

## 17.523: Ethnicity and Race in World Politics-Fall 2005

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### *Lecture 11: The Sources of Discontent: The Intersections of Race and Class (Contd.)*

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#### **Current Events**

Why are they prosecuting Saddam Hussein for his involvement in the 1982 killing of ~140 Shia villagers?

- It's one of the most clear cut crimes to prosecute Hussein
- What are the objections to the trial of Hussein
  - Who is judging him?
  - It is being done during a military occupation.
  - On the first day of court, Hussein questions the legitimacy of the court.
- If he is found guilty, the penalty is death.

Georgia passed a law to require voter identification

- Asked voters to pay \$20 to get voter identification.
- If passed, it will be one of the nation's strictest voter registration policies?
- Why do you think the legislature would need better voter identification?
  - Ideally, it is used to rid voter fraud.
  - Could have ulterior motives
  - Members of the state voting commission testified and said that there hasn't been any evidence of voter fraud.
  - Have to buy the voter id cards in certain areas. Can't buy it anywhere in Atlanta. You have to have a car and a driver's license to get the ID card.
  - Who is disadvantaged?
    - The poor.
    - Those without cars.
    - Offices to obtain the ID card are mostly located in heavily white areas and much less available in minority (e.g. black and Latino) areas.

#### **What Happens When Work Disappears**

- The decline of manufacturing resulted in an increase in the service economy
- Required a different kind of skill set
- What exactly is a service job?
  - Student: selling tickets
  - Student: providing conveniences
  - Banking
  - Providing services that are increasingly intangible in some way. Verbal skills, etc.
- Wages were typically lower in service jobs than manufacturing
- It's hard to organize service unions.
- The south historically has had strong anti-union policies
  - Foreign car companies have plants in the south to take advantage of the anti-union policies

- If we want to understand social behaviors in poor areas, we have to understand the changes in the job market.
- In Chicago, as the factories leave, the new jobs connected to retail aren't located in the city. They're located in suburbs.
- The actual locations of jobs have changed
- If it's more difficult to get to the job, it contributes to the difficulty of getting and keeping a job.
- What is helping to create these pockets of hyper poverty? Wilson gives 4 reasons:
  - Federal government policy
    - Government withheld mortgage capital from certain groups.
    - Real estate agents steered blacks from white neighborhoods.
  - The growth of suburbs
    - White flight. Whites moved into suburbs.
    - Some times a tipping point occurs when so many blacks come into a neighborhood that the whites just leave. Occurred in Chicago.