

From: Gregory Brown <[REDACTED]>

To: undisclosed-recipients;

Bcc: jeevacation@gmail.com

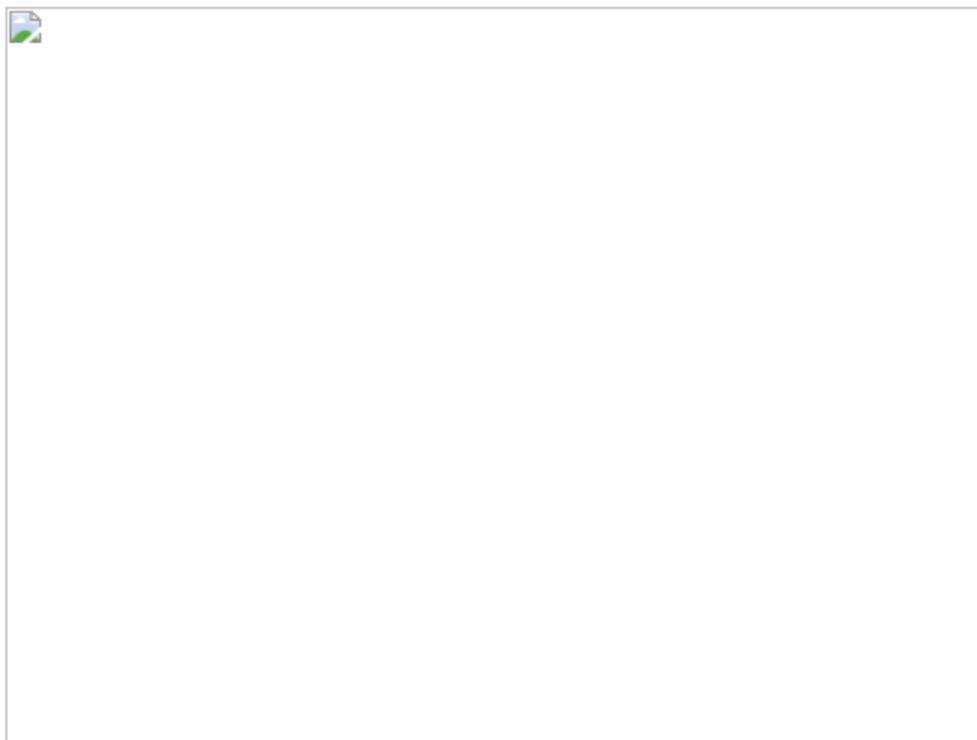
Subject: Greg Brown's Weekend Reading and Other Things.... 07/20/2014

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Attachments: What_Will_America_Look_Like_in_2024_David_Graham_The_Atlantic_July_1,_2014.docx; Not_All_Passports_Are_Created_Equal_Suzy_Strutner_Huff_Post_June_30,_2014.docx; Forget_Red_State_Blue_State_Is_Your_State_Tight_or_Loose_Chris_Mooney_Mother_Jones_July_7,_2014.docx; 15_Charts_That_Prove_We're_Far_From_Post-Racial_Braden_Goyette_Huff_Post_July_2,_2014.docx; West_Wing_-_Why_are_we_changing_maps_Upworthy.docx; 60_Things_You_Probably_Didn't_Know_About_New_York_City_Matt_Stopera_BuzzFee_[REDACTED],_2014.docx; 5_of_the_biggest_corporate_fines_ever_WSJ_October_19,_2014.docx; Bill-Withers_bio.docx

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DEAR FRIEND.....



Four years ago civil rights litigator and legal scholar, Michelle Alexander wrote a thought provoking book on the current epidemic in America today, mass incarceration which she called ***The New Jim Crow***. The United States (*with 5% of the world's population, incarcerates 25% of the world's*

prisoners) and what she perceives as societal repression of African-American men and, to a lesser degree, Latino men. She discusses the social consequences of various policies for people of color, as well as for the US population as a whole. According to Alexander, the majority of young black men in large American cities are "warehoused in prisons," their labor no longer needed in the globalized economy. Alexander maintains that many young black men, once they are labeled as "felons," become trapped in a second-class status that they find difficult to escape. The conventional point of view holds that discrimination has mostly ended with the Civil rights movement reforms of the 1960s. However, Alexander claims the U.S. criminal justice system uses the "War on Drugs" as a primary tool for enforcing traditional, as well as new, modes of discrimination and repression.

Alexander argues that the "War on Drugs" has had a devastating impact on inner city African American communities, on a scale entirely out of proportion to the actual dimensions of criminal activity taking place within these communities. During the past three decades, the US prison population has exploded from 300,000 to more than two million, with the majority of the increase due to drug convictions. This has led to the US having the world's highest incarceration rate, exceeding the rates of a number of regimes strongly criticized by the US government as highly repressive. The US incarceration rate is eight times that of Germany, a comparatively developed large democracy. Alexander claims that the US is unparalleled in the world in focusing enforcement of federal drug laws on racial and ethnic minorities. In the capital city of Washington, D.C., three out of four young African American males are expected to serve time in prison. While studies show that quantitatively Americans of different races consume illegal drugs at similar rates, in some states black men have been sent to prison on drug charges at rates twenty to fifty times those of white men. The proportion of African American men with some sort of criminal record approaches 80% in some major US cities, and they become marginalized, part of what Alexander calls "a growing and permanent undercaste."

Alexander maintains that this undercaste is hidden from view, invisible within a maze of rationalizations, with mass incarceration its most serious manifestation. Alexander borrows from the term "racial caste," as it is commonly used in scientific literature, to create "undercaste," denoting a "stigmatized racial group locked into inferior position by law and custom." By mass incarceration she refers to the entire web of laws, rules, policies and customs that make up the criminal justice system and which serve as a gateway to permanent marginalization in the undercaste. Once released from prison, new members of this undercaste face a "hidden underworld of legalized discrimination and permanent social exclusion."

Incarceration Trends in America

- From 1980 to 2010, the number of people incarcerated in America quadrupled—from roughly 500,000 to 2.3 million people
- Today, the US is 5% of the World population and has 25% of world prisoners.
- Combining the number of people in prison and jail with those under parole or probation supervision, 1 in every 31 adults, or 3.2 percent of the population is under some form of correctional control

Racial Disparities in Incarceration

- African Americans now constitute nearly 1 million of the total 2.3 million incarcerated population
- African Americans are incarcerated at nearly six times the rate of whites
- Together, African American and Hispanics comprised 58% of all prisoners in 2008, even though African Americans and Hispanics make up approximately one quarter of the US population

- According to Unlocking America, if African American and Hispanics were incarcerated at the same rates of whites, today's prison and jail populations would decline by approximately 50%
- One in six black men had been incarcerated as of 2001. If current trends continue, one in three black males born today can expect to spend time in prison during his lifetime
- 1 in 100 African American women are in prison
- Nationwide, African-Americans represent 26% of juvenile arrests, 44% of youth who are detained, 46% of the youth who are judicially waived to criminal court, and 58% of the youth admitted to state prisons (Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice).

Drug Sentencing Disparities

- About 14 million Whites and 2.6 million African Americans report using an illicit drug
- 5 times as many Whites are using drugs as African Americans, yet African Americans are sent to prison for drug offenses at 10 times the rate of Whites
- African Americans represent 12% of the total population of drug users, but 38% of those arrested for drug offenses, and 59% of those in state prison for a drug offense.
- African Americans serve virtually as much time in prison for a drug offense (58.7 months) as whites do for a violent offense (61.7 months). (Sentencing Project)

Contributing Factors

- Inner city crime prompted by social and economic isolation
- Crime/drug arrest rates: African Americans represent 12% of monthly drug users, but comprise 32% of persons arrested for drug possession
- "Get tough on crime" and "war on drugs" policies
- Mandatory minimum sentencing, especially disparities in sentencing for crack and powder cocaine possession
- In 2002, blacks constituted more than 80% of the people sentenced under the federal crack cocaine laws and served substantially more time in prison for drug offenses than did whites, despite that fact that more than 2/3 of crack cocaine users in the U.S. are white or Hispanic
- "Three Strikes"/habitual offender policies
- Zero Tolerance policies as a result of perceived problems of school violence; adverse affect on black children.
- 35% of black children grades 7-12 have been suspended or expelled at some point in their school careers compared to 20% of Hispanics and 15% of whites

Effects of Incarceration

- Jail reduces work time of young people over the next decade by 25-30 percent when compared with arrested youths who were not incarcerated
- Jails and prisons are recognized as settings where society's infectious diseases are highly concentrated
- Prison has not been proven as a rehabilitation for behavior, as two-thirds of prisoners will reoffend

Exorbitant Cost of Incarceration: Is it Worth It?

