


 EXPLORING & CONFRONTING
OUR RACISM

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On Monday, April 17, 2023, we will be looking into America's history of segregated housing by watching 2 films. ***Owned: A Tale of Two Americas*** is a documentary that takes us into the history behind the U.S. housing economy. This documentary exposes a foundational story that is still affecting Black people today. The one hour and 23 minute documentary can be rented on Apple TV, Amazon, Vudu, or YouTube. ***Segregated By Design*** examines the forgotten history of how our federal, state and local governments unconstitutionally segregated every major metropolitan area in America through law and policy. This 20-minute film can be viewed by using the link provided below:

Link: <https://www.zinnedproject.org/materials/segregated-by-design/>

**Be prepared to discuss *Owned* Study Guide Questions 2, 4, 5,
 Be prepared to discuss *Segregated by Design* Study Guide Questions 4 & 5**

Season 3 - Discussion #6 *Owned & Segregated by Design*

Study Guide Questions from *Owned*

1. President Nixon said that in order to be secure in human rights you must have property rights. President Johnson said that every family should live in a home of dignity? Who is/was the American Dream of a home and picket fence really for? Why is the dream being denied to African Americans?



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2. People of the same race like living together in the same neighborhoods. African Americans have little to no income and can't afford to live in white neighborhoods. Private prejudices prevent African Americans from living in many neighborhoods seen as white neighborhoods. Are the previous statements myths or truths? Many White families believe that they got where they are from their hard work. Is this myth or truth? What myths related to Black neighborhoods have you heard or did you learn about?

3. According to the documentary, America preys on its own people. Which cultural/socio economic groups have benefited from the housing market and who falls prey to debt and discrimination. Give some details.

4. Greg Butler, is the African American man who wants to flip houses to build up Baltimore. He also was a victim of rage and put holes in the water hose when the city was on fire. What are his consequences for the hopelessness/hate that he felt? Does the punishment fit the crime? What legacy will he/African Americans be able to leave if they don't have access to the American Dream?



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5. In Baltimore, parts of the city were seen as rundown and some African American left. This opened the door for other minorities and whites to move in and make the neighborhood "Good again". Can you imagine the choice African American families face when they choose to buy a home - whether it be in an African American community which may have a lower home value or live in an integrated neighborhood where you will have a higher property value but may not be welcome. What might you choose to do and why?

Study Guide Questions from *Segregated by Design*

1. Is America's true history regarding housing policies forgotten, repressed, denied, lied about? Why do you feel this way?
2. Describe the role that American politics and government played in creating and maintaining slums. How conscious and how deliberate was it? Consider the levels of awareness of different people - realtors, office staff, neighborhood people, judges, etc?
3. Sugar Hill is now a Historic District in Los Angeles, CA. By 1964, almost all the old families who owned mansions in this African American neighborhood had moved away. What happened to Sugar Hill? Where else have we seen a similar story? Why do we see the same mistreatment happening over and over to African American families yet nothing is done to stop it?



4. Discuss/describe the effects of segregation on African American people. America has created structural disadvantages in our Black communities while America continues to create structural advantages for White communities. Violence is defined as - behavior involving physical force intended to hurt someone. Are American policies perpetuating violence against Black people forced to live in segregated neighborhoods? What effects does segregation have on White people?

Challenge Actions for our meeting April 17, 2023

What will you do to learn more, teach or confront Housing Segregation Policies in America?

- Spend time talking to someone about what you have read and learned and be prepared to share what they learned from you and share the climate of the conversation.
- Consider reading this article from the Marin IJ [Marin Segregation Worsened in the last decade, new UC Berkeley census study finds \(10/12/2021\)](#)
- Consider reading this article from the Brookings Institution. It is a nonprofit public policy organization based in Washington, DC. [Homeownership, racial segregation and policy solutions to racial wealth equity \(9/1/2021\)](#)
- Consider reading this article also from Realtor.com [Redlining Was Banned Decades Ago, but Its Effects on Black Communities Can't Be Erased \(3/4/2021\)](#)