

Classism Today©



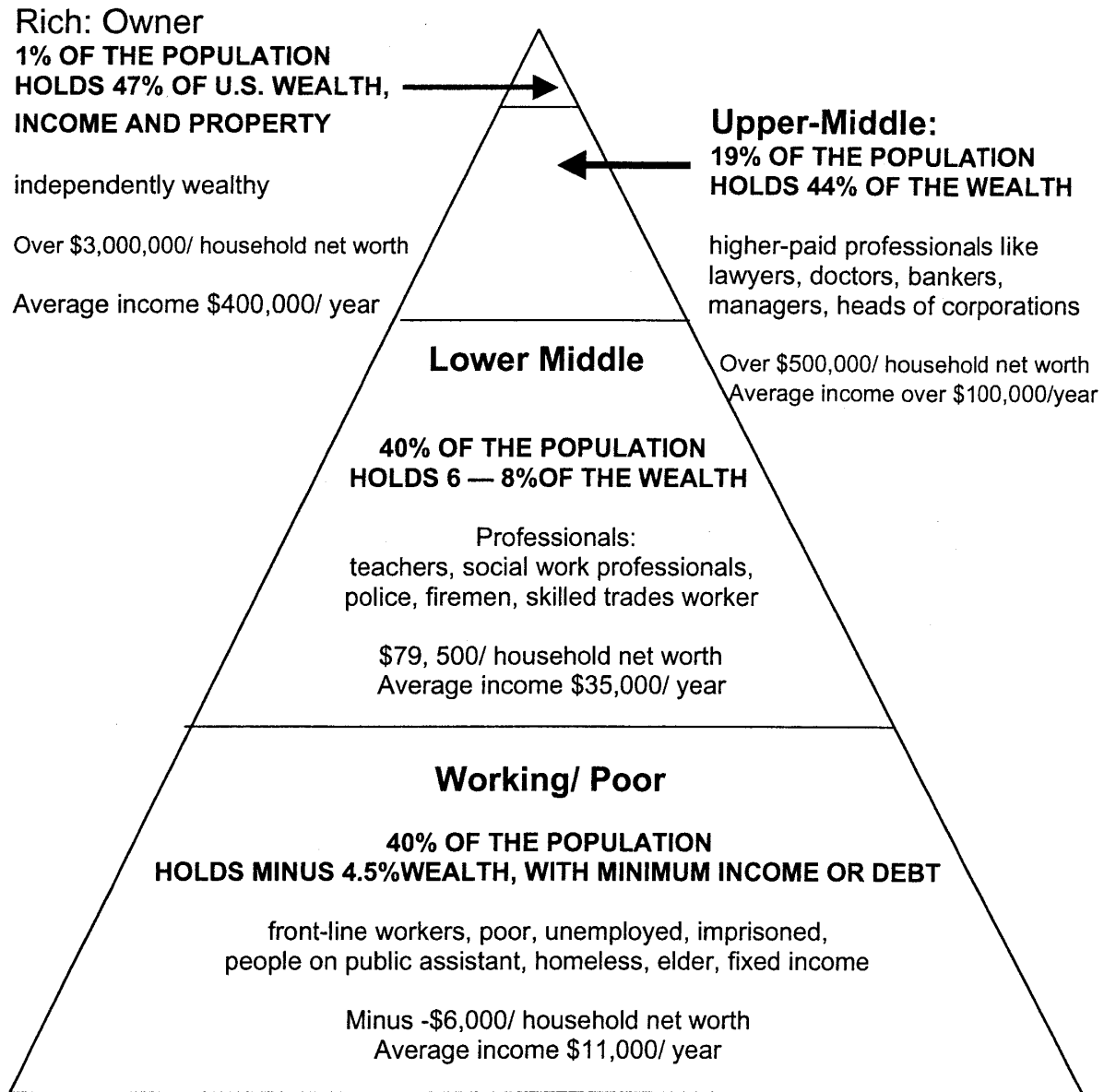
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For Social Diversity in Education Course, Fall 2012
University of Massachusetts, Amherst



Wealth Distribution Activity



THE ECONOMIC PYRAMID



Wealth Inequity

How did this
happen?

