

Ch 16 Section 3 Segregation and Discrimination

African Americans Fight Legal Discrimination

Voting Restrictions

- For at least 10 years after Reconstruction, Southern blacks can vote
- By 1900, all Southern states restrict voting, deny equality
- Some limit vote to those who can read; officials give literacy tests
- Some have **poll tax** that must be paid annually to vote
- Some add **grandfather clause** to constitution to let poor whites vote
 - can vote if self, father, grandfather voted before 1867

Jim Crow Laws

- 1870s, 1880s, Supreme Court allows poll tax, grandfather clause
- Racial **segregation** laws separate races in private, public places
- Segregation laws called **Jim Crow laws** after old minstrel song

Plessy v. Ferguson

- 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson*—segregation legal in public places
- Allows “separate but equal” doctrine if provide equal service

Turn-of-the-Century Race Relations

Opposing Discrimination

- Racial etiquette—informal rules for black-white relations
 - enforce second-class status for blacks
- Moderate reformers, like Booker T. Washington, get white support
- W. E. B. Du Bois, Ida B. Wells think problems too urgent to postpone
- Born a slave, **Ida B. Wells** becomes teacher, newspaper editor
 - campaigns for racial justice

Violence

- African Americans who do not follow etiquette are punished, lynched
 - more than 1,400 killed 1882–1892

Discrimination in the North

- Many blacks migrate North for better paying jobs, social equality
- Are forced into segregated neighborhoods
- Rejected by labor unions; hired last, fired first by employers
- Competition between blacks, working-class whites sometimes violent

Discrimination in the West

Mexican Workers

- More Mexicans build railroads in Southwest than other ethnic groups
 - forced to work for less than other groups
- Mexicans major force in Southwest agricultural industries
- Some Southwest Mexicans, African Americans forced into **debt peonage**:
 - system of slavery to work off debt to employer
 - 1911, Supreme Court declares unconstitutional

Excluding the Chinese

- Whites fear job competition, push Chinese to separate areas, schools
- Opposition to Chinese immigration leads to Chinese Exclusion Act