

Assessing Climate Change by Understanding Race, Power & Privilege



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About GCCLP:

The **Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy** is a non-profit, public-interest law firm and justice center promoting structural shifts toward **climate justice** and **ecological equity** for communities of color on the frontline of climate change.

GCCLP serves the Gulf South: Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

Theory of Change:

- (Stabilize) Climate Disaster Legal Services
- (Support) Local Leadership Development
- (Build) Community Programming
- (Engage) Human Rights Advocacy



10 terms that can change your life

- God's Green Earth
- Race
- The South
- Privilege
- Extractive Economies
- Climate Change
- Power
- Faith
- Movement
- Green New Deal

The Right to Remain, Return & Recover



Race. What is race?

→ **NOTE:** Please answer **BOTH** Question 8 about Hispanic origin and Question 9 about race. For this census, Hispanic origins are not races.

8. Is Person 1 of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

- ☐ **No**, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
- ☐ Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
- ☐ Yes, Puerto Rican
- ☐ Yes, Cuban
- ☐ Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin — *Print origin, for example, Argentinean, Colombian, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Spaniard, and so on.* ↘

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9. What is Person 1's race? Mark ☒ one or more boxes.

- ☐ White
- ☐ Black, African Am., or Negro
- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native — *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.* ↘

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- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> Korean | <input type="checkbox"/> Guamanian or Chamorro |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Filipino | <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese | <input type="checkbox"/> Samoan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian — <i>Print race, for example, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on.</i> ↘ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Pacific Islander — <i>Print race, for example, Fijian, Tongan, and so on.</i> ↘ | |

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- ☐ Some other race — *Print race.* ↘

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Color, Ethnicity, Heritage, Citizenship/Nationality, Language, Religion, Culture

Race is...

BLACK



WHITE



LATINO



- Not real. Race is a social construct created by humans with no biological basis.
- Race can shift over time.
- Race categories are generally determined by the dominant group.
- **Race has real consequences.**

What are some Race Consequences?