- About \$70 billion dollars are spent on corrections yearly
- Prisons and jails consume a growing portion of the nearly \$200 billion we spend annually on public safety

According to Alexander, crime and punishment are poorly correlated, and the present US criminal justice system has effectively become a system of social control unparalleled in world history, with its targets largely defined by race. The rate of incarceration in the US has soared, while its crime rates have generally remained similar to those of other Western countries, where incarceration rates have remained stable. The current rate of incarceration in the US is six to ten times greater than in other industrialized nations, and Alexander maintains that this disparity is not related to the actual rates of crime or their increase, but can be traced mostly to the artificially invoked "War on Drugs" and its associated discriminatory policies. In 1973 the National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals of the Justice Department found overwhelming evidence that juvenile detention centers, jails and prisons increase crime rather than reduce it; they recommended the elimination of existing juvenile detention centers and no further construction of adult facilities. During the next few decades, actual developments went in the opposite direction; the US embarked on an unprecedented expansion of its juvenile detention and prison systems.



Alexander notes that the civil rights community has been reluctant to get involved in this issue, concentrating primarily on protecting affirmative action gains, which mainly benefit an elite group of high-achieving African Americans. At the other end of the social spectrum are the young black men who are under active control of the criminal justice system (*currently in prison, or on parole or probation*) – approximately one-third of the young black men in the US. Criminal justice was not listed as a top priority of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights in 2007 and 2008, or of the Congressional Black Caucus in 2009. The NAACP and the ACLU have been involved in legal action, and grassroots campaigns have been organized, however Alexander feels that generally there is a lack of appreciation of the enormity of the crisis. According to her, mass incarceration is "the most damaging manifestation of the backlash against the Civil Rights Movement," and those who feel that

the election of Barack Obama represents the ultimate "*triumph over race*," and that race no longer matters, are dangerously misguided.

Alexander writes that Americans are ashamed of their racial history, and therefore avoid talking about race, or even class, so the terms used in her book will seem strangely unfamiliar to many. Americans want to believe that everybody is capable of upward mobility, given enough effort on his or her part; this assumption forms a part of the national collective self-image. Alexander points out that a large percentage of African Americans are blocked by the discriminatory practices of an ostensibly colorblind criminal justice system, which end up creating an *undercaste* where upward mobility is severely constrained.

In an article addressing the status of contemporary African Americans, Alexander said, "*The clock has been turned back on racial progress in America, though scarcely anyone seems to notice. All eyes are fixed on people like Barack Obama and Oprah Winfrey who have defied the odds and achieved great power, wealth and fame*". Alexander believes that the existence of the *New Jim Crow* system is not disproved by the election of Barack Obama and other examples of exceptional achievement among African Americans, but on the contrary the *New Jim Crow* system depends on such exceptionalism. She contends that the system does not require overt racial hostility or bigotry on the part of other racial groups; indifference serves its purpose. Alexander argues that the system reflects an underlying racial ideology and will not be significantly disturbed by half-measures such as laws mandating shorter sentences; like its predecessors the new system of racial control has been largely immunized from legal challenge. She writes that a human tragedy is unfolding under our watch, and *The New Jim Crow* is intended to stimulate a much-needed national discussion "about the role of the criminal justice system in creating and perpetuating racial hierarchy in the United States."

We should question why our politics allow us to continue spending so lavishly to lock up so much human capital when the results are so racially skewed and offer so little evidence of crime-fighting success. Alexander's answer is that mass incarceration is the new *Jim Crow*, a deliberate form of social control over racial minorities. It may be. Certainly, the policies that gave rise to these funding priorities, exercises of discretion, and constitutional interpretations followed a clear "*law and order*" path that began after the 1960s urban riots, but reached full steam under Presidents Reagan, George H. W. Bush, and Bill Clinton. For politicians everywhere, presenting oneself as tough on crime has been a cherished virtue among voters for decades now, a sure way to prevent us from slipping into lawlessness. What is odd, however, is the concentration of crime. Here again, segregation plays a hand. Since crime is concentrated in areas of concentrated poverty, the broader public's willingness to fund tough and expensive policing seems irrational. That same public expresses no such desire to fund schools in areas of concentrated poverty at higher levels, for instance. Maybe Alexander asserts too much intention on the part of the myriad forces of social control, a coordination of efforts that seems too perfect for the government we know. Yet something is clearly wrong with a criminal justice system that produces so much injustice. And now that crack has at least subsided as an epidemic and prison costs are crushing state and local budgets, people are rethinking our incarceration policies. But are they doing so for the right reasons? And if not, why not? ***And this is the rage of the week....***

60 Things You Probably Didn't Know About New York City



Although I was born in the city of Mount Vernon which is the first suburb north of the Bronx I have always thought of myself as a New Yorker especially since I have been riding the New York subways by myself from the age of six years old. And although I now live in Los Angeles and have been transplanted here for years, part of my soul is still a New Yorker as it is the greatest city in the world and my many years of living there were some of the greatest in my life. So for a bit of nostalgia I invite you to enjoy some facts about the great city.....

- 1.** Pinball was banned in the city until 1978. The NYPD even held “Prohibition-style” busts.
- 2.** It is a misdemeanor to fart in NYC churches.
- 3.** It costs \$1 million to get a license (medallion) to operate a taxicab.
- 4.** The first pizzeria in the United States was opened in NYC in 1895.
- 5.** In 1857, toilet paper was invented by Joseph C. Gayetty in NYC.
- 6.** The Jewish population in NYC is the largest in the world outside of Israel.
- 7.** Up until World War II, everyone in the entire city who was moving apartments had to move on May 1.
- 8.** The city of New York will pay for a one-way plane ticket for any homeless person if they have a guaranteed place to stay.
- 9.** There’s a man who mines sidewalk cracks for gold. He can make over \$600 a week.
- 10.** According to New York City’s Office of Emergency Management, the last hurricane to pass directly over the city was in 1821. The storm surge was so high that the city was flooded up to Canal Street.
- 11.** Hog Island, a one-mile-long island south of Rockaway Beach, was never seen again after the hurricane of 1893.
- 12.** New York City’s leading hurricane historian, Nicholas Coch, a professor of coastal geology at Queens College, believes that this is the only reported incidence ever of the removal of an entire island by a hurricane.
- 13.** Up until 1957, there was a pneumatic mail tube system that was used to connect 23 post offices across 27 miles. At one point, it moved 97,000 letters a day.
- 14.** Albert Einstein’s eyeballs are stored in a safe deposit box in the city.
- 15.** There are tiny shrimp called copepods in NYC’s drinking water.
- 16.** On Nov. 28, 2012, not a single murder, shooting, stabbing, or other incident of violent crime in NYC was reported for an entire day. The first time in basically ever.
- 17.** There’s a wind tunnel near the Flat Iron building that can raise women’s skirts. Men used to gather outside of the Flat Iron building to watch.

18. About 1 in every 38 people living in the United States resides in New York City.
19. New York City has more people than 39 of the 50 states in the U.S.
20. There is a birth in New York City every 4.4 minutes.
21. There is a death in New York City every 9.1 minutes.
22. The borough of Brooklyn on its own would be the fourth largest city in the United States. Queens would also rank fourth nationally.
23. New York City has the largest Chinese population of any city outside of Asia.
24. New York has the largest Puerto Rican population of any city in the world.
25. PONY stands for Product of New York.

For the entire list of sixty plus several photos and graphics please feel free to download the attached article – ***60 Things You Probably Didn't Know About New York City*** – by Matt Stopera at **BuzzFeed**.

