

# FROM JIM CROW TO TODAY'S AMERICAN CULTURE

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## The Enduring Impact of Segregation

Simona Serafimovska, PhD & Natka Jankova Alagjozovska, PhD

Goce Delcev University, Stip, North Macedonia

Faculty of Philology



# INTRODUCTION TO CULTURE

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- Culture has visible and invisible layers
- English-speaking cultures differ despite a common language
- Understanding culture requires cultural awareness

# FOUR LEVELS OF CULTURAL AWARENESS

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- 1. My Way is the Only Way (Parochial)
- 2. I Know Their Way, But My Way is Better (Ethnocentric)
- 3. My Way and Their Way (Synergistic)
- 4. Our Way (Participatory)

# JIM CROW LAWS AND CULTURAL AWARENESS

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- Institutionalized racism (1877–1960s)
- Dehumanized African Americans, promoted white superiority
- Cultural myths justified segregation (e.g., religious beliefs)

# CULTURE AS A TOOL OF OPPRESSION

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- Integration was seen as dangerous
- Institutions enforced black inferiority
- Laws banned intermarriage, shared spaces

# JIM CROW ETIQUETTE

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- No handshakes between Black and white men
- Blacks ate separately and were always second
- Separate transport, schools, and public spaces



# LEGAL REINFORCEMENT – PLESSY V. FERGUSON (1896)

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- Legalized “separate but equal”
- Plessy convicted for sitting in a white railcar
- Supreme Court reinforced inequality

# WHITE ALLIES AND RESISTANCE

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- Some whites opposed Jim Crow and advocated equality
- Risked discrimination to support Black rights
- Pushed for equal treatment in public institutions



# SEGREGATION IN EVERYDAY LIFE

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- Black professionals barred from serving whites
- Segregation in churches, hospitals, beaches, schools
- Visual reminders of racial division were everywhere

# CULTURAL AWARENESS TODAY

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- Laws alone can't end oppression
- Awareness dismantles inherited stories of racism
- Cultural shifts begin with education and empathy

# STEPS TOWARD CULTURAL AWARENESS

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- Listen to marginalized voices
- Audit cultural inputs (whose stories dominate?)
- Teach critically, not just legally
- Amplify counter-narratives (music, art, literature)

# CONCLUSION

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- Jim Crow created a racially divided society
- Oppression embedded in law, culture, and religion
- Abolished in the 1950s, but cultural impact lingers
- Cultural awareness is key to dismantling systemic racism

# REFERENCES

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# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!!!

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[simona.serafimovska@ugd.edu.mk](mailto:simona.serafimovska@ugd.edu.mk)

[natka.alagozovska@ugd.edu.mk](mailto:natka.alagozovska@ugd.edu.mk)