

# The New Deal: For Whom?

## Objectives

- SWBAT analyze the major causes that led to an economic depression, the U.S. government's response to combat it, and the global impact of the Depression.
- SWBAT assess New Deal policies and its effect on marginalized communities.

## Essential Questions

- Is the "American Dream" accessible to anyone?
- Do we have a responsibility to help one another in hard times?

## DO NOW



**I SEE...**

**I THINK...**

**I WONDER...**

## VOCAB

Black Cabinet:

## [Viewing Social Security Through The Civil Rights Lens](#)

**Directions: Highlight, annotate, jot notes. Respond to the guided questions below.**

Considered a signature part of New Deal reform, Social Security sought to provide a safety net for older persons and some other vulnerable populations. It also paved the way for future federal protections such as Medicare and the Affordable Care Act. When Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the bill, he recognized its impact and its promise, calling it "a cornerstone in a structure which is being built but is by no means complete."

But like other components of the New Deal, the origins of Social Security were rooted in racism. The Act initially omitted large categories of workers of color from retirement benefits and unemployment insurance. When Congress held hearings on the bill in 1935, the NAACP testified that a provision insisted upon by Southern politicians to exempt agricultural and domestic workers would disproportionately exclude Black workers. The NAACP warned Congress that the bill would exclude "Negro sharecroppers and Negro cash tenants, who are just about at the bottom of the economic scale."

Despite the NAACP's opposition, the Social Security Act passed with these exemptions intact. As a result, 65 percent of African Americans throughout the country were ineligible for benefits, with an even higher percentage of African Americans in the South excluded from the program. The exemptions were finally repealed in the 1950s, but they had significantly worsened the economic gap between Blacks and Whites.

