



“The Idea of America” by Nikole Hannah-Jones

The 1619 Project



What makes class discussions successful?

- Everyone *participates*
- Participants listen to understand
- Participants challenge the idea and not the person
- Participants respond to one another using **accountable talk**



Discussion Questions Using Conver-Stations

1. What is the best fast food chain in America?
2. How did you first learn about the history of slavery in the U.S.? What did you learn, and how was that information presented?
3. What do you see as the lasting legacy of slavery in the U.S.?
4. What do you know about the contributions of black Americans to U.S. society, and where does that information come from?



Discussion Questions Using Conver-Stations

4. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”
 - What are the values stated in the Declaration of Independence?
 - In what ways can you see those values working in contemporary American life? In what ways can you see them failing?
 - How has the interpretation of those values changed over time? Who is responsible for creating those changes?



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Before We Read

- Title
- Pink Underlines
- Green Underlines



Key Vocab

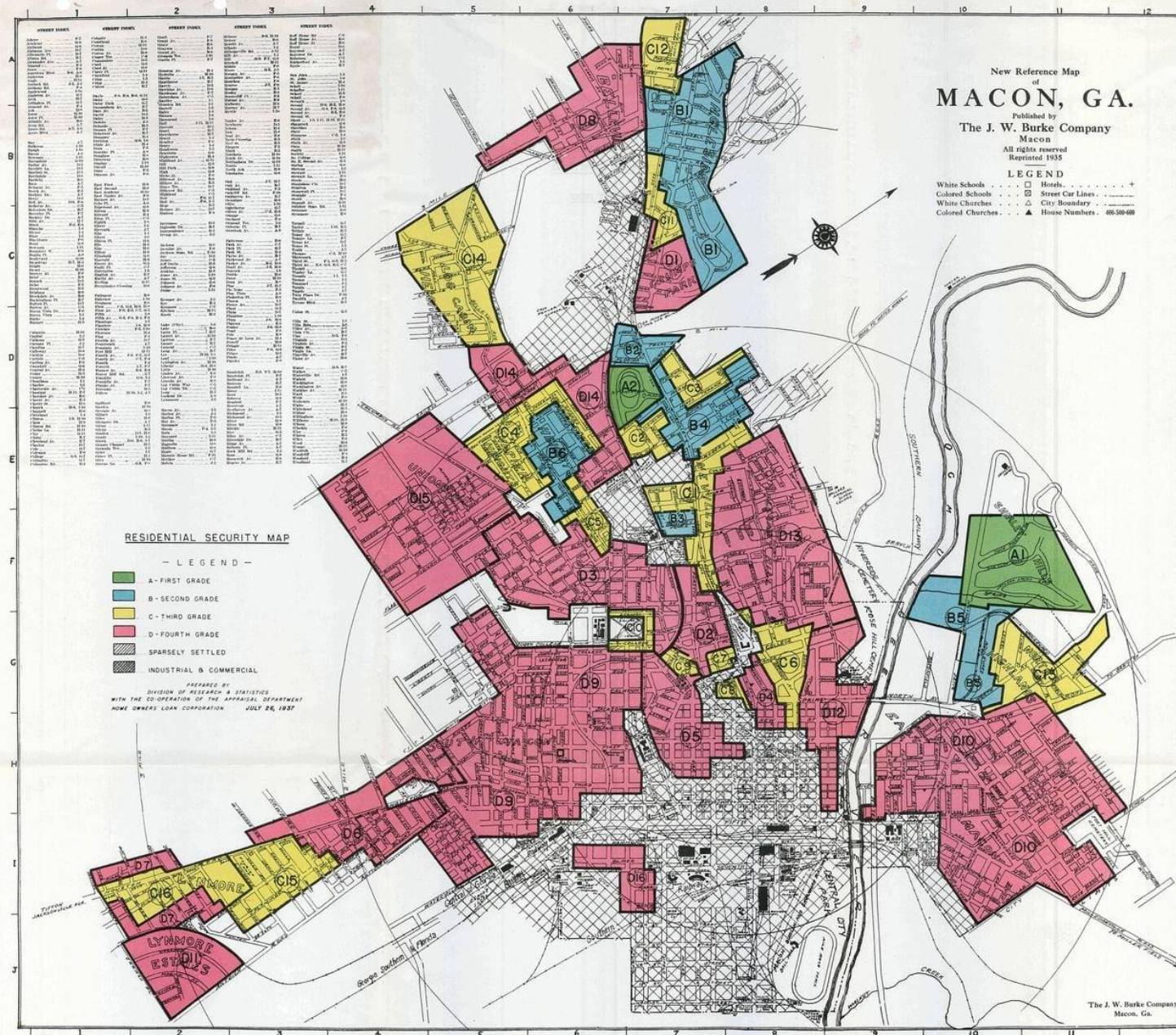
- “The blue paint on our two-story house was ***perennially*** chipping”
- “the rail by the stairs, or the front door, existed in a ***perpetual*** state of disrepair”
- “that flag always flew ***pristine***”



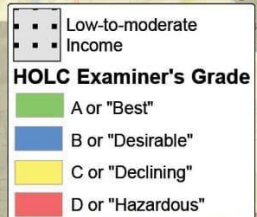
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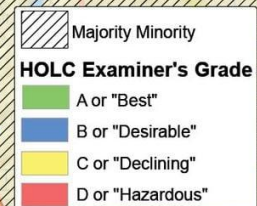
Macon, Georgia



NCRC

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeBCO, IGN, Radarsat, Nippon, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community. Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community.

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While We Read

- Part 1
 - Underline positive descriptions/associations in **one color**
 - Underline negative descriptions in a **second color**
- Part 3
 - Underline contributions African Americans made to America in a **third color**



- Through ***osmosis***, Mike learned that all the cool kids hung out at the same locker.
- Even though Mike didn't pay much attention in his Algebra class, he somehow passed. His teacher joked that he must have learned through ***osmosis***.



Angola

- [Globe](#)





After Reading

1. What surprised you? What do you want to know more about?
2. How does the origin story of the U.S. change if we mark the beginning of U.S. history in 1619 instead of 1776?
3. What is national memory? How do we create it? How can we change it?
4. Why do you think Nikole Hannah-Jones and others contributed to the *1619 Project*?
5. What do you think is the central idea of Nikole Hannah-Jones' essay, "The Idea of America"?