

Race and Social Inequities

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Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site

Race and Social Inequities

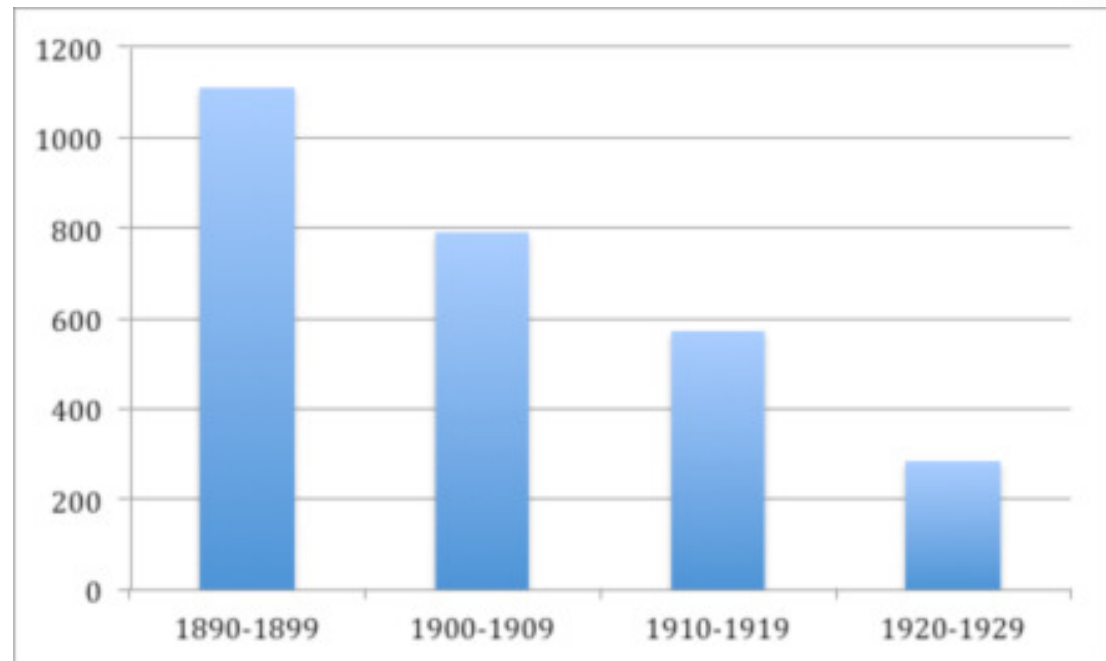
Outline

- TR's predominant **ideas** on race and race relations
 - The era (1877-1920)
 - The progressives
 - TR himself
- TR's **actions** as president regarding race and race relations
 - Booker T. Washington's visit to the White House
 - The Brownsville Incident

The Era (1877-1920)

- Jim Crow in the South
 - “Separate but equal” doctrine, *de jure* segregation
- Restrictions on immigration
- Indian Wars

Number of lynching victims in the United States by decade
(American Social History Project)