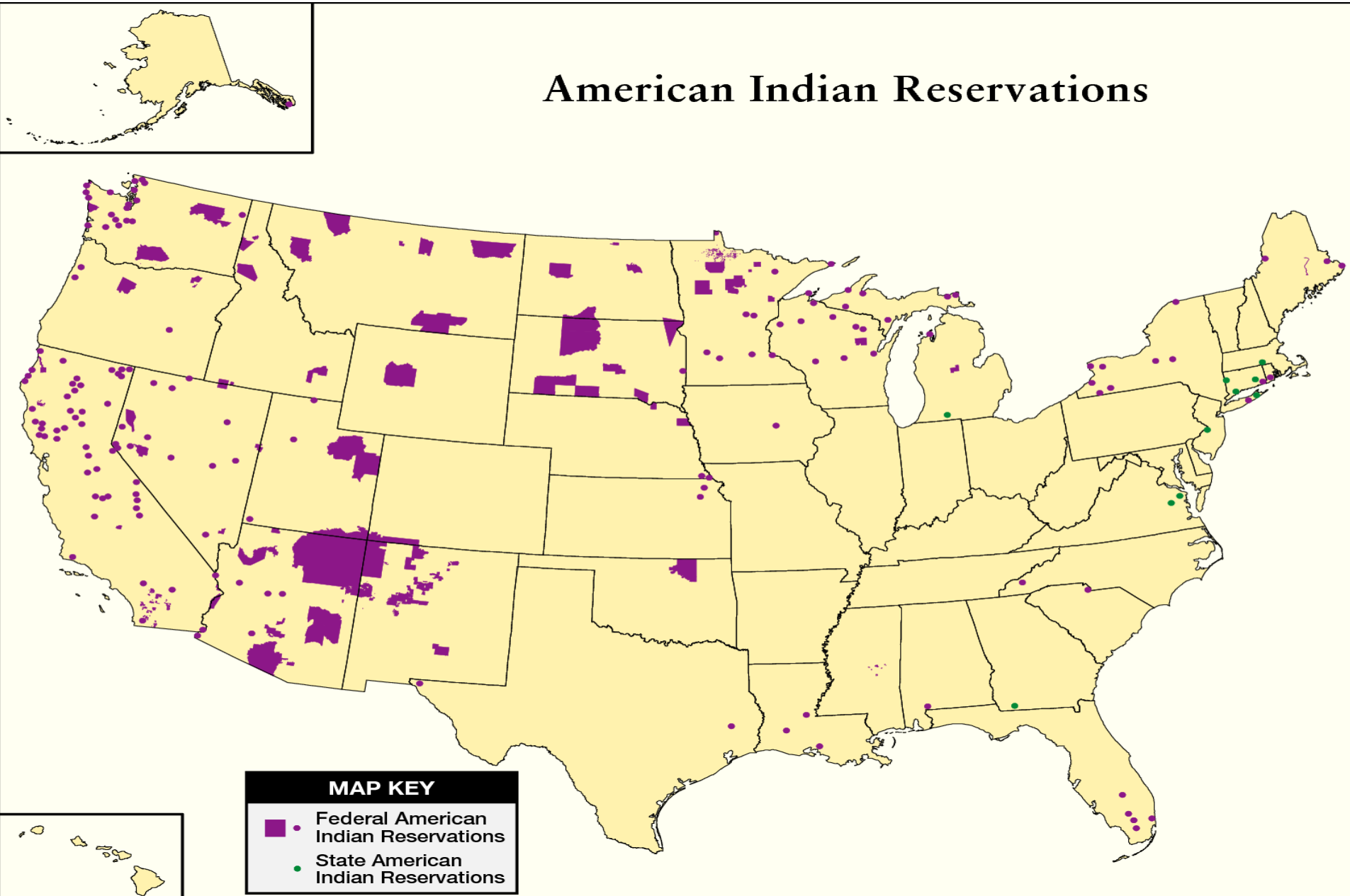


Race Consequence: Structural Racism

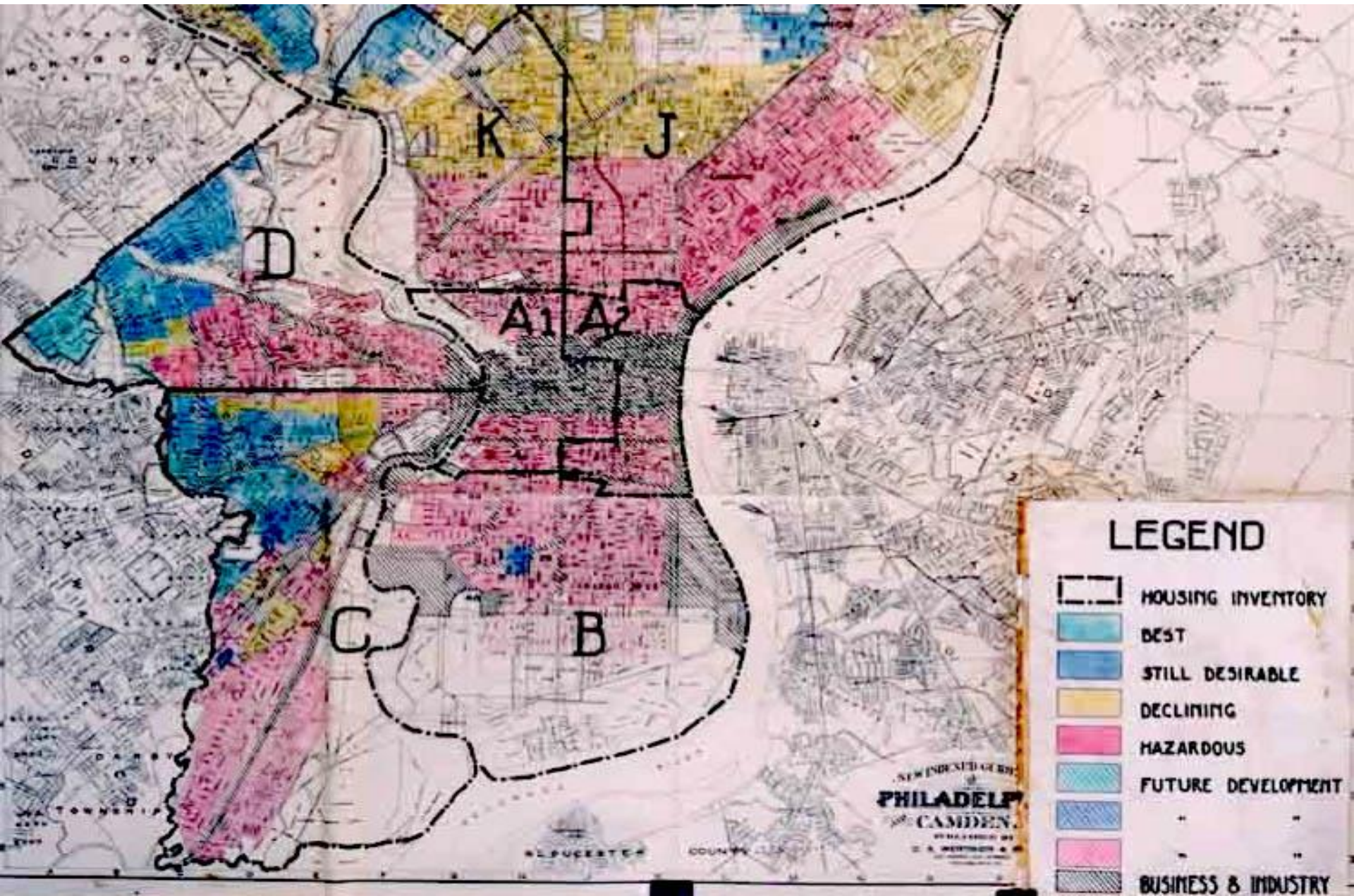
- A system in which **public policies (laws), institutional practices, cultural representations, and other (social) norms** work in various, often reinforcing ways to perpetuate racial group inequity.
- Subtle **racialized patterns in policies and practices** permeate the political, economic, and sociocultural structures of America.
- Generate **differences in well-being** between people of color and whites.
- Maintain the existing **racial hierarchy** even as they adapt with the times or accommodate new racial/ ethnic groups.
- This **contemporary manifestation of racism** in America can be called “structural racism.”

[illegible]

