

The Roads that Divide: Examining the Effects of the Road Systems of Dayton

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SOC 339: Social Inequality, Dr. Rhubarb

Key Terms

- **Redlining**- A discriminatory practice by which banks, insurance companies, etc. refused or limited loans, mortgages, insurance within specific geographical areas.
- **Blockbusting**-the practice of persuading owners to sell property cheaply because of the fear of people of another race or class moving into the neighborhood, and thus profiting by reselling at a higher price.
- **White Flight**-The move of white city-dwellers to the suburbs to escape the influx of minorities.

End of World War II

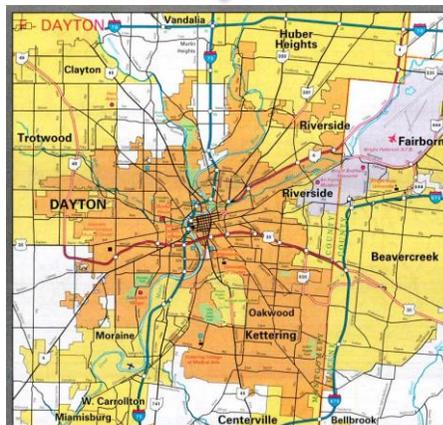
Soldiers came home to work and live in Modern America

Creation of Highways

Roads systems like I-75, 35, 675, and I-70 made travel easier and quicker

Creation of Suburbia

Population of cities just outside Dayton boomed due to new tenants and business brought with them.

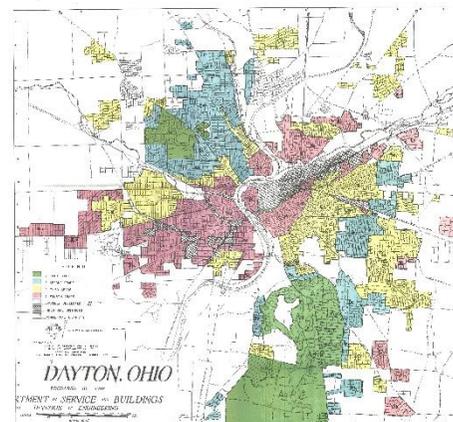


Theoretical Perspective

After the war everyone was supposed to reap the benefits through economic assistance, yet this was not the case and often led to exclusions based on race. These led to the housing and economic stratification we see today.

Consequences

The struggle with these new suburban areas is the wealth, jobs, and services went with them. This led to the problems we see in the urban areas today due to lack of resources and opportunities. These problems include food deserts, lack of employment, high crime, and recycled poverty.



G.I. Bill

This was a law that passed in 1944 that provided educational assistance, housing assistance, and other benefits. This was to be provided fairly to all who served, but often times was not provided fairly to minorities.

Narratives

Mary Varnado talks about Dayton before I-75. It used to be an industries city with a lot of amenities. She attributes many of the inner-city problems to the highway.

Other stories that highlight these feelings are by Gwen Buchanan, Linda Wood, Dorothy Woods, and others.

References: Iceland, John. *Poverty in America: A Handbook*. 3rd ed., Los Angeles, University of California Press, 2013.

Pais, Jeremy F., Scott South, and Kyle Crowder. *WHITE FLIGHT REVISITED: A MULTIETHNIC PERSPECTIVE ON NEIGHBORHOOD OUT-MIGRATION*. National Center for Biotechnology Information.