

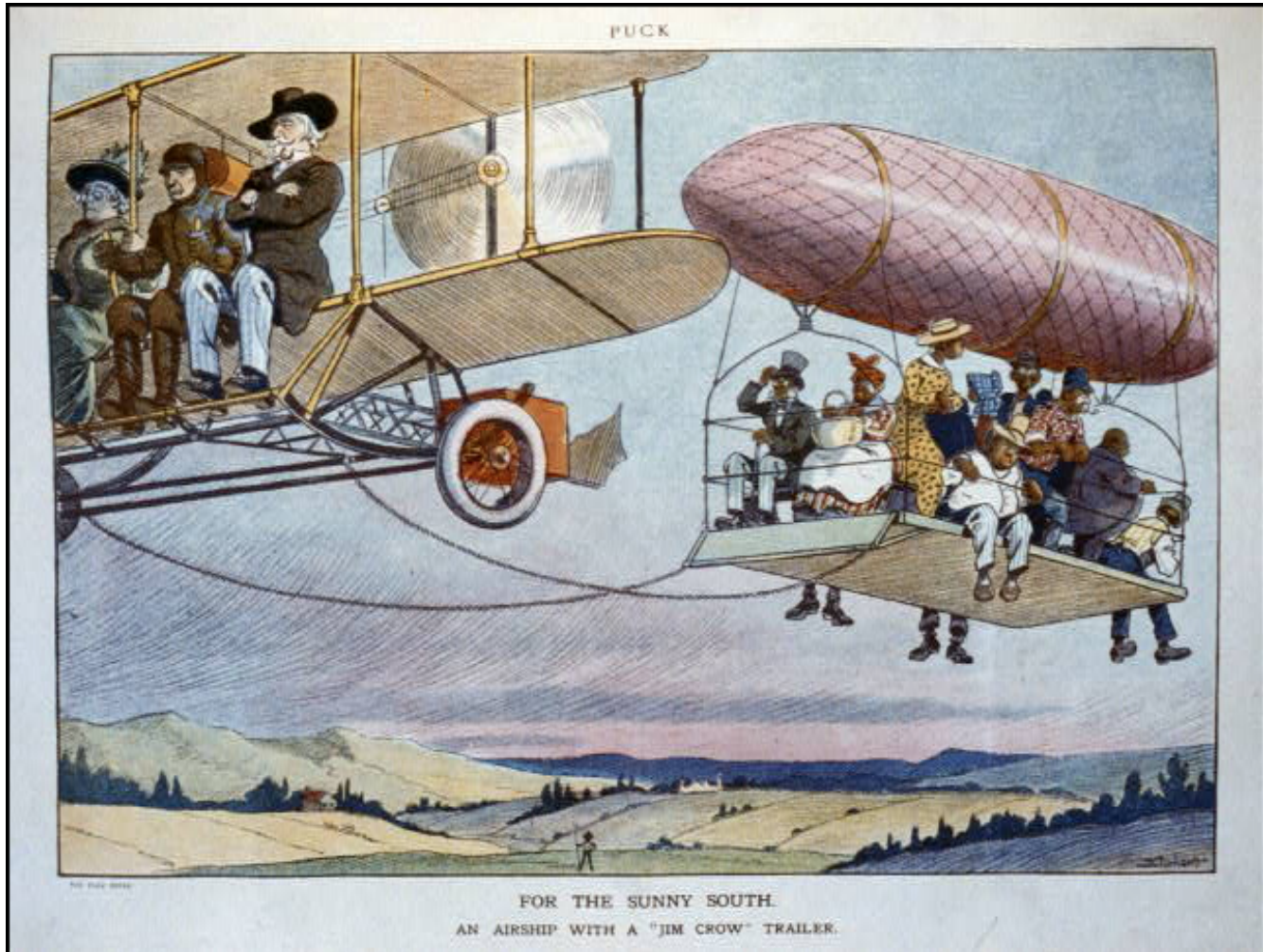
Close Read: Jim Crow Laws

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Objective

How did government institutions undermine the rights of African Americans from 1865 into the 1900's?

Image analysis: The following is an image from Puck Magazine titled *For the Sunny South*. The caption reads: An Airship with a "Jim Crow" trailer. Using this image, predict what YOU think Jim Crow laws might have created or dictated for African American citizens and American Society.



Prediction:

Evidence from image to support prediction:

Primary Source Analysis - Jim Crow Laws & Black Codes:

Starting in the Reconstruction Era (late 1860's), and lasting until as late as the 1960's, many states across the nation passed and enforced a separate set of laws for African Americans. Known as **Jim Crow laws** or **Black Codes**, most of these laws applied to anyone with more than "1/8 negro blood". Below is an excerpt of such laws from various states across the nation. It is important to remember that these are just a sample of the laws that were in existence during this time period. *Using the sampling of Jim Crow laws & Black Codes below, please answer the analysis questions that follow.*

Alabama:

- No person or corporation shall require any white female nurse to nurse wards or rooms in hospitals, either public or private, in which negro men are placed.
- All passenger stations in this state operated by any motor transportation company shall have separate waiting rooms or space and separate ticket windows for the white and colored races.
- It shall be unlawful to conduct a restaurant or other place for the serving of food in the city, at which white and colored people are served in the same room, unless such white and colored persons are effectually separated by a solid partition extending from the floor upward to a distance of seven feet or higher, and unless a separate entrance from the street is provided for each compartment.
- It shall be unlawful for a negro and a white person to play together or in the company with each other in any game of cards or dice, dominoes, or checkers.

Nebraska:

- Marriages are void when one party is a white person and the other is possessed of one-eighth or more negro, Japanese, or Chinese blood.

Wyoming:

- When there are 15 or more colored children within any school district, the board of directors thereof, with the approval of the county superintendent of schools, may provide for a separate school for instruction of colored children.

North Carolina:

- Books shall not be interchangeable between the white and colored schools, but shall continue to be used by the race first using them.
- The state librarian is directed to fit up and maintain a separate place for the use of the colored people who may come to the library for the purpose of reading books or periodicals.

Georgia:

- It shall be unlawful for any amateur white baseball team to play baseball on any vacant lot or baseball diamond within two blocks of a playground devoted to the Negro race, and it shall be unlawful for any amateur colored baseball team to play baseball in any vacant lot or baseball diamond within two blocks of any playground devoted to the white race.
- No colored barber shall serve as a barber to white women or girls.

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Analysis &
Application Task

Jim Crow Laws: Arguments Against

Directions: Using information from the document above, please respond to the following task.

Task: Using the information from the documents above and your knowledge of US history, complete the following:

Imagine it is 1880, 15 years after the US Civil war has ended. You are an attorney living through the Reconstruction Era in a Southern State. While your state has passed some Jim Crow laws and Black Codes regulating the interactions between newly freed blacks and whites, you don't necessarily agree with all of the laws. Additionally, you have read the federal Civil Rights laws of 1866, 1870, and 1875; as such, you believe the Jim Crow laws are illegal. You have been invited to give a speech in front of your state legislature arguing against the legality of Jim Crow laws being passed by your state.

- Using *evidence* from the Jim Crow laws you see above, further examples of [Jim Crow Laws & Black Codes](#), as well as evidence from the [Civil Rights Acts of 1866, 1870, and 1875](#) - write the transcript of your 3 minute speech **arguing** against the legality of Jim Crow laws.
 - You are arguing that Jim Crow laws & Black Codes are **illegal!**
- **argue** means to “give reasons or cite evidence in support of an idea, action, or theory, typically with the aim of persuading others to share one's view.”