Race Consequence: Land & Peoples

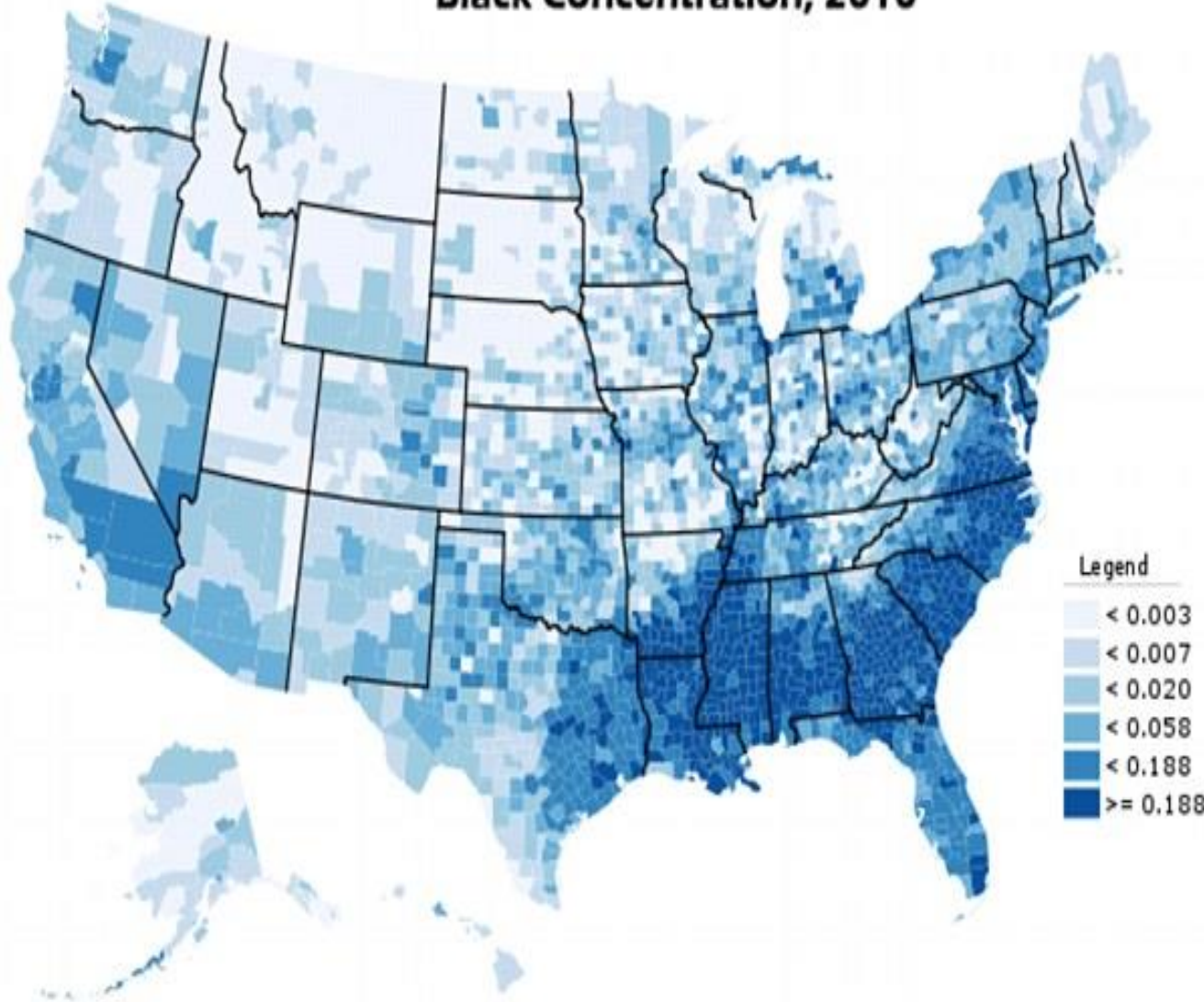


Race Consequence: Place & Planning



Race Consequence: Poverty

Black Concentration, 2010

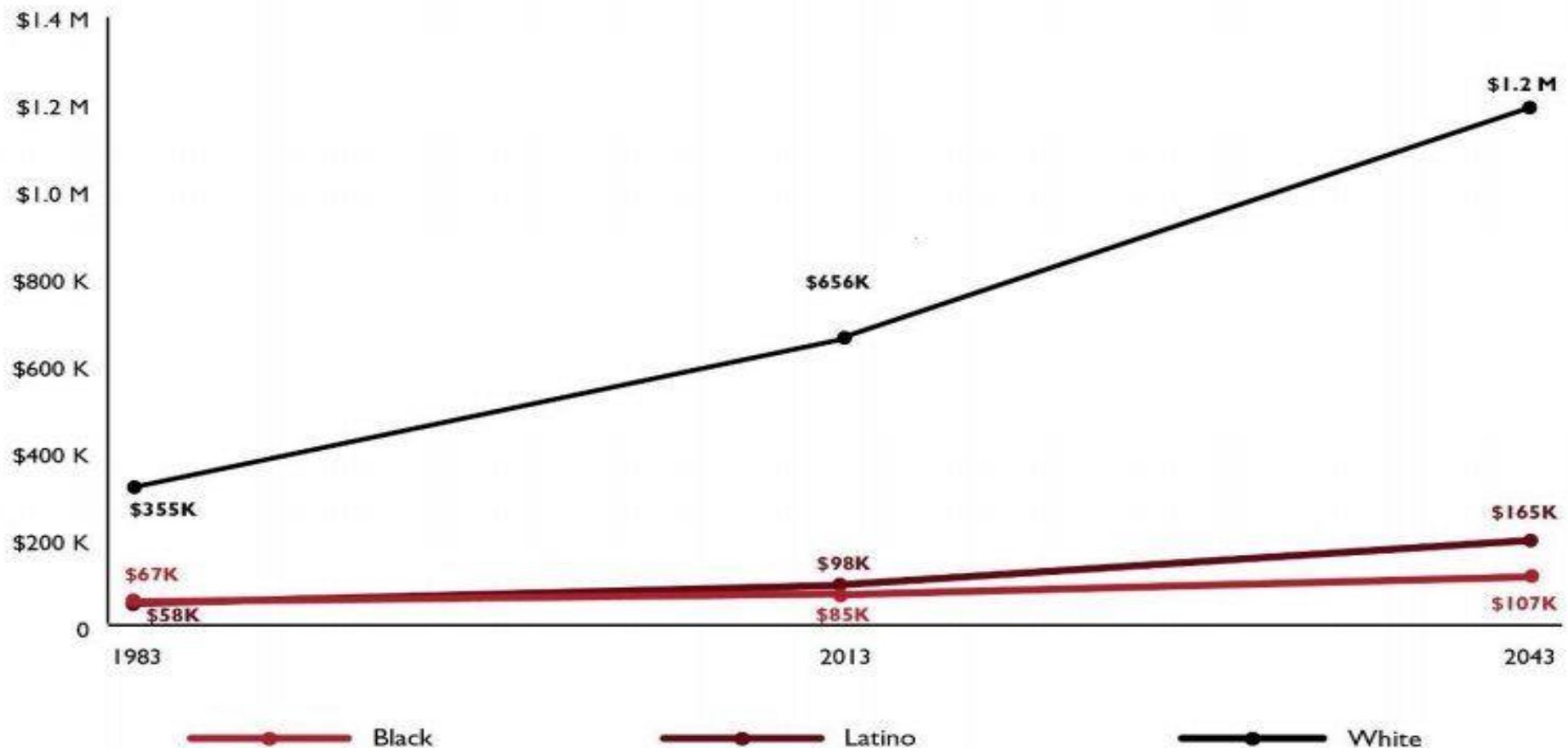


Highest percentages of people living below the poverty level in US
- U.S. Census Bureau-2010