Wealth Inequity



Housing & Suburbs



LAND, ACREAGE, AND LOTS
We can help you find the perfect place.

Land Acquisition & Colonialism



Laws & Polices

Race: Power of an Illusion



- “And these, uh, were public policy decisions in which, on one hand, people were given access to property, given title and subsequently wealth. And on another hand, where people were not given access to property, did not generate wealth and did not generate the kind of opportunity for the next generation.”
- Melvin Oliver, Sociologist

Race: Power of an Illusion



- “So if you can get a government loan with your GI Bill, your newly earned college degree and buy a house in an all-white area, that then appreciates in value, that then you can pass on to your children, then you're passing on wealth....
- Beverly Tatum

Race: Power of an Illusion



- “To the child of that parent, it looks like my father worked hard, bought a house, passed his wealth on to me, made it possible for me to go to school, mortgaged that house so I could have, you know, relatively debt-free college experience, and has financed my college education. “
- “How come your father didn't do that? You know, well, there are some good reasons why maybe your father had a harder time doing it if you're African-American, or Latino, or Native American.”
- Beverly Tatum

Wealth Inequity

What is the impact
today?

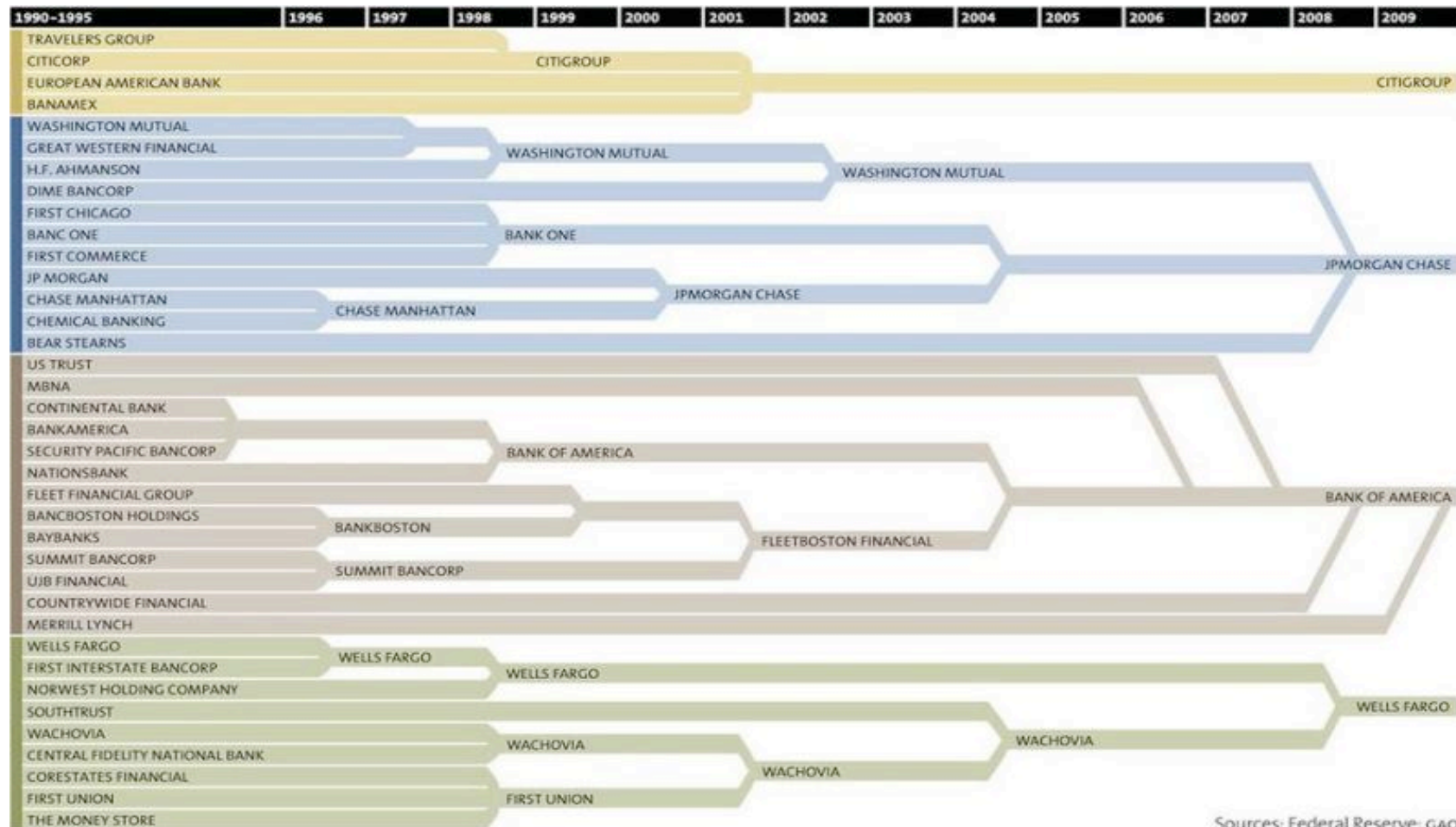
Economic Crisis of 2008

- Economic Crisis of 2008– what is and why did it happen?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4Ns4ltUvfw&feature=related>

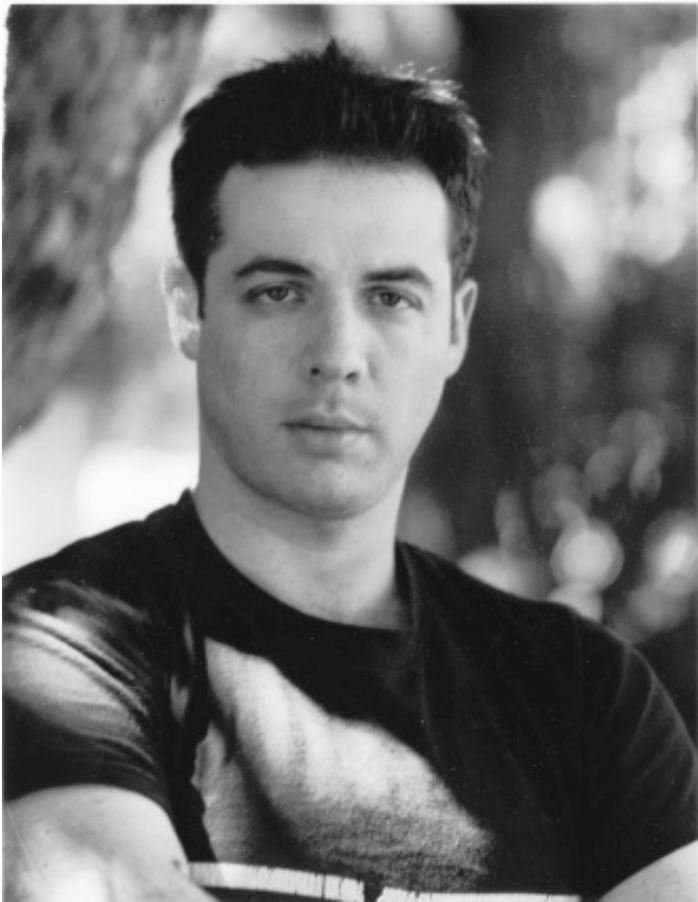
- What was the result of this crisis?

U.S. Banking System



Sources: Federal Reserve; GAO

Race: Power of an Illusion



➤ “Today, the average Black family has only one-eighth the net worth or assets of the average white family. That difference has seemingly grown since the 1960's, since the Civil Rights triumphs. And is not explained by other factors, like education, earnings rates, savings rates. It is really the legacy of racial inequality from generations past. No other measure captures the legacy, the sort of cumulative disadvantage of race, or cumulative advantage of race for whites, than net worth or wealth.”

