

Segregated By Design Viewing Guide

I. A Forgotten History: What does “de facto” and “de jure” segregation mean? Why does Rothstein argue that segregation in the north is “de jure” NOT “de facto”? Why is that important?

II. The Policies: How did these government policies and agencies contribute to segregation?

First Public Housing Program:

Federal Housing Administration:

III. Racial Zoning: What did the maps the federal government created indicate? What was the assumption that the government made for why neighborhoods near Black people were marked in red? Was this true?

Why did these policies mean that African Americans generally paid more for housing?

IV. The Slums: How did federal and local governments contribute to deteriorating conditions in African American neighborhoods? How does this fuel white resistance to integration?

What is blockbusting and why does Rothstein argue the government was complicit in this practice?

V. Slum Clearance: What was the purpose of “slum clearance” and in what ways did the federal government participate in this practice?

VI. State-Sponsored Violence: Why does Rothstein call the violence directed against African Americans moving into neighborhoods where only white people lived “state-sponsored”?

VI. The Wealth Gap: How do racist housing policies contribute to the racial wealth gap? Why does Rothstein argue that the Fair Housing Act of 1968 did little to change segregation?

VII. Effects of Segregation: How does racial segregation contribute to racial inequality?

IX. Constitutional Remedy: What does Rothstein argue is the solution? Under the guise of “banning Critical Race Theory,” many states are considering or have enacted restrictions on teaching, or using materials that promote, “divisive concepts.” This includes the concept that “an individual, by virtue of his or her race or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex.” Explain why Rothstein’s work could or could not be banned in these states.



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