- 1. Mississippi - 17.9 %**
- 2. Arkansas - 14.8**
- 3. Kentucky - 14.4**
4. West Virginia - 13.9
5. New Mexico - 13.6
- 6. Alabama & Texas - 13.4**
- 7. Louisiana - 13.3**
- 8. Tennessee - 13.1**
- 9. South Carolina - 12.9**
- 10. Georgia - 12.7**

Race Consequence: Racial Wealth Divide

THE GROWING RACIAL WEALTH DIVIDE



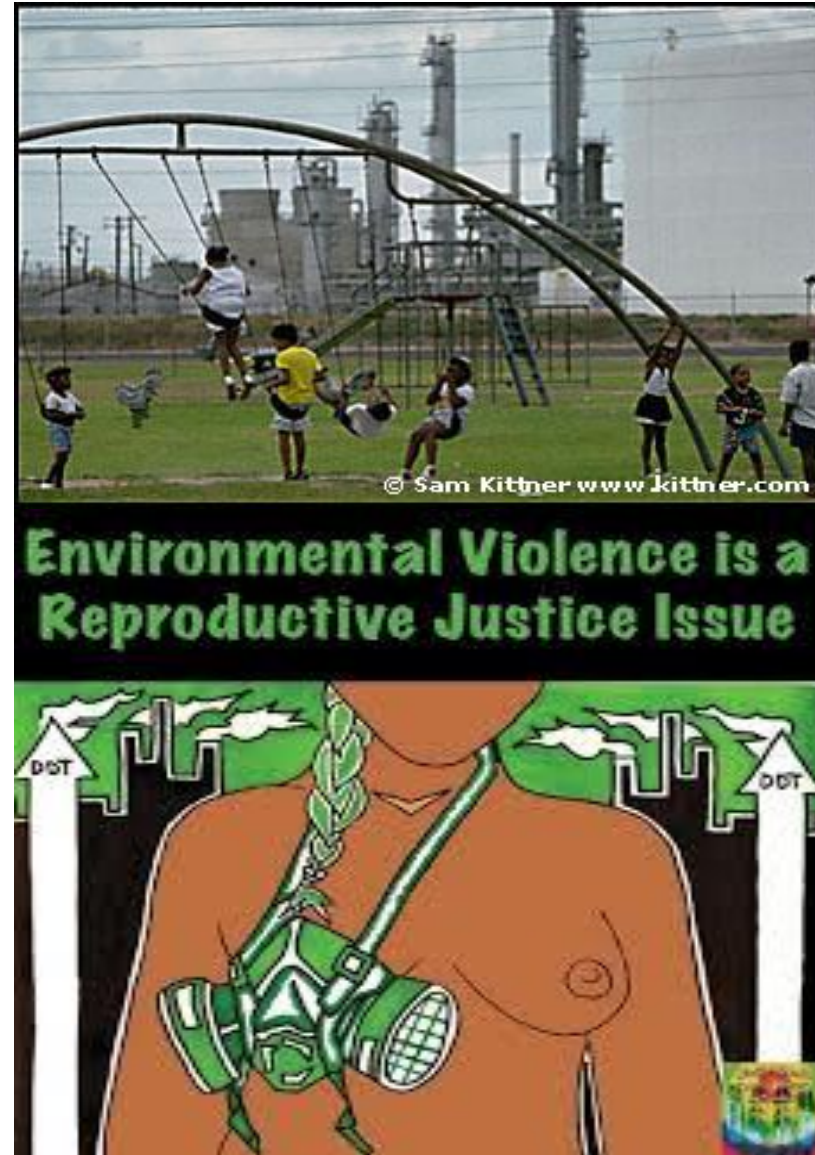
See methodology for more details on these calculations.

The Ever Growing GAP: Without Change African American and Latino Families Won't Match White Wealth for Centuries.

August 2016 CFED & Institute for Policy Studies

Race Consequence: Environmental Racism

- The **disproportionate impact** of environmental hazards on **communities of color** or low socio-economic status.
- Refers to the **unequal protection** against toxic waste exposure.
- Refers to the **exclusion** of these communities from environmental **decisions** affecting their communities.



Reference: Bryant, B (1995) Environmental Justice Issues, Policies and Solutions.

