# Race, Territory, and the Roots of Difference in American Governance and Public Policy

The United States has a long and complicated history of race, territory, and difference. From the country's founding, racial discrimination has been a defining feature of American society. This discrimination has been expressed in a variety of ways, including segregation, disenfranchisement, and violence.

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of race and territory in shaping American governance and public policy. Scholars have argued that racial difference has been a central organizing principle of American society, and that it has had a profound impact on everything from the distribution of resources to the criminal justice system.



National Health Insurance in the United States and Canada: Race, Territory, and the Roots of Difference (American Governance and Public Policy series)

by Lillian H. Chaney

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This article examines the relationship between race, territory, and difference in American governance and public policy. It begins by exploring the historical roots of racial discrimination in the United States. It then discusses the ways in which race and territory have been used to justify and maintain racial inequality. Finally, it considers the implications of these findings for contemporary debates about race and public policy.

#### The Historical Roots of Racial Discrimination in the United States

The origins of racial discrimination in the United States can be traced back to the country's founding. The first European settlers to arrive in North America brought with them a belief in the superiority of white people over other races. This belief was used to justify the enslavement of Africans and the displacement of Native Americans.

After the American Revolution, racial discrimination was enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. The Constitution allowed for the enslavement of Africans, and it also granted states the power to determine who could vote. This power was used to disenfranchise African Americans for generations.

In the 19th century, the United States expanded westward. This expansion was accompanied by a wave of violence against Native Americans. The U.S. government also implemented a series of policies that were designed to assimilate Native Americans into white society. These policies included the forced removal of Native Americans from their land and the establishment of boarding schools for Native American children.

The legacy of racial discrimination in the United States is still felt today.

African Americans and Native Americans continue to experience disproportionate levels of poverty, unemployment, and incarceration. They

are also more likely to be victims of violence. These disparities are a direct result of the historical policies of racial discrimination.

#### The Use of Race and Territory to Justify and Maintain Racial Inequality

Race and territory have been used to justify and maintain racial inequality in a variety of ways. One of the most common ways is through the use of segregation. Segregation is the practice of separating people based on their race. This practice has been used to create separate schools, neighborhoods, and even cities for African Americans and other minority groups.

Segregation has had a devastating impact on the lives of African Americans. It has limited their access to education, housing, and employment. It has also created a sense of isolation and alienation.

Another way that race and territory have been used to justify and maintain racial inequality is through the use of redlining. Redlining is the practice of denying mortgages and other financial services to residents of certain neighborhoods based on their race. This practice was used to create and maintain segregated neighborhoods.

Redlining had a devastating impact on African American communities. It made it difficult for African Americans to buy homes and build wealth. It also led to the decline of African American neighborhoods.

The use of race and territory to justify and maintain racial inequality has had a profound impact on American society. It has created a system of racial segregation that has limited the opportunities of African Americans

and other minority groups. It has also created a sense of division and mistrust between different racial groups.

### The Implications of these Findings for Contemporary Debates about Race and Public Policy

The findings of this study have important implications for contemporary debates about race and public policy. First, they show that race and territory have been central organizing principles of American society for centuries. This means that any attempt to address racial inequality must take into account the historical and geographic context in which it occurs.

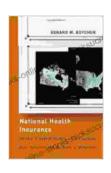
Second, the findings of this study show that the use of race and territory to justify and maintain racial inequality has had a devastating impact on the lives of African Americans and other minority groups. This means that any attempt to address racial inequality must be based on a commitment to justice and equality.

Finally, the findings of this study suggest that the United States has a long way to go to overcome the legacy of racial discrimination. However, the findings also provide a roadmap for how to achieve this goal. By understanding the historical and geographic roots of racial inequality, we can develop policies that are more effective at addressing its causes.

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