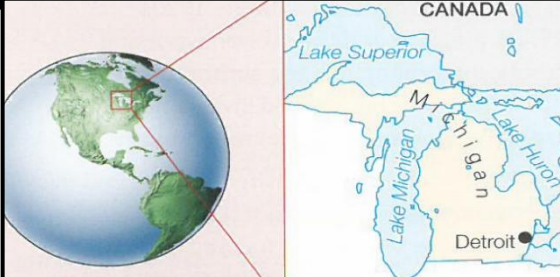


DETROIT – A FAR PLACE

LOCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT: On the Detroit River linking Lake Huron to Lake Erie – the St Lawrence Seaway connects these Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean. A fort was located there by the French in 1701.

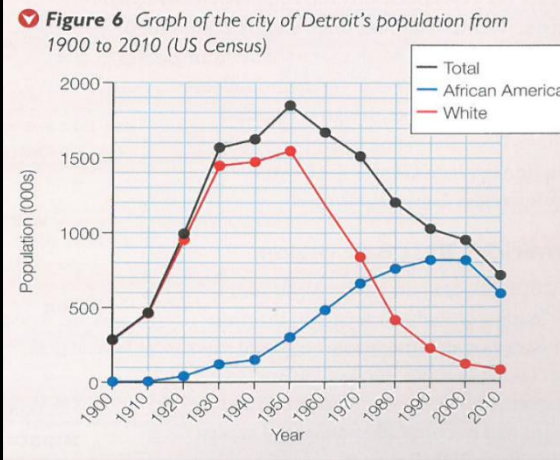


A TRANSPORT HUB: In the 19th century ship building, and a major port developed. Huge mansions were built in the east and west of Detroit’s downtown with the money from this economic boom time.

SUCCESS AND EXPANSION: The Steel Boom – Massive expansion in the 20th century – population and size. Ford & General Motors used assembly processes and exported worldwide. Detroit was part of the Steel Belt – waterways, canals, roads and rail connected iron ore mines with coal from the Appalachian Mountains. The area declined in the late 20th century and became the “Rust Belt”.

NEW WORKERS NEEDED: Millions of African Americans travelled from the southern states to the urban north east to work in the auto mobile industry – the ‘Great Migration’. Driven by the racist attitudes of the south – the Ku Klux Klan + white authorities favoured whites.

GROWTH OF THE CITY AND SUBURBS: Many African Americans and south and eastern Europeans live in Detroit. After WW2 the population grew massively as the ‘Motor City’ expanded by urban sprawl.



CHANGING WORLD – CHANGING FORTUNES: From the 1970s onwards competitors from Asia were making more fuel economical cars – Honda, Nissan, Toyota – so Detroit companies faced decline. Ford + General Motors – cut jobs + shut down plants. So less money to invest in Detroit city.

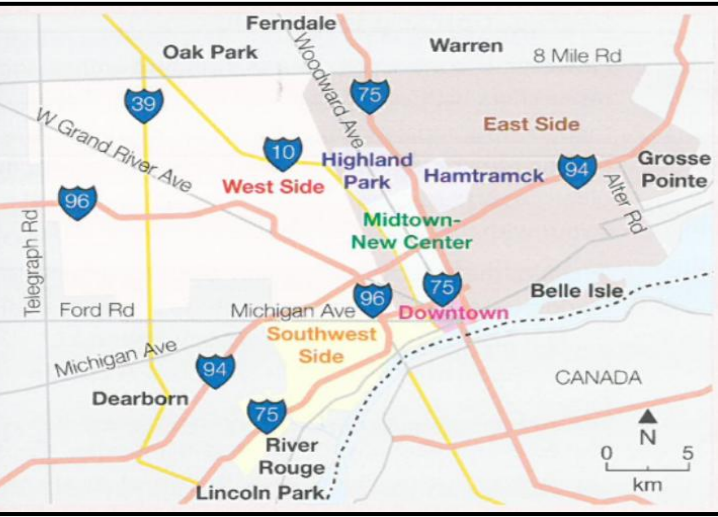
New Hi-tech car plants – General Motors set up the Hamtramck Assembly plant – in the Poletown area of Detroit (Polish migrant area). First car produced – Cadillac Eldorado. But Detroit struggled to compete.