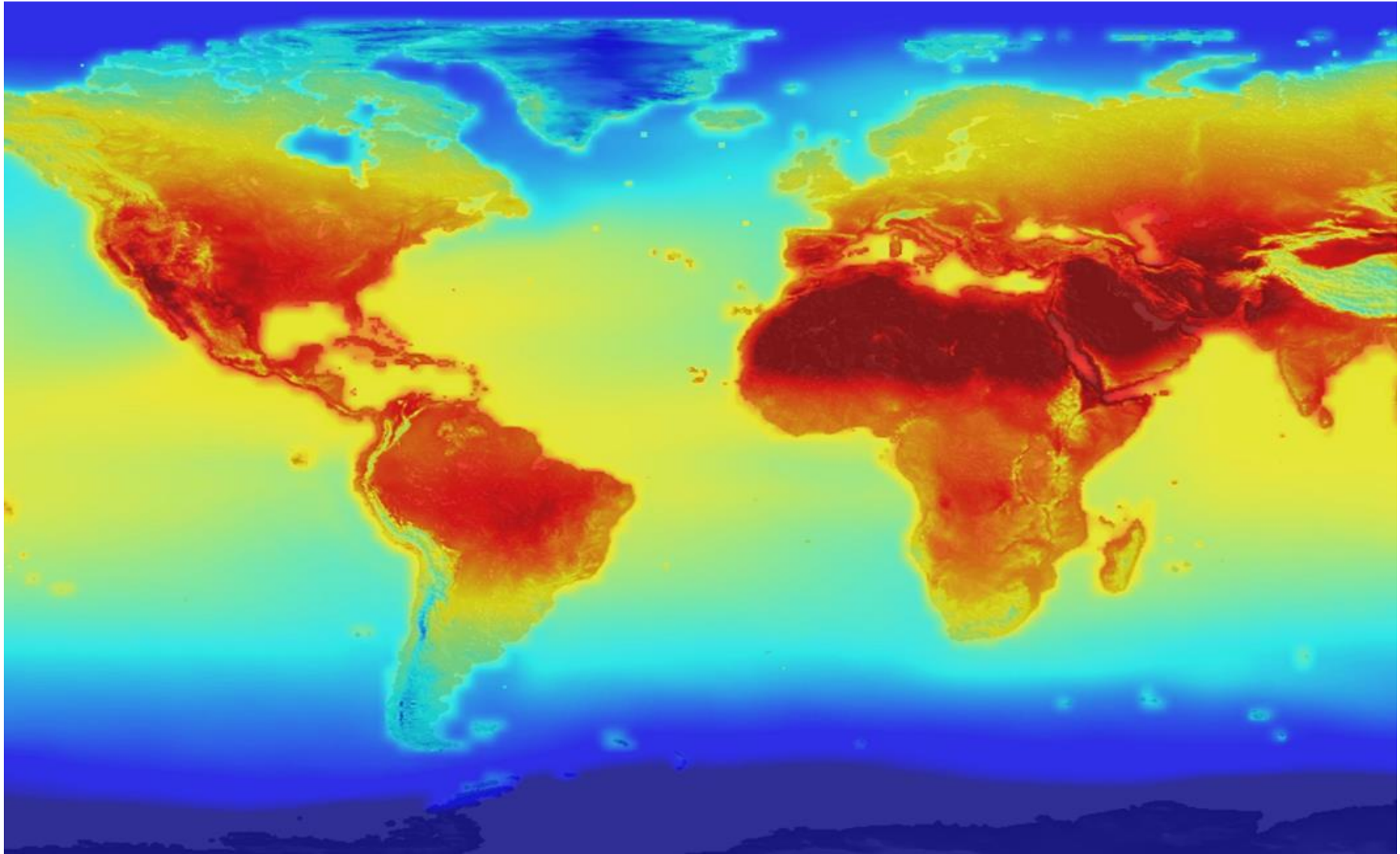
A poison to the
environment is a
poison to the people.



Defining Climate Change



Global Warming



Defining Climate Change:

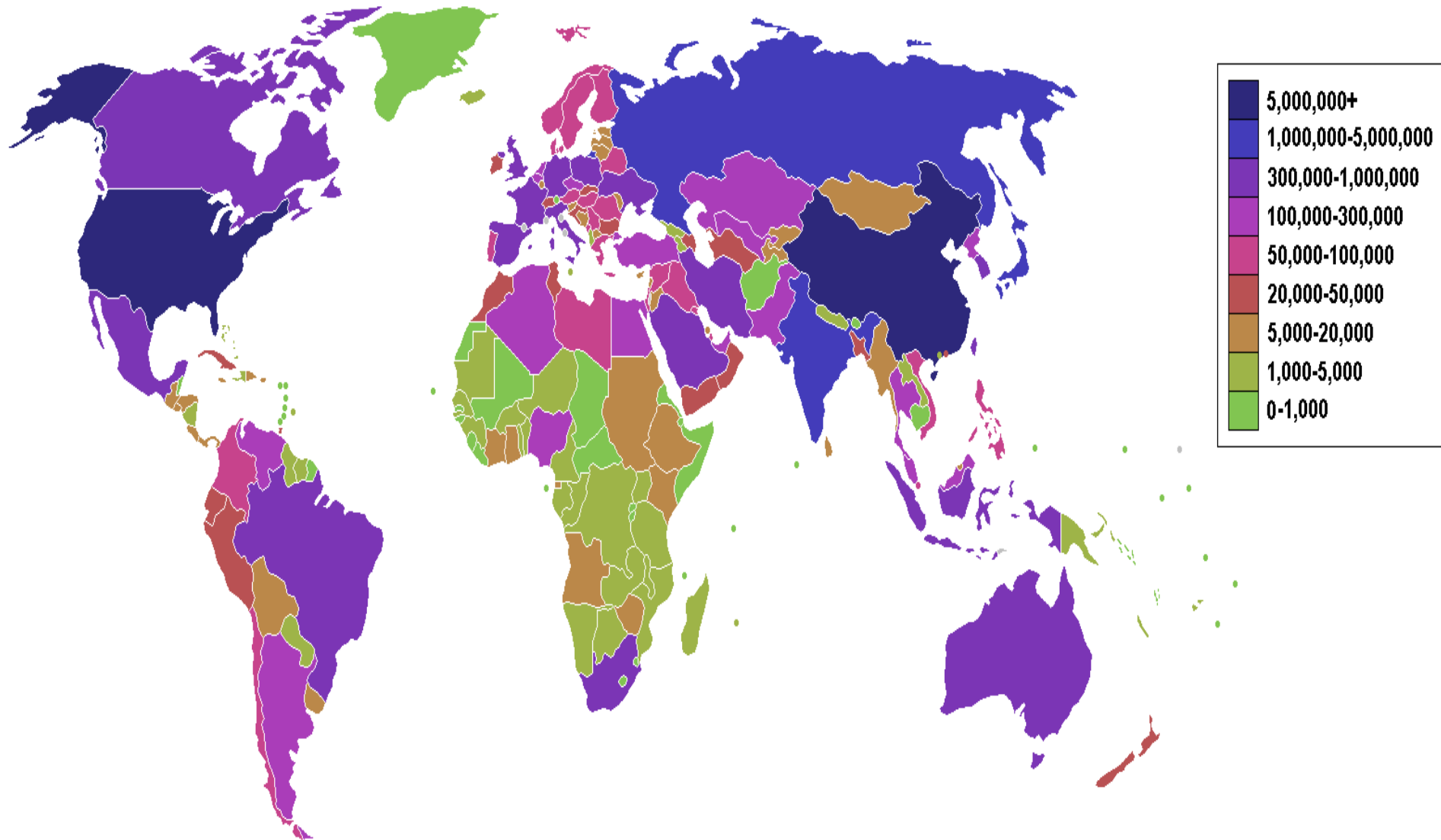
Human activity is adding greenhouse gases to our atmosphere and accelerating critical changes in our climate