**WHAT MADE IT SO BLACK PEOPLE WERE OMITTED FROM GETTING SOCIAL SECURITY?**

**HOW MIGHT LACK OF ACCESS WORSEN THE ECONOMIC GAP BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE PEOPLE?**

## [Housing Segregation and Redlining in America: A Short History | Code Switch | NPR](#)

**Directions: respond to the questions as you follow along with the video**

**WHAT DID THE HOME OWNERS LOAN CORPORATION (HOLC) CREATE?**

**WHAT DID IT MEAN IF A NEIGHBORHOOD WAS OUTLINED IN RED?**

**WHAT DID LIVING IN A REDLINED AREA MAKE IT HARDER TO DO?**

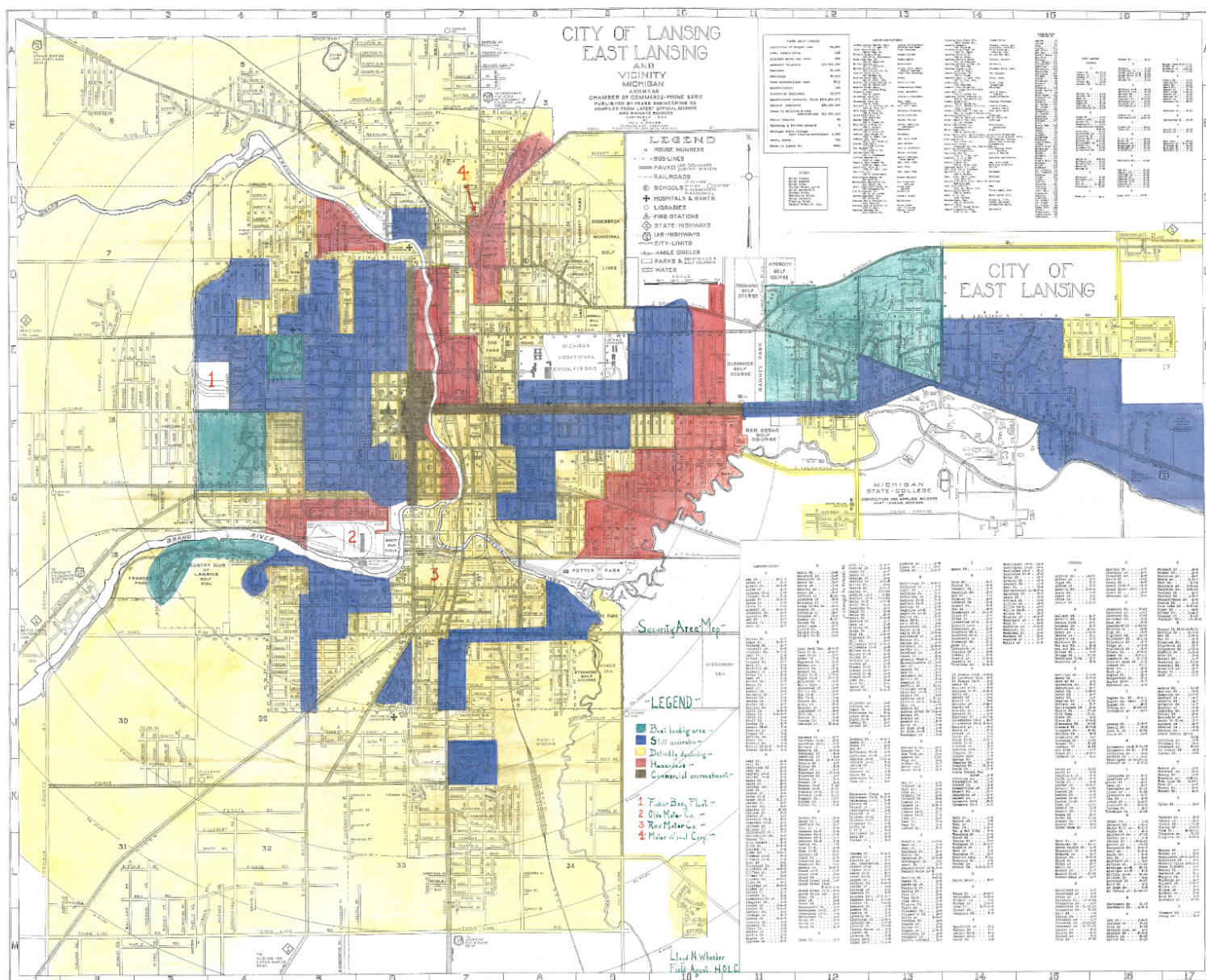
**HOW DOES THE ENVIRONMENT OF REDLINED NEIGHBORHOODS AFFECT RESIDENTS' HEALTH?**

### **VOCAB**

Home Owners Loan Corporation (HOLC):  
Redlining:

## Redlining in Lansing

Directions: follow the link to the website to explore redlined maps of cities in Michigan.



Part 1: answer the questions below about redlining in Lansing

**WHAT DO THE DIFFERENT COLORS MEAN ON THE MAP? LIST THEM BELOW:**

**IF YOU LIVED IN A "HAZARDOUS" AREA, WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE MIGHT LIVE THERE?**

**ZOOM IN ON THE GREEN AREAS. WHAT DO YOU NOTICE ABOUT THEM?**

WHAT COLOR AREA WOULD EVERETT BE IN ON THIS MAP?	LOOK AT THE MAP WITH PRESENT-DAY DEMOGRAPHIC DATA. HOW DOES IT COMPARE TO THE ORIGINAL REDLINED MAP?	DO YOU THINK THESE MAPS HAVE MADE AN IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY? HOW?
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Part 2: using the link for this section, research another city in Michigan listed to the right of the page and answer the questions below.

WHAT CITY ARE YOU LOOKING AT?	HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THIS MAP? (MOSTLY RED? YELLOW? A MIX?)	COMPARE THE ORIGINAL REDLINED MAP TO TODAY’S DEMOGRAPHICS DATA. WHAT DO YOU NOTICE?	HOW DO YOU THINK THIS HAS IMPACTED INDIVIDUALS LIVING IN THE AREA?
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Exit Ticket
HOW DID THE LACK OF ACCESS TO NEW DEAL PROGRAMS LIKE SOCIAL SECURITY AND RACIST HOUSING POLICIES AFFECT BLACK AMERICANS IN THE PAST? BASED ON TODAY’S LESSON, HOW DOES THAT LEGACY AFFECT BLACK AMERICANS TODAY?