THE RUST BELT REGION – USA: By 2008 Toyota was the world’s leading producer of cars – overtaking General Motors. Whilst Detroit became the capital of the Rust Belt!

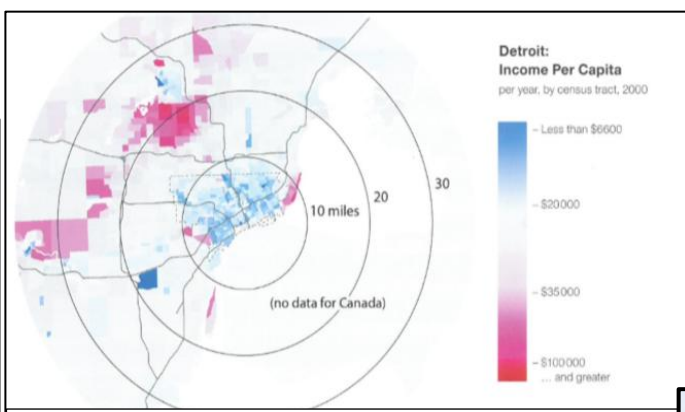


By 2011 25% of the city’s population had left. In 2012 homes were still selling for \$1.00. And by 2012 Detroit had the reputation of being the world’s capital of abandoned buildings.

RACIAL SEGREGATION - RACIAL DISINTEGRATION IN DETROIT: Historical events shaping Detroit – 1903 – Henry Ford sets up Ford Motor Company in Detroit. 1959 – Berry Gordy founded Motown Record Company. 1967 – race riots – 7200 people arrested. 1991 – crime rates peak across the city. 2009 General Motors – bankrupt. 2013 – financial emergency declared in the city.



A SEGREGATED CITY: The African-American population live surrounding the centre of Detroit with the white population in the suburbs surrounding the Black areas. 8 Mile Road divides the African American areas in the south (Blue areas) from the white areas in the north (red areas). 8 Mile is the name of the 2002 Eminem film – he lived north of 8 Mile Road. This pattern fits with the map showing income per capita in Detroit where the poverty is concentrated in the black areas of the city and wealth increases into the suburbs where the white population lives.



WHITE FLIGHT – From the 1960s onwards the whites moved away from the city centre to the suburbs as racial tension increased. They could do this due to higher incomes.

AND RACIAL INTEGRATION – recently there has been a similar movement of middle income Black African Americans into the suburbs. They were seeking better schools, less crime and a higher quality of life.

SEGREGATION AT A LOCAL SCALE: some argue that this racial mixing may only be temporary as many of the African Americans are moving into areas that whites are already moving out of. As more blacks move into the schools in these areas the whites take there children out. White people in some areas of the city – Grosse Pointe Park – are building walls segregating there streets form black areas.

ALTER ROAD: The self-built road blocks (concrete walls/wooden fences) separating Grosse Pointe Park from black neighbourhoods has made Alter Road the new 8 Mile Road 0 separating black and white areas of the city. This has been further encouraged by people trying to block the movement of traffic across the Alter Road. Local people did this with wooden sheds and concrete curb stones.

82% of the city of Detroit is Black and 85% of Grosse Pointe park are white. Average household income City of Detroit = \$27 000 & in Grosse Pointe Park - \$101 000.