- Carbon dioxide (CO₂) and Methane, are main drivers of the greenhouse effect.
- When fossil fuels - coal, oil and natural gas - are extracted and/or burnt they release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.
- Because the layer of greenhouse gas around the Earth is getting thicker, the Earth is getting warmer- global warming.



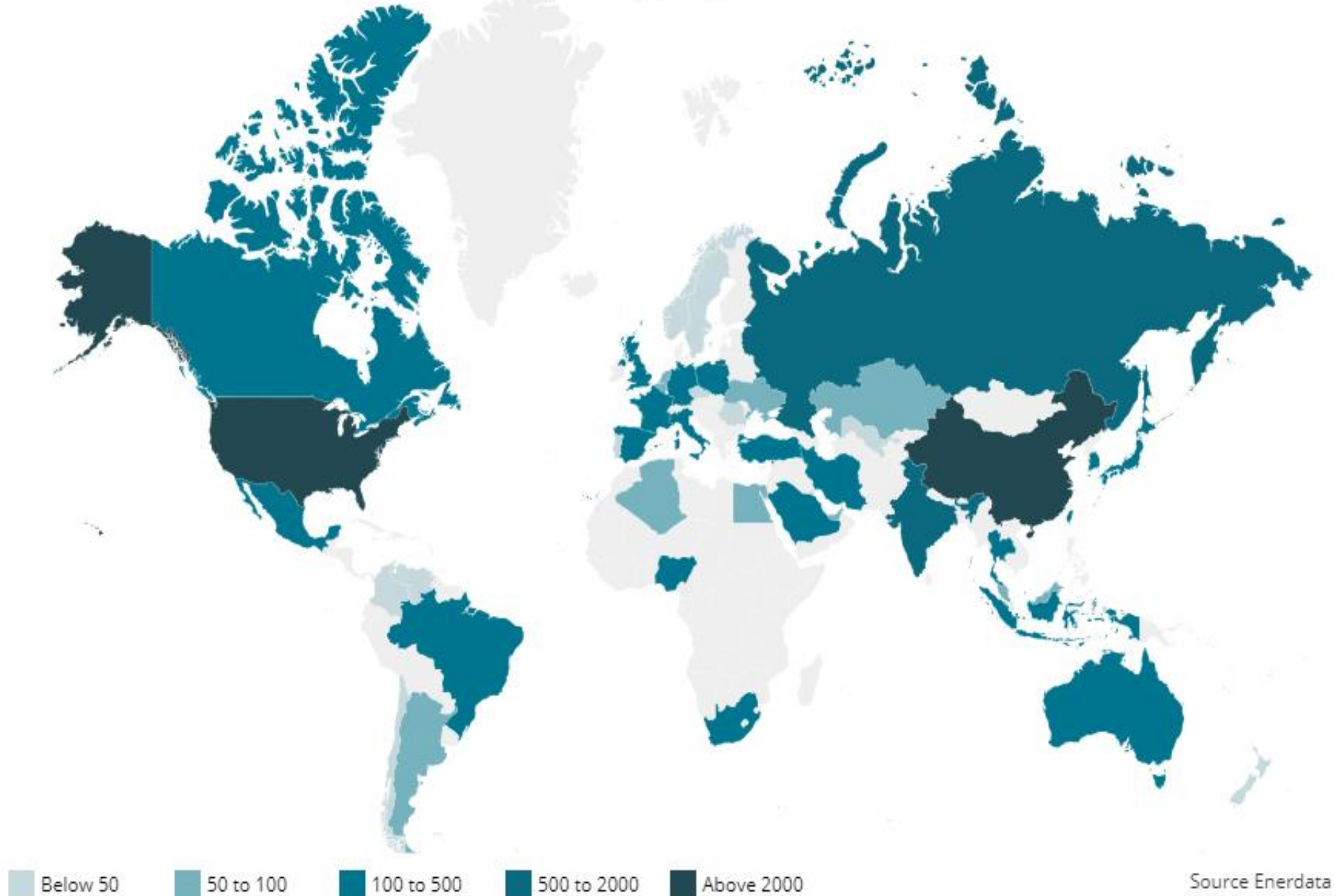
Privilege: GHG Emissions (Co2 emissions-2012)



Countries by carbon dioxide emissions in thousands of tons per annum, via the burning of fossil fuels (blue the highest).

Privilege: Global Energy Consumption (2018)

Breakdown by country (Mtoe) World - 2018



Privilege: Who's Life, Labor and Land is Sacrificed?