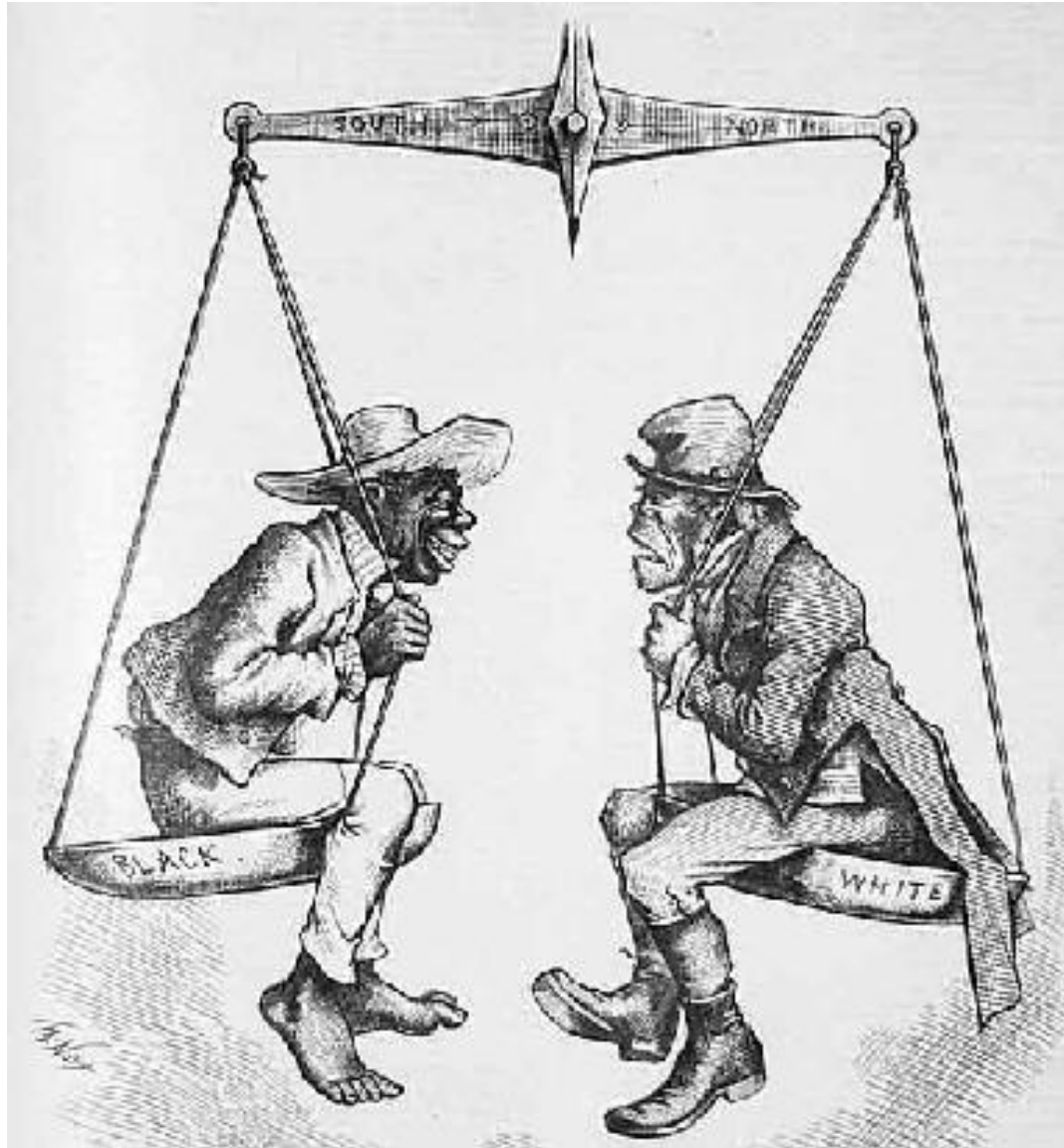




THE ANTI-CHINESE WALL
The American Wall Goes Up as the Chinese Original Goes Down.

“The anti-Chinese wall”

The anti-Chinese wall. Prints and Photographs division. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. <http://www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org/Research/Digital-Library/Record?libID=o287882>. Theodore Roosevelt Digital Library. Dickinson State University.



Cover of Harper's Weekly

December 9th, 1876



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THE ULTIMATE CAUSE.

“But why is it,” asked the thoughtful Chinese, “that I may go to your heaven, while I may not go to your country?”
The American missionary shrugged his shoulders. “There is no Labor vote in heaven!” said he.

The Ultimate Cause

Cover of *Puck* magazine, December 12th, 1900

<http://www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org/Research/Digital-Library/Record/?libID=o275690>

TR – White Superiority

- *“The problem is so to adjust the relations between two races of different ethnic type that the rights of neither be abridged nor jeopardized; that the backward race be trained so that it may enter into the possession of true freedom while the forward race is enabled to preserve unharmed the high civilization wrought out by its forefathers.”*
 - Speech entitled “Lincoln and the Race Problem.” February 13th, 1905

- Should we accept “He was a man of his time”?