Top 4 Dieting Myths of All Time



Over the years, we're exposed to countless tips, tricks and supposed "rules" regarding dieting. Can you separate fact from fiction?

We all know a few hard-and-fast rules when it comes to eating right and staying in shape: Eat lots of fruits and veggies. Cut back on red meat, fast food, and sodas. Exercise regularly. But you may be

surprised to learn that many of the so-called “facts” you swear by aren’t true at all! Here, Dr. Oz busts the top 4 dieting myths.

Dieting Myth 1: Eating Fat Makes You Fat

The name says it all: Fat makes you fat, right? Wrong! Eating a small amount of fat actually helps you feel fuller faster as it triggers satiety (or fullness) signals, causing you to eat less overall. Not only that, eating the right fats aids in the absorption of healthy vitamins. Seek out the polyunsaturated fats you’ll find in liquid oils, like canola and safflower oil. Unlike saturated fats, they won’t raise bad blood cholesterol levels and may even reduce the risk of a heart attack. To get your healthy fat fix, also look for omega-3 oils from fish, krill, seafood, algae, flaxseeds and/or walnuts, and olive oil, which is a source of both monounsaturated fats and omega-3s.

Dieting Myth 2: You Burn Fat Faster by Exercising on an Empty Stomach

Starving yourself before you exercise isn’t only ineffective, it may be harmful. A report published this year concluded that your body burns roughly the same amount of fat regardless of whether you eat before a workout, but you’re likely to lose strength-building muscles by exercising on an empty stomach. Not only that, without food to fuel your workout, exercise intensity and overall calorie burn are reduced. On the other hand, when you exercise with some food in your stomach, you’re burning fat instead of muscle, leaving you with more energy and a higher calorie burn. Be sure to eat 30 minutes before exercise, preferably a liquid-like yogurt or a protein shake so your body can make nutrients readily available for your workout.

Dieting Myth 3: It’s Harder for Women to Lose Weight

Men may appear to lose weight faster than women at first, over the long run things balance out. Men tend to have more muscle mass and undergo fewer hormonal changes, which allows for an easier burn-off of those first few pounds. Research shows, however, that, over time, weight loss evens out between the sexes so long as you stick to a healthy diet and exercise routine. Remember, healthy results don’t matter over a week or even a month – they really add up and matter over the years.

Dieting Myth 4: All Calories Are Created Equally

A calorie does not automatically equal a calorie! Some calories are more filling, leaving you feeling full faster so your appetite is gone in a flash. Other calories are less filling, keeping your appetite going and going. You want to seek out the first type of calories, so be sure to replace the less-filling saturated fats that you’ll find in butter and fatty meats with the more-filling, polyunsaturated fats found in sources like avocados and nuts. You’ll get the rich, delicious flavors you crave without packing on unwanted pounds.

History of Corporate Fines



Homeowners have just received another \$3.1 billion in cash under a federal settlement with 13 big banks over alleged misconduct in processing mortgages that may have resulted in wrongful foreclosures, the Federal Reserve said in a report released Monday. The report said 83 percent of the 4.2 million borrowers covered by the January 2013 settlement, or about 3.4 million, had cashed checks as of April 25. The amounts paid range from several hundred dollars to \$125,000. The 13 banks include Bank of America, Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo and Goldman Sachs. The \$9.3 billion settlement called for \$3.6 billion in cash payments and \$5.7 billion in aid such as reduced mortgage loans. The settlement ended a review of mortgage files required under a 2011 action by federal regulators.

While last October █. Morgan reached a record \$13 billion settlement with the Department of Justice and other federal regulators over mortgage-backed securities. The settlement includes some homeowner assistance payments and fines, it would likely be the biggest fine ever levied by the DOJ. Here are some other memorable settlements and fines by DOJ and regulators, including the previous high-water mark for a bank.

Current Biggest DOJ Fine:

\$4.5 billion – BP – November 2012: BP's fines for Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico included what was the biggest fine ever levied by the Department of Justice: \$4 billion. That came along with \$525 million more to the SEC for civil penalties. The DOJ penalty also had an accompanying guilty plea to 11 felony counts of "*seaman's manslaughter*" relating to the deaths aboard the drilling rig, admitting that its workers were negligent when they misinterpreted a key well safety test. Meanwhile, the oil giant earlier in 2012 agreed to pay victims an estimated \$7.8 billion and have in total booked charges of about \$42 billion for cleanup and settlement payments. It is in a court trial over environmental penalties that could total billions more.

Pharmaceutical Industry

\$3 billion – GlaxoSmithKline – July 2012: In what was billed as the largest healthcare settlement with the DOJ ever, the drug maker paid \$3 billion and pleaded guilty to criminal charges of illegally marketing drugs and withholding safety data from U.S. regulators. Included in the allegations were that Dr. Drew Pinsky, famed for co-hosting sex-advice show "*Loveline*" was given payments and then pitched a Glaxo anti-depressant on air.

\$2.3 billion – Pfizer Inc. – 2009: The pharmaceutical giant pleaded guilty to a federal criminal charge of illegally marketing the painkiller Bextra and paid \$2.3 billion for illegally promoting the sale of that and other medicines for unapproved uses.

\$1.6 billion – Abbott Laboratories – 2012: The drug maker agreed to pay \$1.6 billion and to plead guilty to a criminal misdemeanor violation of a federal drug law following allegations that the company improperly promoted antiseizure drug Depakote for unauthorized uses.

\$1.42 billion — Eli Lilly & Co. — 2009 : Eli Lilly agreed to pay \$1.42 billion to settle a probe into alleged improper marketing of the antipsychotic drug Zyprexa.

\$950 million — Merck & Co. — 2011: Merck agreed to pay \$950 million and plead guilty to a criminal misdemeanor charge to resolve government allegations that the company illegally promoted its former painkiller Vioxx and deceived the government about the drug's safety.

Banking Industry

\$8.5 billion — Bank of America — June 2011: The bank has paid billions in settlements since the financial crisis, most of them tied to the mortgages that were churned out by Countrywide before its collapse and rescue by Bank of America. The biggest settlement it reached, for \$8.5 billion, was not with the government but with a group of mortgage bond holders including BlackRock, Pimco and the New York Federal Reserve. The settlement is still awaiting a judge's approval.

\$25 billion — Wells Fargo & Co., ■■■. Morgan Chase & Co., Citigroup Inc., Bank of America Corp., Ally Financial Inc. — 2012: The Five banks agreed to pay \$25 billion in penalties and borrower relief over alleged foreclosure processing abuses. The deal represented the largest government-industry settlement since the tobacco deal.

\$9.3 billion — Bank of America, Wells Fargo, ■■■. Morgan and 10 others — 2013: Thirteen banks reached an agreement with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and Federal Reserve to pay \$9.3 billion in cash and noncash relief, including loan assistance, to homeowners over alleged foreclosure abuses.

\$1.9 billion — HSBC Holdings — HSBC agreed to pay \$1.9 billion to U.S. authorities over deficiencies in its antimoney-laundering controls. U.S. officials hailed the settlement as the largest penalty ever under the Bank Secrecy Act. The agreement between the U.S. and HSBC also represented the third time since 2003 the bank agreed to U.S. orders to cease lax conduct and correct failed policies.

\$1.5 billion — UBS AG — 2012: UBS agreed to pay \$1.5 billion and acknowledged charges that it had manipulated interbank lending rates including the London interbank offered rate, or Libor. It was the biggest fine so far in that scandal.

\$1.4 billion — 10 Wall Street firms including Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and ■■■. Morgan — 2003: The 10 firms agreed to pay penalties of roughly \$1.4 billion to settle charges of conflicts of interest between their research and investment banking sectors.

Other Corporate Settlements:

\$246 billion — Tobacco industry combined — 1998: The nation's 50 state attorneys general reached a comprehensive settlement with the five largest tobacco makers in the country, Philip Morris, R.J. Reynolds, Brown & Williamson, Lorillard and Liggett & Meyers. The pact called for the tobacco companies to pay out \$246 billion over the course of 25 years ended 2025. The companies had reached earlier agreements with some states and then reached a wide settlement with the remaining 46, the agreements combined for \$246 billion.