Race Consequence: Exploited Prison Labor

(BP Oil Drilling Disaster – Louisiana)



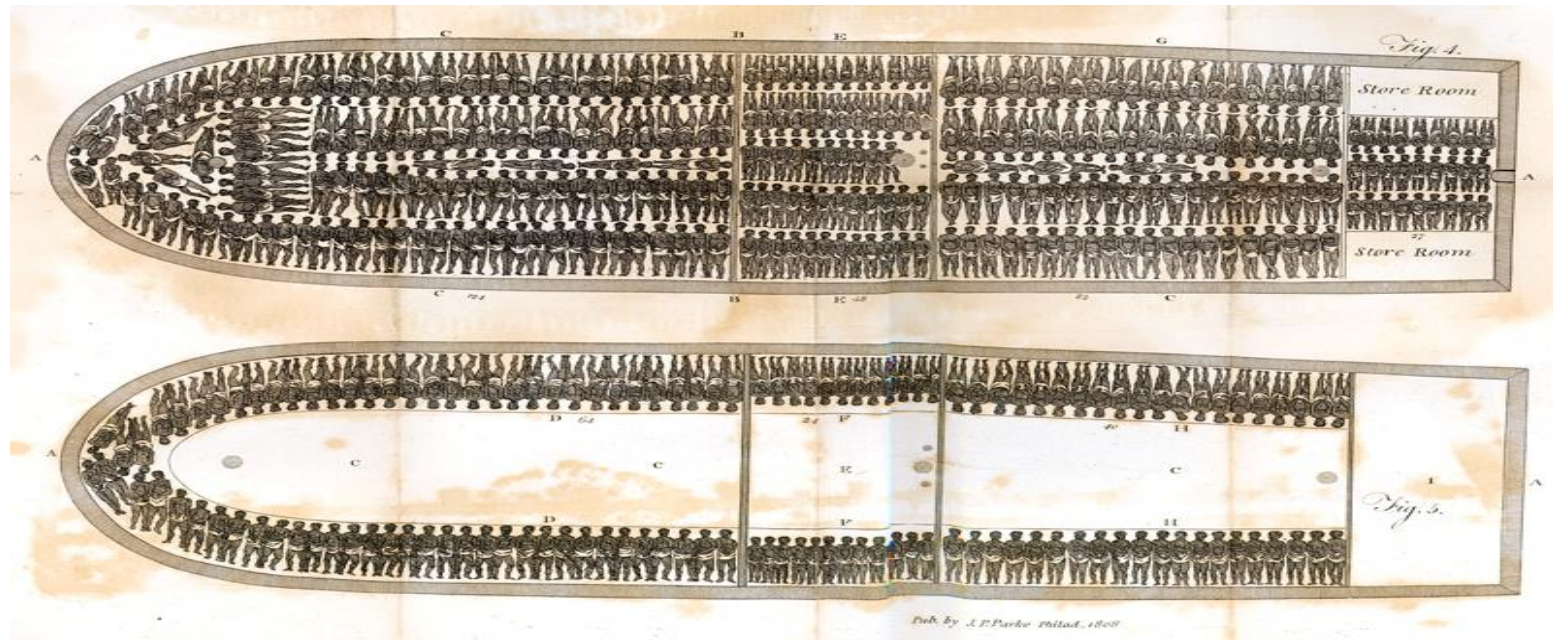
Race Consequence: Exploited Farm Labor



Race Consequence: Slave Labor



Extractive Economies:



Extractive Industries

- The **US economic system** incentivizes unlimited use and unlimited growth to produce unlimited profits.
- **Extractive industries** yield the world's highest profits AND release mega-tons of **greenhouse gases** to produce small amounts of **fossil fuel-based energy**.
- Greenhouse emissions are trapped and create a “greenhouse effect” that **alter the earth's atmosphere and oceans** which produces **climate-based disasters**.