TR – Civil Rights

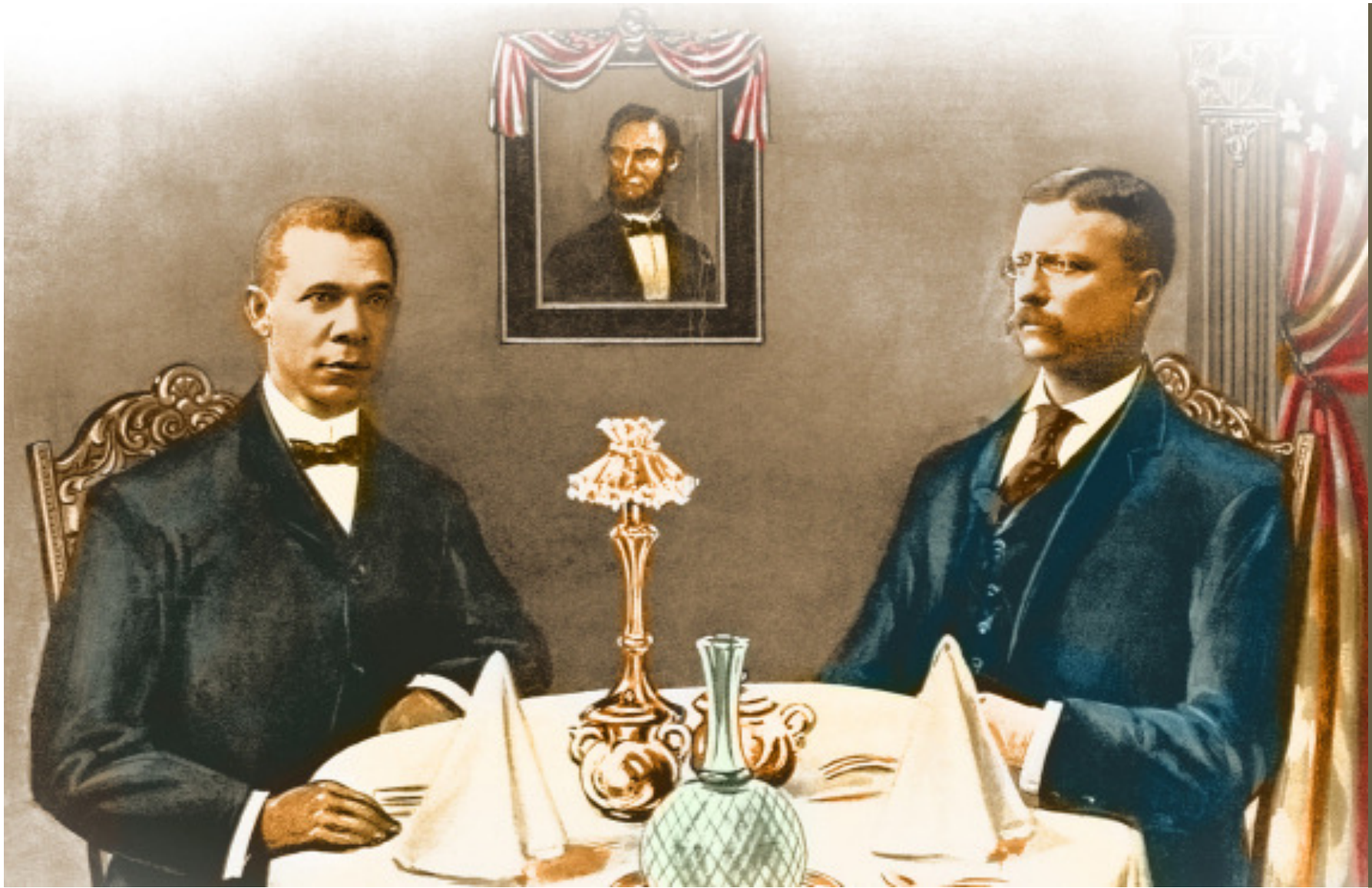
“I have always felt that the passage of the Fifteenth Amendment at the time it was passed was a mistake; but to admit this is very different from admitting that it is wise, even if it were practicable, now to repeal that amendment...”

Letter to Henry S. Pritchett, December 14, 1904



TR – Square Deal

- From our Issues Theater:
 - *“I fought with the colored Ninth Cavalry at San Juan Hill. And I hold that if a man is good enough to be put up and shot at then he is good enough for me to do what I can to get him a square deal.”*
 - *“The only wise and honorable and Christian thing to do is to treat each black man and each white man strictly on his merits as a man.”*



Dinner with Booker T. Washington

TELEGRAM.

Rec
Executive Mansion,
Washington.

7 WU MC JM 19 Paid 247pm.

Thomaston, Ga., Oct. 18, 1901.

President Roosevelt,
Washington, D.C.

You have made mistake. He who dines with negro, we think no better. To compel his wife is worse.

R. J. Belzer.

16829

Telegram from RJ Belzer to Theodore Roosevelt

Library of Congress Manuscript Division

<http://www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org/Research/Digital-Library/Record/?libID=o35398>



L. C. Gregg in the *Atlanta Constitution*.

“TWO SOULS WITH BUT A SINGLE THOUGHT.”

Reactions to the Dinner

Senator Ben Tillman

- *“The action of President Roosevelt in entertaining that nigger will necessitate our killing a thousand niggers in the South before they will learn their place again.”*

The Nashville *American*

- *“A leak in the dam is dangerous to the dam’s safety. Miscegenation would follow and a mongrel race would be a result.”*

TR, “Brazil and the Negro”

February 21st, 1914

- *“The best men in the United States, not only among the whites but among the blacks also, believe in the complete separation of the races so far as marriage is concerned, **while they also believe in treating each man of whatever color absolutely on his worth as a man, allowing him full opportunity to achieve the success warranted by his ability and integrity, and giving him the full measure of respect to which that success entitles him.**”*

HARPER'S WEEKLY



Vol. 13

New York, Saturday, January 12, 1907

No. 500

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DISHONORABLY DISCHARGED

The Brownsville Incident

August 12th and 13th, 1906

Brownsville - Details

- Around midnight on the 13th one white man was killed and another wounded by gunfire
- Mayor and others blamed the shooting on the black soldiers
- Without any real evidence that they were involved, TR discharged 167 black infantrymen without honor



Remember Brownsville

Campaign broadside (1906)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/rbpe.2400100a/>

Resources

- <http://www.blackpast.org/1905-theodore-roosevelt-lincoln-and-race-problem>
- http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/stories_events_browns.html
- <http://theodorerooseveltcenter.org/Research/Digital-Library/Record/ImageViewer?libID=o279297&imageNo=1>
- <http://www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org/>