexion and one-eighth "Negro" in ancestry. Once he had boarded the train, he informed the train conductor of his racial lineage and took a seat in the whites-only car. He was directed to leave that car and sit instead in the "coloreds only" car. Plessy refused and was immediately arrested. They lost in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, in which the Court ruled that "separate but equal" facilities were constitutional. The finding contributed to 58 more years of legalized discrimination against black and colored people in the United States. One rationale for the systematic exclusion of black Americans from southern public society was that it was for their own protection. An early 20th-century scholar suggested that allowing blacks to attend white schools would mean "constantly subjecting them to adverse feeling and opinion", which might lead to "a morbid race consciousness". In President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order , desegregating the armed services. Board of Education of Topeka , U. In its pivotal decision, the Court unanimously overturned the Plessy decision. The Supreme Court found that legally mandated de jure public school segregation was unconstitutional. The decision had far-reaching social ramifications. History has shown that problems of educating poor children are not confined to minority status, and states and cities have continued to grapple with approaches. The court ruling did not stop de facto or residentially based school segregation. Such segregation continues today in many regions. Some city school systems have also begun to focus on issues of economic and class segregation rather than racial segregation, as they have found that problems are more prevalent when the children of the poor of any ethnic group are concentrated. Supreme Court opinions in *Korematsu v. United States*, U. It next appeared in the landmark decision of *Loving v. Virginia*, U. Interpretation of the Constitution and its application to minority rights continues to be controversial as Court membership changes. Observers such as Ian F. Lopez believe that in the s, the Supreme Court has become more protective of the status quo. *Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education*, upheld desegregation busing of students to achieve integration. Public arena In , Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a city bus to a white man in Montgomery, Alabama. This was not the first time this happened – for example Parks was inspired by 15 year old Claudette Colvin doing the same thing nine months earlier [30] – but the Parks act of civil disobedience was chosen, symbolically, as an important catalyst in the growth of the Civil Rights Movement ; activists built the Montgomery Bus Boycott around it, which lasted more than a year and resulted in desegregation of the privately run buses in the city. Civil rights protests and actions, together with legal challenges, resulted in a series of legislative and court decisions which contributed to undermining the Jim Crow system. The NAACP had been engaged in a series of litigation cases since the early 20th century in efforts to combat laws that disenfranchised black voters across the South. Some of the early demonstrations achieved positive results, strengthening political activism, especially in the post-World War II years. Black veterans were impatient with social oppression after having fought for the United States and freedom across the world. It was the beginning of his own influential political career. On January 8, during his first State of the Union address , Johnson asked Congress to "let this session of Congress be known as the session which did more for civil rights than the last hundred sessions combined. The disappearance of the three activists captured national attention and the ensuing outrage was used by Johnson and civil rights activists to build a coalition of northern Democrats and Republicans and push Congress to pass the Civil Rights Act of United States US In some areas of the Deep South, white resistance made these efforts almost entirely ineffectual. President Johnson issued a call for a strong voting rights law and hearings soon began on the bill that would become the Voting Rights Act. It also provided for federal oversight and monitoring of counties with historically low minority voter turnout. Years of enforcement have been needed to overcome resistance, and additional legal challenges have been made in the courts to ensure the ability of voters to elect candidates of their choice. For instance, many cities and counties introduced at-large election of council members, which resulted in many cases of diluting minority votes and preventing election of minority-supported candidates. Anti-miscegenation laws were not repealed by the Civil Rights Act of [33] but were declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court ruling in *Loving v. Because opportunities were so limited in the South, African Americans moved in great numbers to northern cities to seek better lives, becoming an urbanized population. White opposition led*

to their exclusion from most organized sporting competitions. The boxers Jack Johnson and Joe Louis both of whom became world heavyweight boxing champions and track and field athlete Jesse Owens who won four gold medals at the Summer Olympics in Berlin earned fame during this era. In baseball, a color line instituted in the s had informally barred blacks from playing in the major leagues , leading to the development of the Negro Leagues , which featured many fine players. A major breakthrough occurred in , when Jackie Robinson was hired as the first African American to play in Major League Baseball; he permanently broke the color bar. Baseball teams continued to integrate in the following years, leading to the full participation of black baseball players in the Major Leagues in the s.

Chapter 6 : Jim Crow in New York | Brennan Center for Justice

The New Jim Crow author Michelle Alexander and Sherrilyn Ifill, co-author with Bryan Stevenson, Loretta Lynch and Tony Thompson of the recently rele See more New York Times Bestsellers.