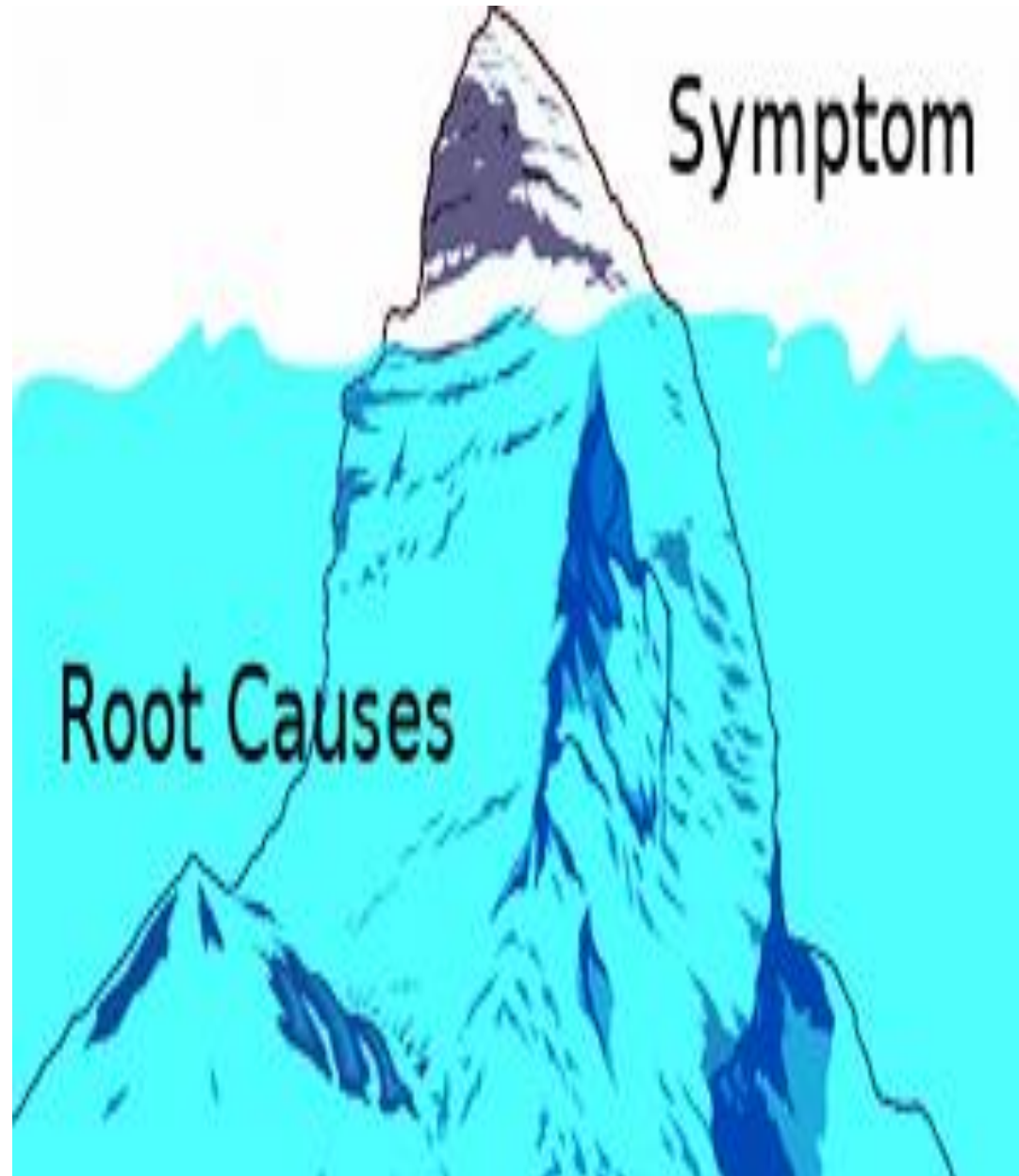


Connecting the Dots

- Industries **at the heart of environmental racism** challenges are the same as those at the heart of the climate crisis.
- Before being refined, the extraction of natural resources from the beneath the earth's surface requires the **release of Greenhouse gases**. (e.g. Carbon Dioxide (CO₂); Methane; Nitrous Oxide; Fluorinated Gases)
- Excessive amounts of Greenhouse Gases in the air causes a **changes in the earth's atmosphere**.
- Changes to earth's fragile atmosphere = shifts in climate defined by **extreme weather events**.

Root Cause Analysis: Power & Privilege

- Extractive Economies
- Mass Production
- Mass Consumption
- White Supremacy
- Racism
- Patriarchy
- Oppression



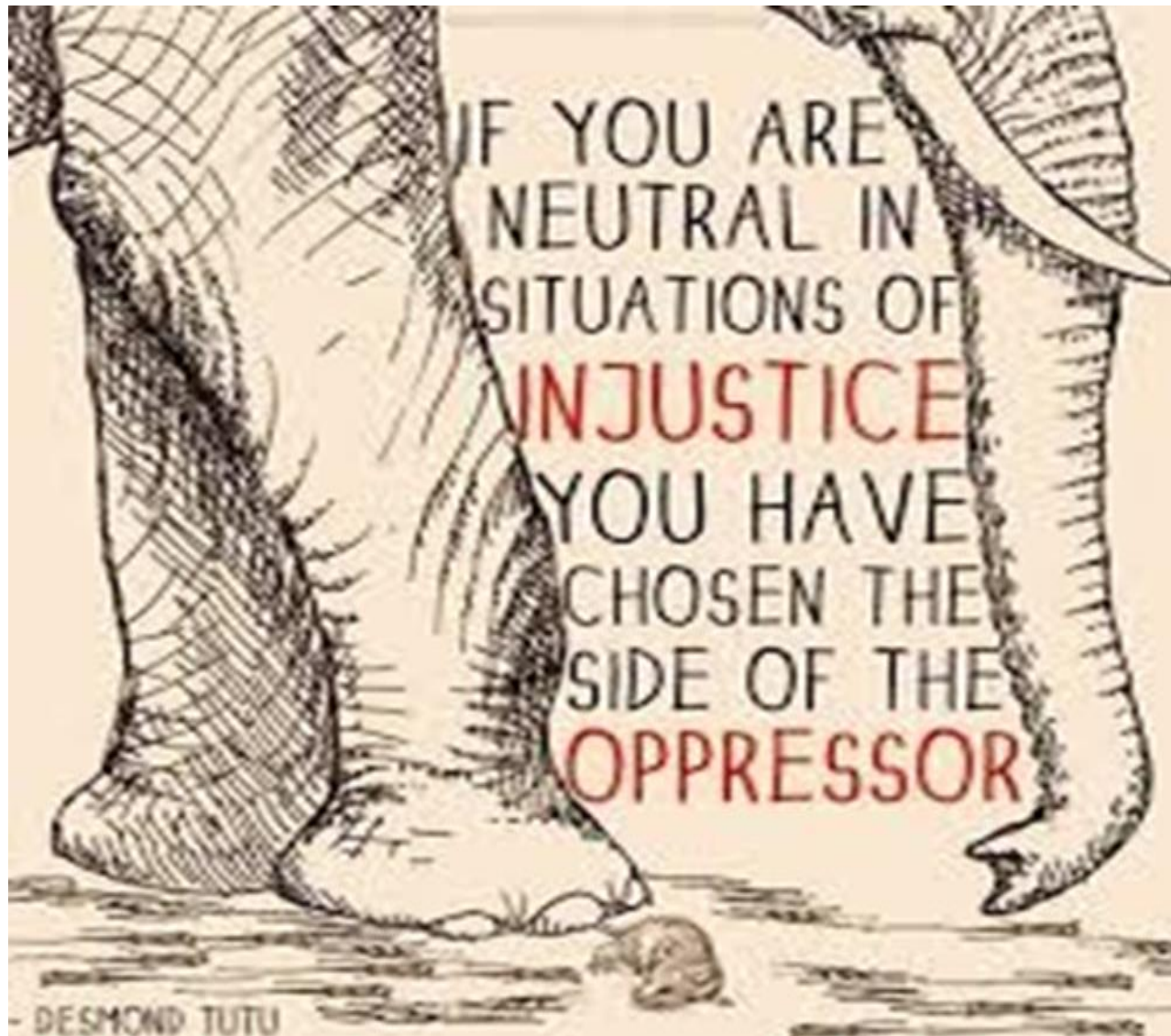
Gulf South for A Green New Deal





**supporting
oppression**

**confronting
oppression**



Thank You

Questions & Answers



Contact Us:

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