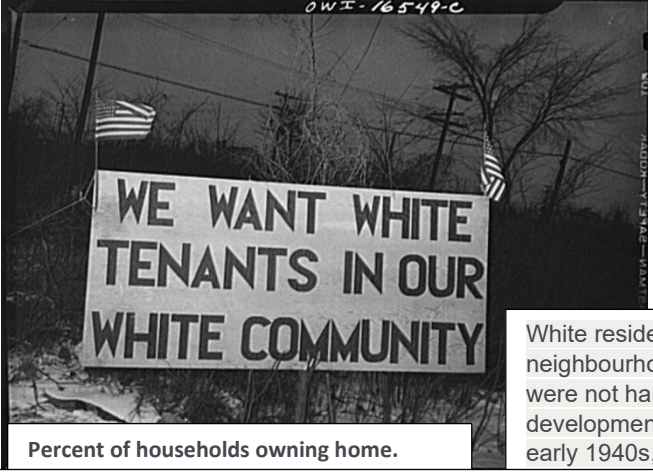
RACE & RENEWAL BLOGS - DETROIT

A I’m aware that the homeless people I walk by on the way to work are predominantly African American, unlike the tech entrepreneurs in Madison Heights (a suburb of Detroit). I don’t assume that everyone starts on a level playing field. I studied physics and view the world as a complex collection of systems; if everyone started on an equal footing then economic success should be randomly distributed, and, obviously, it is not. (Entrepreneur recently moved to Detroit)

B I remember last year, a performer from Midtown donned black face to put on a performance as Michael Jackson. The video they posted got a lot of likes, to my disgust. When I said something about it, I was told I was being overly sensitive and that there was nothing wrong with blacking up. Of course, these were the same group of people who thought it was funny to utter racial slurs as jokes at a comedy open mic night ... (Detroit resident)

C I’m a Detroiter, and I believe the only way to overcome the race issue is to stop talking about it. Why should we continue to perpetuate this idea that we’re different because our skin color/ethnicity/culture is different from our peers? Are whites not capable of this? Are blacks not capable of this? Are ‘Latinos’ not capable of this? It’s time to stop telling people they’re different or less important because they’re black, or that they’re somehow more important because they’re white. Everyone is human, we all bleed red. Something like a ‘racial map’ only intensifies the division we already see in this great city. (Detroit resident)

D The (predominantly white) people of Grosse Pointe are likely to say that their relative wealth is the money that built Detroit. They mean it’s old money, because it’s where the descendants of the great auto-industry – particularly the Fords – still live. When, in fact, it was the labour of working-class Detroit that built Detroit. It’s the lion’s way of telling history. (Social worker, Detroit)



County	2005		2015		Change, 2005-2015	
	White	Black	White	Black	White	Black
Macomb	82.8%	44.5%	77%	31.8%	-5.8%	-12.7%
Oakland	81.8	49.8	77	41.3	-4.8	-8.5%
Wayne	80	51.4	74.6	43.8	-5.4	-7.6%

Percent of renters and owners experiencing selected housing problems in metro Detroit.

Reported problem	Renters		Owners	
	White	Black	White	Black
Severe or moderate problems	4.8%	10.1%	2.1%	8.2%
Signs of mice	3.9	7.3	7.9	11.1
Signs of roaches	1.9	5.9	0.4	2.1
Heating problems	7.4	12.5	6.6	12.2

Segregation in 1970

Just after the 1967 riots, there were still large parts of west and east Detroit that were nearly all white, the vestiges of housing patterns that were cemented by federal housing policy and local real estate rules. For decades blacks had been confined to small slices of the city, creating tension that was a precursor for the anger that erupted. In 1970, 8 Mile was a real racial boundary; Warren, which bordered Detroit along that iconic road, had more than 179,000 people in 1970 but just 132 blacks.

Segregation in 2010

Although African Americans comprise 25 percent of the tri-county area, few people -- black or white -- live in neighbourhoods that mirror the regional average. Instead, blacks are far more likely to live in majority black areas; whites in mostly white areas. Although some blacks live in almost every census tract, most are still concentrated in a handful of cities -- Detroit, Southfield, Pontiac, River Rouge and Inkster.

White residents of one northern Detroit neighbourhood were not happy when a federal public housing development for blacks was announced in the early 1940s, during World War II.

Lasting effects of segregation

Nearly 50 years after the 1967 riots, African Americans remain more likely to live in homes and apartments of poor quality that consume a greater portion of their income. Critics say it's the lasting result of discriminatory housing policies that first forced minorities to live in government-backed housing in poor, black sections of the city, unable to rent or buy elsewhere. Later, without the wealth that can be generated by homeownership, blacks lost access to better housing and communities with better schools, again affecting employment, income and housing.