\$900 million — Exxon — 1991 — The oil company agreed to settle all federal and state civil claims resulting from the Exxon Valdez oil spill of March 24, 1989 with a payment of \$900 million and the possibility for \$100 million more. Three decades later, the sides continued to argue about the \$100 million more.

\$1.6 billion — Siemens — 2008: Siemens agreed to pay a total of \$1.6 billion in fines and penalties to U.S. and German authorities to resolve allegations of a bribery scheme across several countries to win business.

Antitrust:

\$1.5 billion — Intel — 2009 — The chip maker was walloped with the biggest antitrust fine ever by the European Union. The company, at the time, controlled about 80% of the world's computer chips. Intel is still appealing the fine and has said the EU is mistaken. The largest U.S. antitrust fine ever has been \$500 million, levied twice, including last year in a case against LCD television maker AU Optronics Corporation of Taiwan.

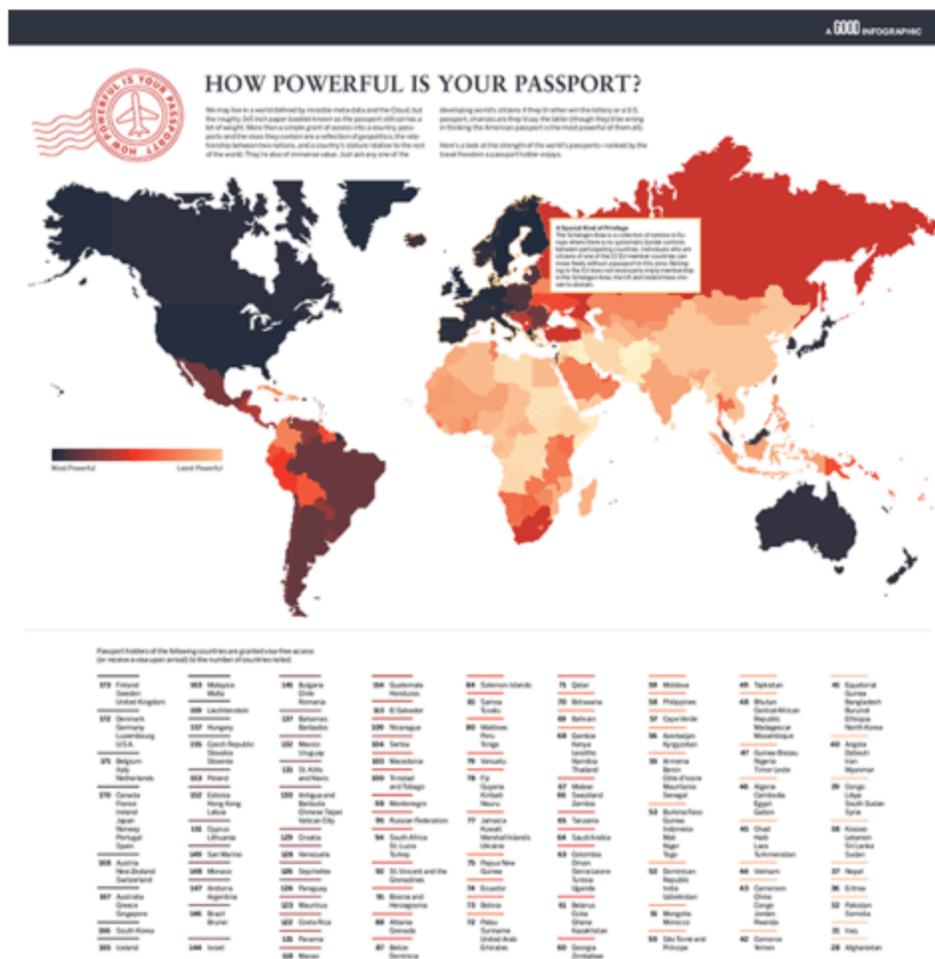
As you can see from the above list, a number of our biggest banks and international conglomerates have been caught doing all types of skullduggery and although they have paid hundreds of billions in fines and restitution little has changed because that is just the cost of doing business. And until the people running these companies are incarcerated like the common criminals that they are, this criminality is destined to continue ***and this is my rant of the week....***

WEEK'S READINGS

Not All Passports Are Created Equal, As This Map Will Tell You

A passport from the United States allows its citizens free access to 172 other countries. But not all travelers have such an overwhelming spread of choices: Residents of Iraq, for example, can access only 31 countries with their passport. Venturing away from Afghanistan? Your options dwindle to 28 countries. You might say we've been taking our travel freedom for granted here in the U.S.

In this infographic map from the folks at GOOD, countries are color-coded based on the "power" of their passports. The darker in color, the more freedom that country's residents have to travel. Lighter orange colors mean residents can visit less countries with their passports. How powerful is yours? Being a U.S. citizen traveling on a U.S. passport this was welcomed news.



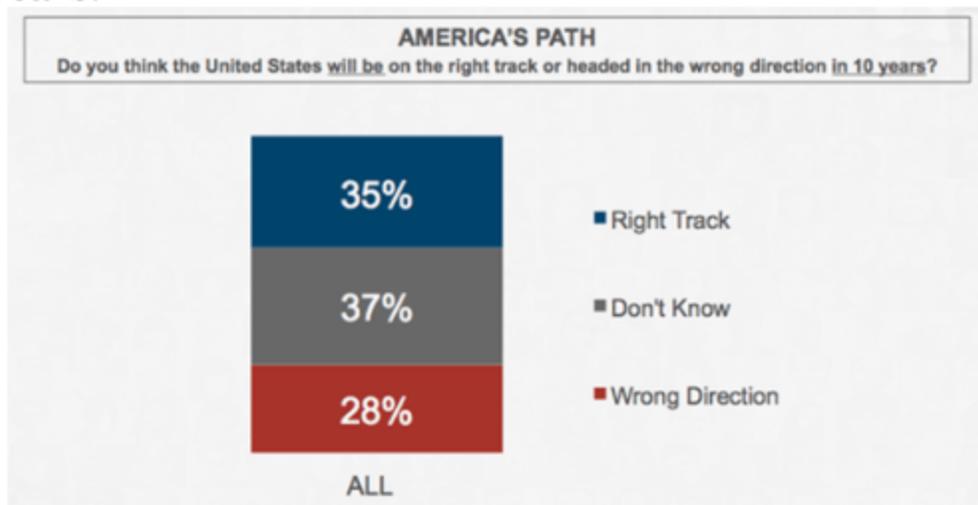
The Huffington Post | By Suzy Strutner

Last week **The Atlantic Magazine** published an article by David Graham – **What Will America Look Like in 2024?** – with 25 charts that show what the nation expects over the next 10 years. And although by many measures, the United States has bounced back from the Great Recession, yet the country doesn't seem to have totally regained its confidence. Against this uncertain background, the

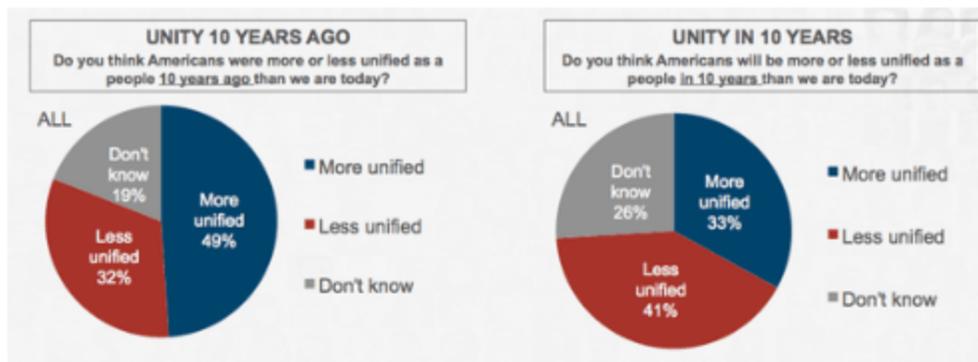
charts show what Americans anticipate about the next 10 years. And on the **Atlantic/Aspen Institute Survey** 10th anniversary of the Aspen Ideas Festival, this year's survey asks about impressions of the nation in 2024. The poll finds Americans in a pessimistic mood, worried that U.S. is on the wrong track and unsure about the future. Respondents expect a nation more divided by class and race. They also expect America's standing in the world to diminish, as China and Russia gain in stature. But the results aren't uniform: The poll finds that white Americans have a bleaker view of the future than their black and Latino counterparts, who are more likely to see opportunity today and ahead. Nor is the pessimism absolute. Even as many Americans seem to despair for the nation's future, they're optimistic about their own health, wealth, and well-being over the next decade.