And as our report makes it disturbingly clear: More than , New Yorkers are currently disenfranchised under the law. Here is the history. For about years, New York lawmakers found various ways to keep African Americans from voting. First, of course, there was slavery. After emancipation, two laws continued to be especially effective: One theme that occurs again and again is an alleged criminal propensity among African Americans as a reason to restrict the black vote. In a refrain that echoes throughout the century-long suffrage debate, Delegate Samuel Young implored in "By whom are they filled? By the very race whom is now proposed to cloth with the power of deciding upon your political rights. But the Fifteenth Amendment forced New York to revisit its constitution. However, the same commission also recommended a small and barely noticed change to the wording of the criminal disenfranchisement provision which had an enormous and lasting adverse impact on African-American suffrage. Between and , 19 other states passed similar laws. By , 38 states had some type of criminal voting restriction. The same law is on the books today, and its intended effects continue. There is a broadening consensus across the country that restoring the right to vote to people living in the community is not just important for our democracy, but that giving people a voice in the community makes them stakeholders and less likely to commit future crimes. We have a stake in whether they succeed," Professor Ogletree wrote. There are currently several bills pending in the New York State Assembly and Senate that would restore the voting rights to those on parole. The bill would require the Department of Corrections and the Board of Parole to provide individuals information about their voting rights once they regained eligibility. The bill passed the full Assembly in June and is currently pending in the Senate Elections Committee. In April , the Brennan Center testified in favor of this bill. The Democracy Restoration Act , introduced in July, is federal legislation that seeks to restore voting rights in federal elections to the nearly 4 million disenfranchised Americans who are out of prison and living in the community.

Chapter 7 : New-York Historical Society | Black Citizenship in the Age of Jim Crow

The New Jim Crow is such a book. Praised by Harvard Law professor Lani Guinier as "brave and bold," this book directly challenges the notion that the election of Barack Obama signals a new era of colorblindness.

In the early days of colonial America, slavery was not as common as we would think. The primary method of securing the cheap labor needed to work the land was through the indentured servitude of both blacks and whites. We will write a custom essay sample on The New Jim Crow or any similar topic specifically for you Do Not Waste HIRE WRITER As plantations grew bigger and needed larger amounts of labor, slavery became the preferred means of obtaining cost-efficient labor and also helped drive a wedge between poor whites and their black counterparts. After the Civil War and the outlawing of slavery, Jim Crow laws were established to maintain the system of racial hierarchy. These laws helped to perpetuate the disenfranchisement of blacks in the South and was regarded by many as a fair and equitable settlement to the question of racial integration in America. African-Americans were not satisfied with this overtly hostile system that infringed on their civil rights and worked hard to abolish this system of racial control. Using crack-cocaine as the poster-child for his new war, Ronald Reagan appealed to the American public for increased funding, increased federal involvement, and harsh new sentencing laws for drug abuse. After getting the public support for his campaign, America saw an unprecedented rise in its incarceration rate, particularly among African Americans. This is achieved through a myriad of formal and informal practices. African-Americans are targeted and prosecuted at a much higher rate even though they are not statistically any likelier to abuse or sell drugs than the white population. The police have had a major role in how the effects of the drug war have been mostly concentrated in the black community. A major reason for this is because of the very nature of drug law enforcement. Normal crime involves an injured party or witness that reports it and asks for police action. In drug crime, both the buyer and seller have no interest in reporting the criminal activity and it is the responsibility of the police to actively search for violators. This allows police the discretionary power to decide in which communities they will search for drug activity and who they will apprehend. Even though the rates of drug abuse are similar in both the black and white communities, police have targeted black communities almost exclusively in their drug control efforts. The federal government has incentivized the drug related activities of local law enforcement through the disbursement of federal grants. The author states that at the beginning of the drug war, law enforcement did not see drugs as the major issue and were hesitant to execute it. Through the use of federal grants, local law enforcement began competing for funds, equipment, and training to wage the drug war as we now know it. Once a suspect is apprehended, the prosecutor decides whether the state will pursue charges and what the nature of those charges will be. The approval of harsh mandatory sentencing laws allows prosecutors to force plea bargains from many defendants through intimidation. By using these tactics, very few defendants go to trial because of their reasonable fear of receiving exorbitantly long sentences for minor crimes. Another factor that contributes to the mass incarceration of blacks is the denial of comprehensive legal representation. The public defenders office is woefully underfunded and many of the people apprehended are routinely denied even this meager resource. The prosecution clearly has the upper hand in these scenarios and uses it to dictate the outcome of the legal process. After an individual has been convicted of a drug crime, their lives are forever changed for the worse. They lose many basic freedoms such as the right to vote or serve on a jury. During the Jim Crow era, blacks were denied full citizenship through a formalized social structure which allowed and condoned their disparate treatment. After the success of the Civil Rights Movement, it became taboo and unacceptable to be openly racist or discriminatory. Through selective law enforcement, judicial apathy, and prosecutorial aggressiveness, America has found a way to continue the disparate treatment of colored people without any of the guilt. This openly harsh and discriminatory treatment helps to further achieve the desired outcome of disenfranchisement and hopelessness found in the black and Latino communities. The worst effects of the mass incarceration may be the ones suffered after release from prison. After release, many convicts have incredible difficulty reconnecting with their family, finding housing and employment, and are generally marginalized. In our

society, overt racism is frowned upon and America has found a way to circumvent this societal expectation. Through the specific targeting of blacks in the drug war and then imposing the brand of criminality, we can now justify our discrimination against them without the accompanying feelings of guilt and shame. Too many black and brown people are suffering and we must find a new way to approach this problem.

Chapter 8 : The New Jim Crow - New York Essays

The New Jim Crow - Vanderbilt University.

Chapter 9 : NY Daily News - We are currently unavailable in your region

A Brief History of Jim Crow "I can ride in first-class cars on the railroads and in the streets," wrote journalist T. McCants Stewart. "I can stop in and drink a glass of soda and be more politely waited upon than in some parts of New England."