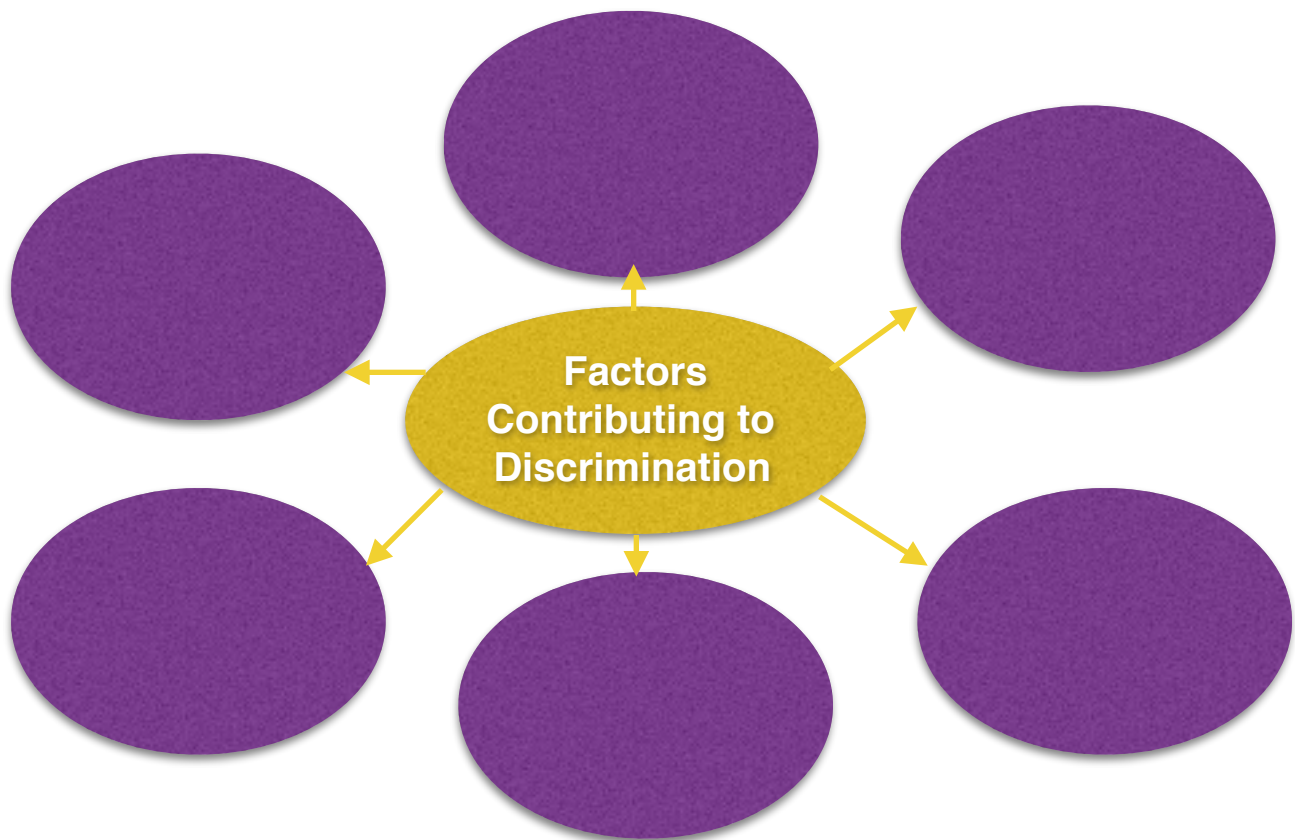


# The Rise of Segregation

## Big Idea

As you read through these passages, complete this web diagram by listing the ways states disenfranchised African Americans and legalized segregation.



# Resistance and Repression

## Analyzing Information

**Why did Democratic Party leaders fear the coalition of poor whites and African American Populists?**

After Reconstruction, many African Americans were very poor and lived under great hardship. Most were sharecroppers, or landless farmers. They worked the land and turned over a large part of their crop to the landlord to pay for rent and supplies.

In 1879, Benjamin "Pap" Singleton, who had formerly been enslaved, organized a large migration of African Americans from the rural South to Kansas. They became known as the Exodusters. Some African Americans joined with the poor white farmers in the Farmers' Alliance. In 1886, a group formed the Colored Farmers' National Alliance. Many African Americans joined the Populist Party in 1891.

Democrats feared the coalition of poor whites and African American Populists. To break it up, Democratic leaders began to appeal to racism. They warned southern whites that the Populist Party would bring back "Black Republican" rule. They made it sound like the return of the Reconstruction period. In addition, election officials found ways to make it difficult for African Americans to vote.

# Imposing Segregation

## Drawing Conclusions

### Draw a conclusion based on these facts:

**Fact:** States imposed poll taxes and literacy requirements on voters.

**Fact:** Election officials were not strict in applying these rules to white voters.

**Conclusion:**

The Fifteenth Amendment prohibited states from denying people the right to vote based on race, color, or former servitude, but not based on other grounds. Soon, states began imposing other voting restrictions that intended to keep African Americans from voting. Mississippi charged a \$2 poll tax, a sum beyond the means of most poor African Americans. It also required that voters be able to read and understand the state constitution. With few schooling opportunities, even those African Americans who could read often failed the tests. Other Southern states used similar tactics. Election officials were less strict in applying the rules to white voters.

In the South, laws enforced separation of the races, or segregation. These laws were called Jim Crow laws. Two Supreme Court decisions set the stage for legalized segregation. In 1883, the Court overturned the Civil Rights Act of 1875. It held the Fourteenth Amendment covered only state actions, so private businesses such as hotels or railroads could legally practice segregation. In *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896), the Court ruled that “separate but equal” facilities were legal. Separate facilities were often far from equal.

# The African American Response

## Comparing and Contrasting

**As you read, complete the sentences.**

**Booker T. Washington** thought African Americans should:

**W.E.B. Du Bois** believed African Americans should:

African Americans increasingly faced mob violence or lynchings. These executions by mobs occurred without proper court action. In 1892, Ida B. Wells, an African American woman from Tennessee, started a campaign against lynching. She published a book condemning the mob violence. Wells called for a fair trial for those accused of crimes. The number of lynchings decreased in the 1900s due in part to her work.

Booker T. Washington was a well-known African American educator. He believed African Americans should try to achieve economic rather than political goals. In 1895, Washington summed up his views in a speech called the Atlanta Compromise. He urged African Americans to delay the fight for civil rights. He said they should focus instead on vocational education to prepare themselves for equal treatment.

Other African American leaders such as W.E.B. DuBois rejected Washington’s ideas. DuBois believed African Americans could achieve equality only by demanding their rights especially voting rights. Many African Americans continued to work to restore the right to vote and to end discrimination.

# Section Wrap-Up

Answer these questions to check your understanding of the entire section.

1. How were African Americans in the South prevented from exercising their voting rights?

2. What was the Supreme Court's role in legalizing segregation?