Below, a brief summary in charts:

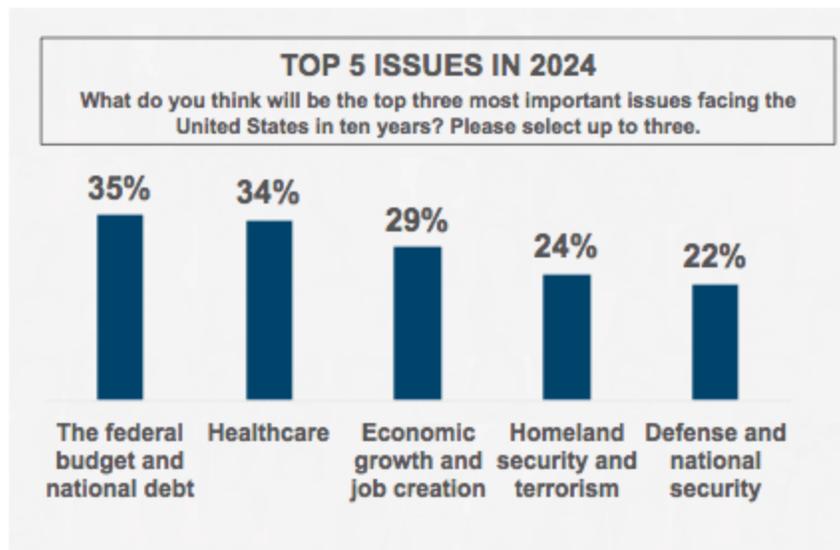
Americans are evenly split about whether the country will be on the right track in 10 years.



Americans expect that we will be more divided than we are now and look back on fractious 2004 with rose-colored glasses.

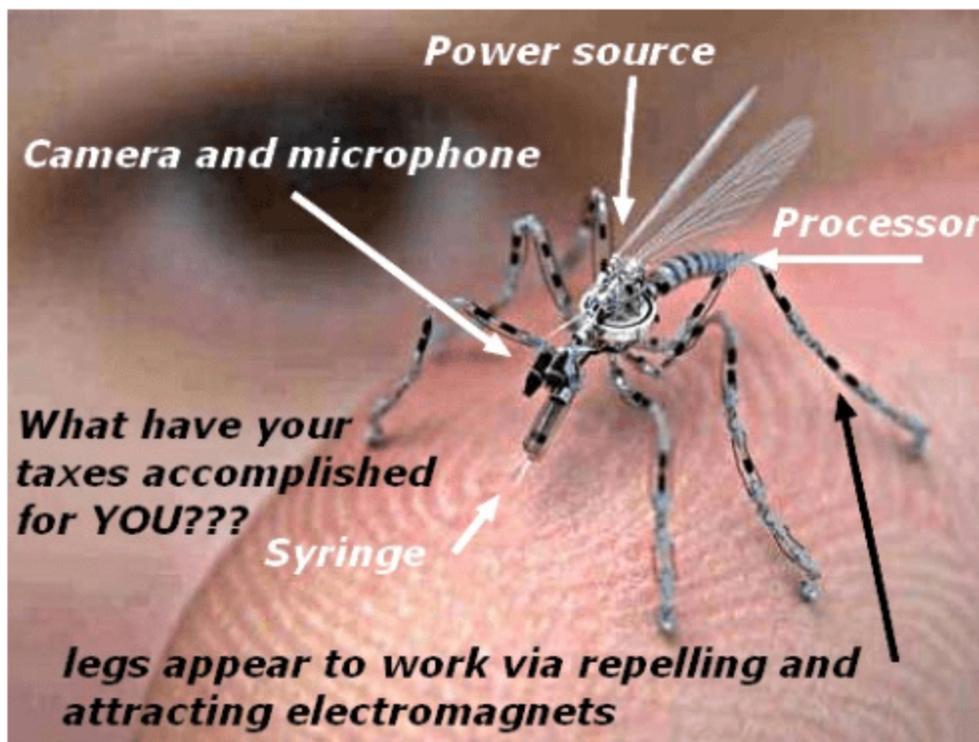


Americans expect the country will still be wrestling with many of the same essential issues it does today.



Please download the attached article by David Graham – ***What Will America Look Like in 2024?*** – containing the entire 25 charts that show what the nation expects over the next 10 years.

This Is Not A Mosquito!! Note size; it is on the man's finger!



This Is Not A Mosquito!! Look closely..... *Incredible*

Is this a mosquito? No. It's an insect spy drone for urban areas, already in production, funded by the US Government.

It can be remotely controlled and is equipped with a camera and a microphone.

It can land on you, and it may have the potential to take a DNA sample or leave RFID tracking nanotechnology on your skin.

It can fly through an open window, or it can attach to your clothing until you take it in your home.

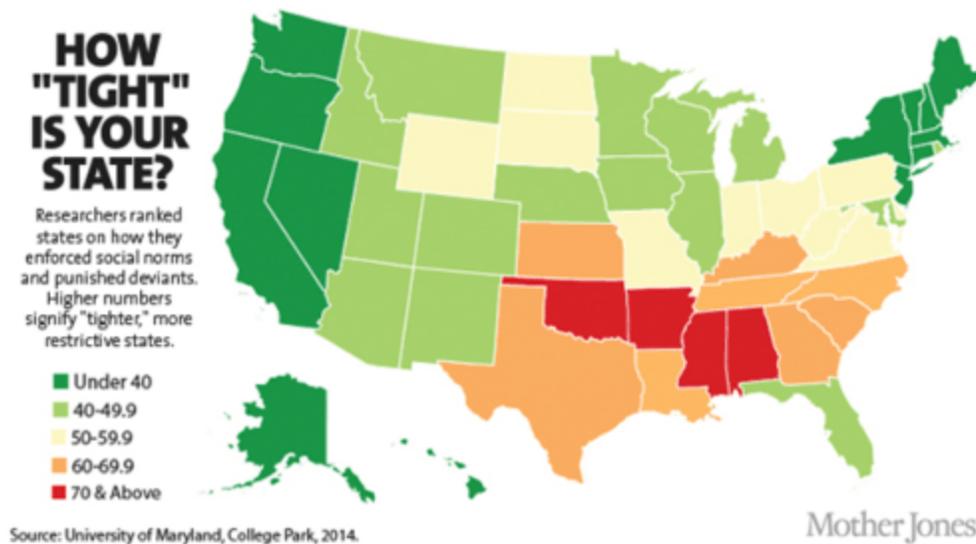
Given their propensity to request macro-sized drones for surveillance, one is left with little doubt that police and military may look into these gadgets next.

(And to think we were worried about West Nile virus!)

Now think that our government has requested the law be changed to allow drone surveillance in the United States... Are you uncomfortable?

Forget Red State, Blue State: Is Your State "Tight" or "Loose"?

A new theory about the cultures of different regions could go a long way toward explaining why the United States is so polarized.



It is obvious to anyone who has traveled around the United States that cultural assumptions, behaviors, and norms vary widely. We all know, for instance, that the South is more politically conservative than the Northeast. And we at least vaguely assume that this is rooted in different outlooks on life.