➤ –Dalton Conley, Sociologist



Occupy Wall Street

Resources



Small Group Activity Instructions

- In small groups, you are to do a mini-research assignment on Occupy Wall Street.
- Guiding questions on next slide.
- Use computers or articles distributed to find out information and dialogue on this movement.
- You will then report out on highlights of your dialogue to the class.

Small Group Assignments

- Group 1= Race & Occupy Wall Street
- Group 2= Occupy Colleges 101
- Group 3= Occupy Wall Street & Violence
- Group 4= Occupy Wall Street & Media

Small Group Discussion Questions

- How would you describe the Occupy Movement? What are the goals?
- What observations can you make between your topic (race, media, college, violence) and the Occupy Wall Movement?
- How successful is the Occupy Movement toward addressing classism?
- Would you participate in the Occupy Movement—in NYC or locally? Explain.

Occupy Movement 101

Use for general information on the movement

- Occupy Wall Street
<http://occupywallst.org/>
- We Are the 99 Percent
<http://wearethe99percent.tumblr.com/>
- Occupy Wall Street – Wikipedia
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Occupy_Wall_Street
- Parsing the Data and Ideology of the We Are 99% Tumblr
<http://rortybomb.wordpress.com/2011/10/09/parsing-the-data-and-ideology-of-the-we-are-99-tumblr/>

Occupy Movement: Race & Racism

- Occupy Wall Street's Race Problem
<http://prospect.org/article/occupy-wall-streets-race-problem>
- Occupy the Hood
<http://vimeo.com/30146870>
- Angela Davis on Occupy Wall Street
<http://www.theroot.com/buzz/video-angela-davis-occupy-wall-street>
- Opinion: Exploiting anti-Semitism to destroy Occupy Wall Street
http://www.jewishjournal.com/opinion/article/exploiting_anti-semitism_to_destroy_occupy_wall_street_20111014

Occupy Movement: Police/Violence

- MSNBC on NYPD Police Brutality during Occupy Wall Street Lawrence O'donnell with "The Last Word"
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zgr3DiqWYCI>
- Occupy Wall Street: Police brutality, media blackout
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zV9uZ00bqD8>
- Occupy Wall Street protests continue after violence in Oakland
http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/occupy-wall-street-protests-continue-after-violence-in-oakland/2011/10/31/gIQANgBDaM_story.html
- Occupy Wall Street Anniversary Protests Dwarfed by Police Presence
http://abcnews.go.com/US/occupy-wall-street-anniversary-protests-dwarfed-police-presence/story?id=17249773#.UJg_Zr-gQY4

Occupy Movement: Opinions/Media

- Can Occupy Wall Street Spark a Revolution?
<http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2011/10/06/can-occupy-wall-street-spark-a-revolution>
- How Do you Measure Success for the Occupy Wall Street Movement
<http://news.blogs.cnn.com/2011/10/31/how-do-you-measure-success-for-occupy-wall-street-movement/>
- Occupy Wall Street Celebrates One Month Milestone
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/financevideo/8833889/Occupy-Wall-Street-movement-celebrates-one-month-milestone.html>
- Occupy Wall Street One Year Later- 10 Charts About Inequality
<http://thinkprogress.org/economy/2012/09/17/856711/ten-inequality-charts-occupy/?mobile=nc>

Occupy Movement: College Students

- Occupy Student Debt
<http://occupystudentdebt.com/>
- Occupy Amherst
<http://occupyamherst.com/>
- Occupy Student Debt Fact Sheet
<http://occupystudentdebt.com/studentdebtfacts>
- Federal Student Loans Programs – History
<http://febp.newamerica.net/background-analysis/federal-student-loan-programs-history>

Large Group Discussion

- What are your reactions to this activity?
- What observations can you make between your topic (race, media, local, police) and the Occupy Movement?
- What connections can you make with the Occupy Movement and other types of oppression? (sexism, heterosexism, etc.)
- What are some challenges that the Occupy Movement has faced (participation, longevity, legal, etc.)?
- In your opinion, how successful has the Occupy Movement been toward addressing classism?
- Would you participate in the Occupy Movement? Explain.