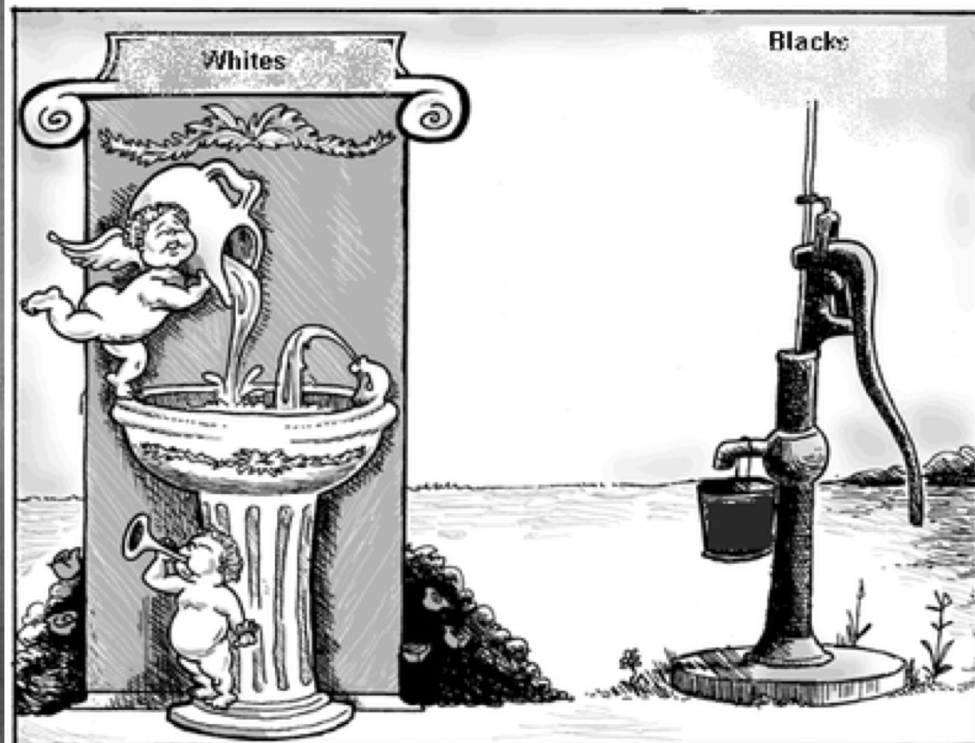


SSUSH13: EVALUATE EFFORTS TO REFORM AMERICAN SOCIETY AND POLITICS IN THE PROGRESSIVE ERA.

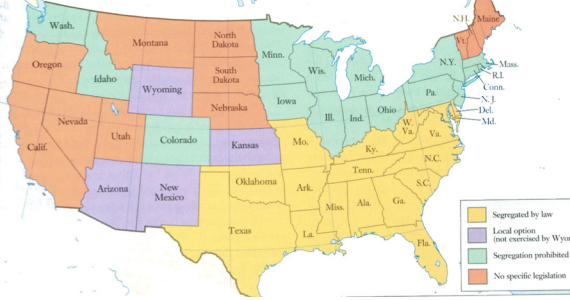
PLESSY VS. FERGUSON



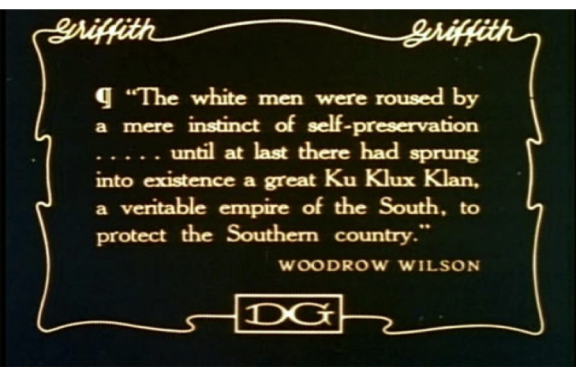
**SEPARATE
BUT NOT EQUAL**

ELEMENT C: Connect the decision of Plessy v. Ferguson to the expansion of Jim Crow laws and the formation of the NAACP.

Jim Crow Laws



- ❑ Following the end of Reconstruction, White Democrats regained power in Southern legislatures.
- ❑ Beginning in 1876, ten of the eleven former Confederate states had created a legal framework for separating Whites and Blacks known as "Jim Crow laws."
 - The initial purpose of Jim Crow laws was to prevent Blacks from participating in the political process, which included voting, serving in office, and participating in jury trials.
 - Gradually, Jim Crow laws were extended to include public education, transportation, and other public facilities.
 - There were separate water fountains, waiting rooms, and restrooms for Whites and Blacks.
 - The laws were supposed to provide "separate but equal" facilities.
 - However, the facilities for Blacks were separate and inferior. Jim Crow laws were initially created by states but during the Woodrow Wilson administration, Jim Crow was extended to the federal government.

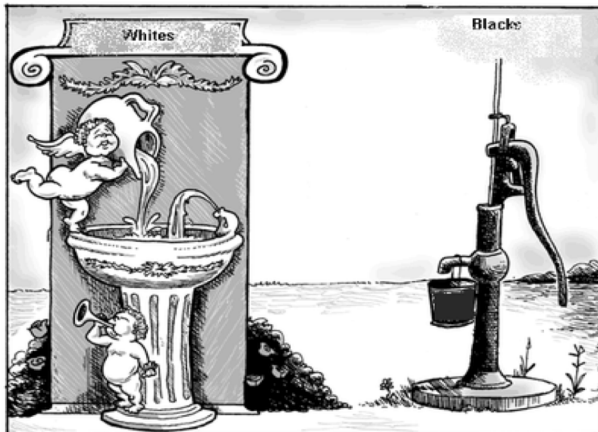


Plessy v. Ferguson

- ❑ In 1890, Louisiana passed a Jim Crow law that required separate facilities on railroads.
 - Concerned citizens, of all races, were determined to challenge the legality of the new law.
- ❑ The opportunity came in 1892 when Homer Plessy decided to challenge the law.
 - Plessy was 1/8 Black, which met the period's prevailing legal definition of the race although he could visually pass for White.
 - He was arrested for refusing the leave a Whites only railroad car.
 - Plessy's case wound its way through the judicial system to the Supreme Court.
 - In 1896, the Supreme Court ruled in *Plessy v. Ferguson* that "separate but equal" was indeed constitutional.
- ❑ Racial discrimination was thus legal according to the federal government and the ruling upheld the state level Jim Crow segregation provisions.



PLESSY VS. FERGUSON



**SEPARATE
BUT NOT EQUAL**

Plessy v. Ferguson



- ❑ Widespread violence, including lynching, against Blacks led to the formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1909.
 - Created by a group of White supporters and W.E.B. DuBois, the NAACP's stated goals was to secure for all people the rights guaranteed in the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the United States Constitution.
 - The organization quickly began to challenge Jim Crow laws and lynching through the courts.
 - Success in an Oklahoma case enhanced the organization's reputation and foreshadowed the success the NAACP would have in ending public school segregation in 1954 (*Brown v. Board of Education*).
 - The Supreme Court ruling in *Plessy v. Ferguson* affirmed the state level segregation of Jim Crow laws.
 - Legal segregation would be the standard from 1896 until the Supreme Court ruled differently in the 1954 case, *Brown v. Board of Education*.
 - Conditions got worse, especially in the South, for Blacks seeking safety, social equality, and fair hiring practices.
 - As a result of the even more strained race relations, W.E.B. DuBois created the NAACP to lead other legal challenges to segregation, which was being propped up by the *Plessy* decision.