But why do these different outlooks exist, and correspond so closely to different regions? In a paper recently published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (and discussed more here), psychologists Jesse R. Harrington and Michele J. Gelfand of the University of Maryland propose a sweeping theory to explain this phenomenon. Call it the theory of "tightness-looseness": The researchers show, through analysis of anything from numbers of police per capita to the availability of

booze, that some US states are far more *"tight"* — meaning that *they "have many strongly enforced rules and little tolerance for deviance."* Others, meanwhile, are more *"loose,"* meaning that they *"have few strongly enforced rules and greater tolerance for deviance."*

The 10 tightest states? Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Louisiana, Kentucky, South Carolina, and North Carolina. The 10 loosest, meanwhile, are California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Hawaii, New Hampshire, and Vermont. (*Notice a pattern here?*)

The 10 tightest states? Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Louisiana, Kentucky, South Carolina, and North Carolina. (*Notice a pattern here?*)

Harrington and Gelfand measure a state's tightness or looseness based on indicators such as the legality of corporal punishment in schools, the general severity of legal sentences, access to alcohol and availability of civil unions, level of religiosity, and the percent of the population that is foreign. But really, that's just the beginning of their analysis. After identifying which states are *"tighter"* and which are more *"loose,"* the researchers then trace these different outlooks to a range of ecological or historical factors in the states' pasts (and in many cases, lingering into their presents). For as the authors write, tighter societies generally have had to deal with *"a greater number of ecological and historical threats, including fewer natural resources, more natural disasters, a greater incidence of territorial threat, higher population density, and greater pathogen prevalence."*

That applies nicely to the United States. The *"tight"* states, it turns out, have higher death rates from heat, storms, floods, and lightning. (Not to mention tornadoes.) They also have higher rates of death from influenza and pneumonia, and higher rates of HIV and a number of other diseases. They have higher child and infant mortality. And then there's external threat: The South, in the Civil War, was defending its own terrain and its own way of life. Indeed, the researchers show a very strong correlation between the percentage of slave-owning families that a state had in the year 1860, and its *"tightness"* measurement today.

It makes psychological sense, of course, that regions facing more threats would be much more inward-looking and tougher on deviants, because basically, they had to buckle down. They didn't have the luxury of flowery art, creativity, and substance abuse.

Tight states have higher incarceration and execution rates and *"lower circulation of pornographic magazines."*

Still not done, Harrington and Gelfand also show that their index of states *"tightness"* and *"looseness"* maps nicely on to prior analyses of the differing personalities of people living in different US states. Citizens of *"tight"* states tend to be more *"conscientious,"* prizing order and structure in their lives. Citizens of *"loose"* states tend to be more *"open,"* wanting to try new things and have new experiences.

Other major distinguishing factors between "tight" and "loose" states:

- Tight states have higher incarceration rates and higher execution rates.
- Tight states have "lower circulation of pornographic magazines."
- Tight states have "more charges of employment discrimination per capita."
- Tight states produce fewer patents per capita, and have far fewer "fine artists" (including "painters, illustrators, writers").

Most striking of all, the authors found "a negative and linear relationship between tightness and happiness" among citizens. Put more simply: People in loose states are happier.

In sum: It's a very interesting theory, and one with quite a scope. Or as the authors put it: "tightness-looseness can account for the divergence of substance abuse and discrimination rates between states such as Hawaii and Ohio, reliably predicts the psychological differences...between Colorado and Alabama, helps to explain the contrasts in creativity and social organization between Vermont and North Dakota, and provides some understanding concerning the dissimilarity in insularity and resistance toward immigration between Arizona and New York."

In these days of extreme political dysfunction, America itself is in increasing need of an explanation. Now, maybe, we have one.

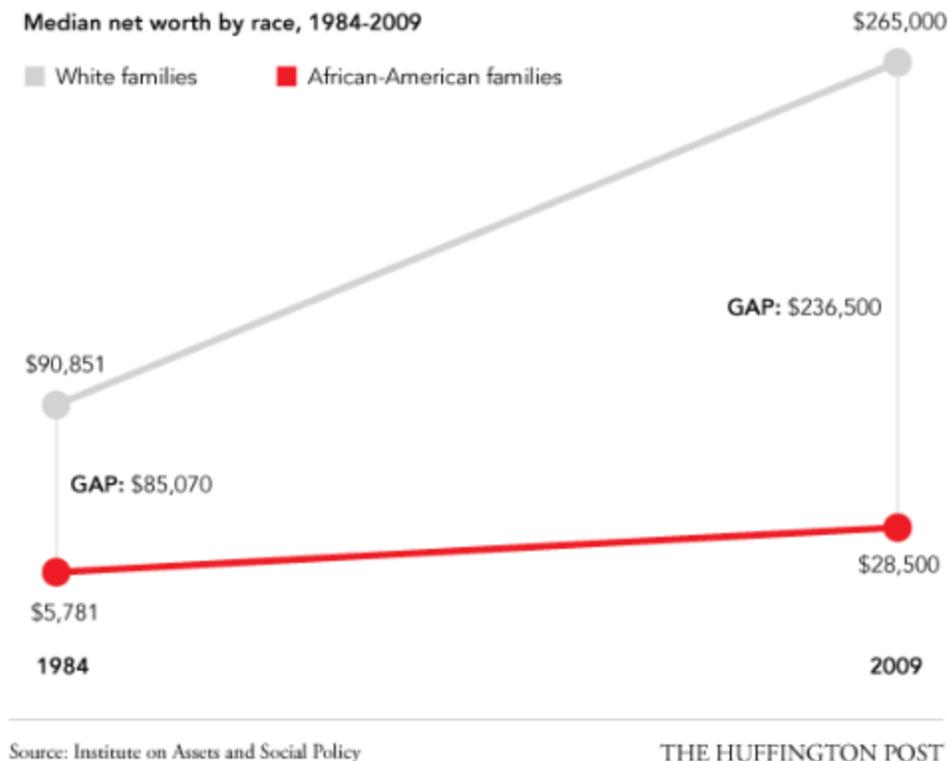


People on the left don't like to talk about it but it still exists. And citing that we now have a Black American President many on the right are in denial that it is a problem. But as a person of color who sees much of the current growing inequality as vestiges of both slavery and the refusal of much of America to accept that we are still not living in a color-blind society I would like everyone to understand its true cost. These costs have their roots in the momentous legislative changes of the 1960s. **The Civil Rights Acts of 1964, 1965, and 1968** reached into nearly every aspect of daily life — from segregated facilities to voting to housing—and represented a long overdue re-installation of the equality principle in our social compact. The question was what it would take—and from whom—to get to equality.

People don't live in policy and statistics as much as they do through anecdote and personal burdens. A riot here, a horrific crime there, a job loss or perhaps the fiery oratory of a public personality could tip a liberal-leaning person's thinking toward more conservative conclusions — or at least fuel their lack of tolerance. This lack of tolerance has ossified into anger, turning everything into monetary costs, and making these costs the basis for political opposition to a liberal state. As it happened, this process moves the date of our supposed final triumph over racism from the mid-1960s to at least the mid-

1980s. In the end, intolerance and corresponding impatience won. Initially the reaction of course was greatest in the south but it slowly spread. With segregation – even de facto segregation – now illegal, it was also reaching into the suburbs of the historically white northern areas.

On July 2, 1964, the Civil Rights Act was signed into law, officially banning discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. It also ended racial segregation in schools, at the workplace and in general public facilities. Fifty years removed from that milestone, it's apparently easy to think that we're over racism. This month Braden Goyette did an article in **The Huffington Post** – **Here are 15 facts that prove that's not the case.**



1) Affluent blacks and Hispanics still live in poorer neighborhoods than whites with working class incomes. An analysis of census data conducted by researchers at Brown University found that income isn't the main driving factor in the segregation of U.S. cities. "With only one exception (the most affluent Asians), minorities at every income level live in poorer neighborhoods than do whites with comparable incomes," the researchers found.

2) There's a big disparity in wealth between white Americans and non-white Americans. White Americans held more than 88 percent of the country's wealth in 2010, according to a Demos analysis of Federal Reserve data, though they made up 64 percent of the population. Black Americans held 2.7 percent of the country's wealth, though they made up 13 percent of the population. Much has been written explaining that the racial wealth gap didn't come about by accident. Among other factors, FHA redlining, restrictive covenants, and exploitative contract selling practices that capitalized on black families' inability to get conventional mortgages all prevented African-Americans from generating wealth through home ownership for much of the 20th century.

3) The racial wealth gap kept widening well after the Civil Rights era. It nearly tripled between 1984 and 2009, according to a Brandeis study.

