

a scholarly review of

stuck in place

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America Then

America Now

Did you know...?

- Before WWII, most Americans (except for farmers) lived and worked in cities
- After WWII, white Americans moved to the suburbs; black Americans stayed in the cities
- This divide was mainly due to unfair housing laws that prevented black people from moving to more desirable, suburban neighborhoods

After the Fair Housing Act of 1968 was passed, middle-class blacks moved out of the ghettos and into the suburbs into newly formed, black middle-class neighborhoods.

Following suit, industry moved from the cities to more rural areas, taking jobs with them; civic infrastructures, such as churches and community centers moved, too. Monies for schools and educational programs were re-allocated, since they were largely supported by the taxes paid by the middle-class.

But...



The Hypersegregated States of America

Methods of public transportation, on which the poor rely, did not expand to the suburbs!



Without a way to get to work poor, almost exclusively black, city dwellers found themselves left behind with all that was left – crumbling civic infrastructure, poor school systems, and an increase in social problems that accompany poverty – crime, alcoholism, and drug use.

While there are ways to escape poverty, too often moving to the suburbs results in **culture shock** for black children, who find themselves the victims of **racism** and **discrimination** from the surrounding white populace.



This unwelcome treatment sends many black children back to the ghetto as adults – occasionally by choice but most often by force, as a hostile environment results in poor academic performance, which extends itself to the makings of poverty and a [hypersegregated](#) America. Look around your neighborhood. How integrated is it?

Urban Investment

Urban Renewal

Rather than force black Americans to abandon their neighborhoods and traditions and melt into white culture, industry must reinvest in black neighborhoods! Here are a few examples of where it is already successfully occurring:



The Clinton Foundation
Harlem, NY



Lifespan Hospital Group
South Providence, RI



Chrysler
Detroit, MI



Coca-Cola
Atlanta, GA

By bringing a mix of jobs that require skilled and semi-skilled labor *or* a college education to the cities there will be high-paying jobs available for people of *all* skills levels that:

- Do not require a difficult commute to work for those who rely on public transport; would increase the use of public transport *from* the suburbs *to* cities
- Will force governments to reinvest in cities, due to increased economic activity
- May result in less segregated communities, which would result in better inner-city school systems, which can lead to a reduction in crime rates

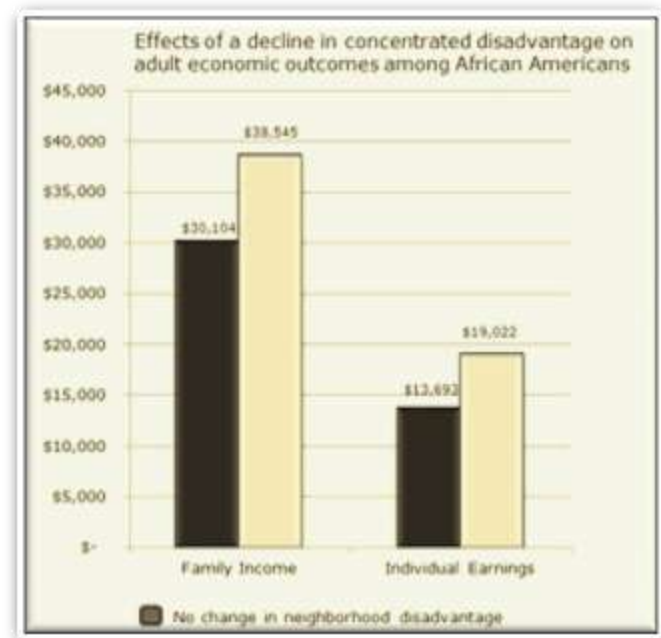
Unsticking Yourself

- What can you learn from reading *stuck in place*?
- That poverty does not beget poverty; *unfair societal treatment of an "other"* begets poverty
- That if you are not a part of the solution, you may be a part of the problem. Examine your behaviors and ask yourself, "Can I do better?"
- That if we work together as a multicultural society, we can help to eradicate the roots of poverty by creating one, integrated America (see chart, below)
- That efforts to eliminate poverty's roots can result in a boon to American businesses, too!

Can one person make a difference?

YES! YOU CAN!

Why do I recommend you read *stuck in place*? As a graduate of the University of Rhode Island's [Women's Studies program](#) I have spent the last several years researching oppressed societies and reaching out to those who can make a difference. *stuck in place* will educate you on the places and the ways – big and small – that you can make a difference, showing you how you can become the change you wish to see in the world.



Re-created from Sharkey (2013) p. 162

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