- 4) The Great Recession didn't hit everyone equally.** Between 2007 and 2010, Hispanic families' wealth fell by 44 percent, and black families' by 31 percent, compared to 11 percent for white families.
- 5) In the years before the financial crisis, people of color were much more likely to be targeted for subprime loans than their white counterparts, even when they had similar credit scores.** The Center For Responsible Lending came to that conclusion after analyzing government-provided mortgage data for the year 2004, supplemented with information from a propriety subprime loan database. This wasn't a new phenomenon. HUD data from 1998 also showed that predominantly black neighborhoods at every income level had a much greater share of subprime refinance mortgages than predominantly white neighborhoods.
- 6) Minority borrowers are still more likely to get turned down for conventional mortgage loans than white people with similar credit scores.** An Urban Institute data analysis found that mortgage denial rates from government-sponsored servicers are higher for black applicants with bad credit than for white applicants with bad credit:
- 7) Black and Latino students are more likely to attend poorly funded schools.** *"A 10 percentage-point increase in the share of nonwhite students in a school is associated with a \$75 decrease in per student spending,"* a 2012 analysis of Department Education data by the Center For American Progress found.
- 8) School segregation is still widespread.** 80 percent of Latino students attend segregated schools and 43 percent attend intensely segregated schools -- ones with only up to 10 percent of white students. 74 percent of black students attend segregated schools, and 38 percent attend intensely segregated schools.
- 9) As early as preschool, black students are punished more frequently, and more harshly, for misbehaving than their white counterparts.** *"Black children represent 18 percent of preschool enrollment, but 42 percent of the preschool children suspended once, and 48 percent of the preschool children suspended more than once,"* a Department of Education report, released in March, noted.
- 10) Perceptions of the innocence of children are still often racially skewed.** A study published this year in the **Journal of Personality and Social Psychology** found that participants estimated black boys to be older and less innocent than white boys of the same age. When participants were told that the boys, both black and white, were suspected of crimes, the disparity in perceptions of age and innocence became starker.
- 11) White Americans use drugs more than black Americans, but black people are arrested for drug possession more than three times as often as whites.** This contributes to the fact that 1 in 3 black males born today can expect to go to prison in their lifetimes, based on current incarceration trends.
- 12) Black men receive prison sentences 19.5 percent longer than those of white men who committed similar crimes, a 2013 report by the U.S. Sentencing Commission found.**
- 13) A clean record doesn't protect young black men from discrimination when they're looking for work.** Young white men with felony convictions are more likely to get called back after a job interview than young black men with similar qualifications and clean records, a 2003 study published in the **American Journal of Sociology** found.
- 14) Black job seekers are often turned away by U.S. companies on the assumption that they do drugs.** The presence of drug testing may actually help to correct this and increase black job seekers' chances, according to a **National Bureau of Economic Research** study released in May.
- 15) Employers are more likely to turn away job seekers if they have African-American-sounding names.** Applicants with white-sounding names get one callback per 10 resumes sent

while those with African-American-sounding names get one callback per 15 resumes, according to a **2003 National Bureau of Economic Research report**. "*Based on our estimates,*" the researchers wrote, "*a White name yields as many more callbacks as an additional eight years of experience.*"

What I call intolerance can also be characterized as a simmering voter ambivalence—even antagonism, in the case of working-class whites—to civil rights remedies, one that was susceptible to the peculiar backlash politics that elected both Ronald Reagan and George Herbert Walker Bush president. Language was central to this strategy, and the language that stuck was denial. Racial polarization what was used by Republicans to install "*supply side economics.*" Because only racism could force a union of the rich and the working man. Except that this trickle down never happened. And the middle class just sunk. But sinking further were Blacks and Latinos.

But it was working-class whites who bought the message that this model of fiscal conservatism, married to social conservatism in the form of a rollback of redistributive programs they perceived to favor blacks, would benefit them. It did not. Yet it established a popular political rhetoric by which lower-income whites can be counted on to take up against "*liberal*" policies that may actually serve their interests as long as opposition can be wrapped in the trappings of "*traditional values,*" "*law and order,*" "*special interests,*" "*reverse racism,*" and "*smaller government.*" This was pure okey doke based on an erroneous notion of zero-sum mutuality—that is, that whatever "*the blacks*" get hurts me. A mantra that the Tea Tarty still holds onto today. And again the result is that Blacks and Latinos are falling further behind economically and socially than their white counterparts.

Because of the racial disparities in crime fighting and as a result of the correspondence between race and economic status, black and brown men in poor communities have an entirely different experience of constitutional freedom than do white Americans. Thanks to racial and economic segregation, we already know that they are not hard for the police to find. In ghettos and barrios across the nation, much higher proportions of young men are routinely stopped and searched by police, arrested or detained, released or charged, and if charged, then usually pleading to something that stands as a conviction on their records. A great many are then incarcerated. The cycle then starts over as they become unemployable, uneducated, and part of an insidious interdependency on one of the best-financed arms of government — law enforcement and the courts. Once they have served time for a felony conviction, they are persona non grata in most job settings, denied housing benefits and student loans, disallowed on juries, and, in many states, even lose the right to vote.

Many states have elaborate laws that make the ex-offender a debtor responsible for paying many of the costs of his legal assistance, jail book-in fees, court costs, and child-support enforcement—all on penalty of being returned to jail if he doesn't pay. The pariah status of ex-offenders ripples out in permanent multiples as these are the sons, husbands, and fathers of whole communities. This draconian state of affairs ought to be justified. The first question we should ask is whether the focus on people from these areas and not others is supported by facts on the ground. Again, there is a real denial in America and it is structural, not rhetorical. It's made up of policies that conceal difficulties and conflicts. And this is the denial that we have to overcome in order to come to grips with the problems. Attached please find the entire ***Here are 15 facts that prove that's not the case*** article.

West Wing - Why are we changing maps?



It was featured in "**The West Wing**," but map dishonesty is anything but fictional. Check out this clip to get an accurate look at the size of Africa.

From season 2 - episode 16 "**Somebody's Going to Emergency, Somebody's Going to Jail**"

It's "Big Block of Cheese" Day, which means that Leo sends grumbling staffers to meet with organizations who are not usually heard from at the White House. C.J.'s assignment is the Cartographers for Social Equality.

Web Link: <http://youtu.be/n8zBC2dvERM> and for the entire show XXXXXXXXXX

The Peters Projection World Map is one of the most stimulating, and controversial, images of the world. When this map was first introduced by historian and cartographer Dr. Arno Peters at a Press Conference in Germany in 1974 it generated a firestorm of debate. The first English-version of the map was published in 1983, and it continues to have passionate fans as well as staunch detractors.

The earth is round. The challenge of any world map is to represent a round earth on a flat surface. There are literally thousands of map projections. Each has certain strengths and corresponding weaknesses. Choosing among them is an exercise in values clarification: you have to decide what's important to you. That is generally determined by the way you intend to use the map. The Peters Projection is an area accurate map.

The Peters Map of the World shows the earth's geographic relationships better than the standard Mercator map (c. 1569), which is what we all likely grew up with. In this map, land masses and nations are shown in true proportion. For example, the sheer physical enormity of Africa is clear. The traditional Mercator map seriously distorts physical geography, vastly over-representing the northern hemisphere and under-representing the southern hemisphere. In the Mercator projection, as another example, Greenland, which has 0.8 million square miles, is shown as being equal to Africa, which has 11.6 million square miles.

An accurate look at Africa relative to some major countries:



THIS WEEK'S QUOTES

Mass incarceration is the new Jim Crow, a deliberate form of social control over racial minorities.

Michelle Alexander

TED TALK OF THE WEEK

MIT Media Lab founder Nicholas Negroponte takes you on a journey through the last 30 years of tech. The consummate predictor highlights interfaces and innovations he foresaw in the 1970s and 1980s

that were scoffed at then but are ubiquitous today. And he leaves you with one last (*absurd? brilliant?*) prediction for the coming 30 years. Nicholas Negroponte pushed the edge of the information revolution as an inventor, thinker and angel investor. He's the driving force behind One Laptop per Child, building computers for children in the developing world.

Web Link: [REDACTED]

GREAT MAGIC TRICK

Amazing Magic Show: One Of The Best Magic Shows

Web Link: <http://youtu.be/QrxChkmRduY>

THIS WEEK'S MUSIC



As his fan website says, *Lives, loves, dreams and possibilities – all connect in the enduring artistry of Bill Withers, an authentic American musical icon.* So this week I would like to share the music of the most wonderful singer songwriters of his generation, **Mr. Bill Withers.**

His songs speak for themselves. "Lean On Me," became a breakout moment for The Voice's Nicholas David who performed it on the show in 2012 while Mary J. Blige's version of "Lean on Me" echoed in Washington's Lincoln Memorial at the "We Are One" pre-inaugural festivities for president Barack Obama, just as Withers' words had similarly honored president Bill Clinton. "Ain't No Sunshine" set the scene for a much talked about episode in the hit series Scandal in 2013. Commercial uses, including the Gap Khaki Soul campaign featuring "Lovely Day," match the music to new markets. The lead single of Jill Scott's The Original Jill Scott from the Vault, Vol. 1 is a cover of Withers' "Lovely Day" produced by DJ Jazzy Jeff; Willie Nelson and Mavis Staples' duet of "Grandma's Hands" is a striking rendition on his latest release To All The Girls; and at the unveiling of the Bill Russell Legacy Project in Boston in 2013, a newly-penned song "I Am My Father's Son" is performed by Johnny Mathis.

Legacy Recordings' box set of all nine of Withers albums, The Complete Sussex and Columbia Albums, released in late 2012, won a Grammy for Best Historical Recording in 2014. Withers' riveting 1974 concert performance in Zaire preceding the fabled Muhammad Ali/George Foreman "Rumble in the Jungle" face-off is in the feature film, Soul Power and Withers himself is the subject of the documentary, Still Bill, that debuted at the SXSW Film Festival, is available on DVD.

Origins

"When you have a talent you know it when you're five years old— it's just getting around to it." -B.W.

Slab Fork, West Virginia, a town of about 200 residents, was Bill's place of birth. The youngest of six children, he was raised in nearby Beckley, in coal mining country. Withers' father, a miner, died when Withers was 13. At 17, enlistment in the Navy was Bill's ticket out.

Withers arrived in Los Angeles in 1967. His self-financed demos on which Watts 103rd Street Band member Ray Jackson served as arranger and keyboardist, led Jackson to introduce him to Forrest Hamilton. Hamilton then introduced Withers to Clarence Avant of Sussex Records who tapped Booker T. Jones to produce Bill's debut album. This resulted in the album Just As I Am with the Grammy-winning "Ain't No Sunshine" and the much-loved "Grandma's Hands." The pragmatic Withers — who was now able to leave his straight gig at an aircraft company — subsequently assembled the remaining members of the Watts 103rd Street Band for U.S. and international tours.

The second album, Still Bill, lauded as "a stone-soul masterpiece" by Rolling Stone magazine, delivered soon-to-be standards "Lean on Me" and "Use Me." Bill Withers Live at Carnegie Hall followed. After the release of +Justments in 1974, Withers severed ties with Sussex to sign with Columbia (who subsequently re-released his back catalog.) 1975's Making Music, Making Friends showcased more classics, "Hello Like Before" and "Make Love to Your Mind"; 1976's Naked & Warm, with the idyllic love song to his adopted home, "City of the Angels"; 1977's Menagerie, with the much-covered "Lovely Day" and 1979's 'Bout Love, and the single "Don't It Make It Better," a top 30 R&B single, continued the run of top-charting releases.

“Just the Two of Us” with Grover Washington, Jr. was a career pinnacle, garnering four Grammy nominations with Withers accepting the award for Best R&B Song. “Soul Shadows” with The Crusaders marked an additional collaborative project of the period and “In The Name Of Love” with Ralph MacDonald received a 1984 Grammy nomination for vocal performance. 1985 marked Withers’ final project for Columbia with Watching You, Watching Me and the R&B chart single, “Oh Yeah.”

“I can’t go back to my past; I need somewhere to grow”

- “City of the Angels”

Bill’s liberation from Columbia marked a new cycle: a 1988 remix of “Lovely Day (Sunshine Mix)” hit #4 on the British charts and Bill performed on the premier British chart show, Top of the Pops. Also that year, Bill was presented with his third Grammy (and ninth nomination) for Club Nouveau’s interpretation of “Lean on Me.”

Covers

An encompassing roster of artists that includes Barbra Streisand, Michael Jackson, Liza Minnelli, Aretha Franklin, Tom Jones, Maroon 5, Linda Ronstadt, Paul McCartney, Sting, Joe Cocker, Johnny Mathis, Mick Jagger, Lee Ritenour, Al Jarreau, Morrissey, Nancy Wilson, Eva Cassidy and Diana Ross has covered Bill’s songs. Additionally, samples utilized by hit makers like Jay-Z, Akon, Kayne West, Tupac Shakur, Fatboy Slim, DMX, Swizz Beatz and R. Kelly have powered innumerable hip-hop hits.

Feature films like Looking for Mr. Goodbar (with Bill’s recording of “She’s Lonely”), Jerry Maguire, Jackie Brown, Notting Hill, The Bodyguard, American Beauty, Austin Powers 2: The Spy Who Shagged Me, and The Heat have utilized Withers’ songs to dramatic effect. On network and cable television, the songs have graced shows like Six Feet Under, Entourage, Dancing With The Stars, American Idol, CSI and The Simpsons.

Honors

Inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2005, Bill Withers was honored by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers in 2006 with the Society’s Rhythm & Soul Heritage Award, presented to ASCAP members who have had a major impact on the legacy of Rhythm and Soul music. Additional honors include multiple Million-aires citations from Broadcast Music Incorporated (BMI); a Soul Train Hall of Fame award; two NAACP Image awards, induction into the West Virginia Music Hall of Fame, and a Clio award. In 2007, “Lean On Me” was enshrined in the Grammy Hall of Fame.

As resounding as these honors might be, they are eclipsed by the eloquence of spirit that defines the songs. While he prefers a life far removed from the hype and the hoopla, in the collective consciousness of popular music, the sound and the songs of Bill Withers are ever present. 42 years since his debut, Bill Withers’ songs echo as vibrant touchstones in the American musical experience.

"I write and sing about whatever I am able to understand and feel. I feel that it is healthier to look out at the world through a window than through a mirror. Otherwise, all you see is yourself and whatever is behind you."

– B.W.

With this I invite you to enjoy this week the music of the incomparable Mr. Bill Withers.

Bill Withers – ***Ain't No Sunshine*** -- <http://youtu.be/tIdIqby7SPo>

Bill Withers – ***Grandma's Hands*** -- <http://youtu.be/qv5pagal-ls>

Bill Withers – ***Use Me*** -- <http://youtu.be/g3hBYTkI-sE>

Bill Withers – ***I Can't Write Left-Handed*** -- <http://youtu.be/O4RyYtkifTM>

Bill Withers – ***World Keeps Going Around*** -- http://youtu.be/Nsjw4wx9_YY

Bill Withers – ***Lovely Day*** -- <http://youtu.be/sYi7uEvEEmk>

Bill Withers – ***Just The Two of Us*** -- <http://youtu.be/l6WaOfpGK28>

Bill Withers – ***Watching You Watching Me*** -- <http://youtu.be/kFCh3Fm17p8>

Bill Withers – ***Lonely Town Lonely Street*** -- <http://youtu.be/MAncvyAk5Vw>

Bill Withers – ***Harlem*** -- <http://youtu.be/oDmFtxxQSD8>

Bill Withers – ***Hope She'll Be Happier*** -- <http://youtu.be/sMC-HvTIV4Q>

Bill Withers – ***Lean on Me*** -- <http://youtu.be/Ao7tsSjNxxo>

Bill Withers, Stevie Wonder, BeBe Winans & Patti LaBelle – ***Lean On Me*** -- <http://youtu.be/6osWkyJZckM>

I hope that you have enjoyed this week's offerings and wish you and yours a great week.

Sincerely,

Greg Brown

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Gregory Brown
Chairman & CEO
GlobalCast Partners, LLC

US: +1-415-994-7851
Tel: +1-800-406-5892
Fax: +1-310-861-0927
Skype: gbrown1970

