What’s Wrong with Color Blindness?

I. The Standoff at Wounded Knee
II. Robert Park and Assimilation
III. Racism vs. Color Blindness?
IV. Defending English and the Law (Attacking “Illegal Immigrants”)
V. Championing Equal Opportunity and Diversity (Attacking Affirmative Action)
Wounded Knee Massacre (1890)

Dick Wilson

Guardians of the Oglala Nation (GOONs)
Radical Aims of Race-Based Organizing

• Claimed and forged a collective racial identity.

• Rejected assimilation.

• Critiqued U.S. imperial and racist past and present.
Robert Ezra Park
Framing Race as a *Social* Problem, not a Biological Problem
(Park and other social scientists, 1910s-1920s)

1. How did people become aware of racial differences?

2. How could people become unaware of racial differences? Or, how could people become color blind?
Race Relations Cycle

Contact/Migration → Competition/Conflict → Accommodation → Assimilation
Race Relations Cycle

Contact/Migration

\[\text{Competition/Conflict (race prejudice)}\]

Accommodation

Assimilation
“Negro Problem”

“Oriental Problem”

Why didn’t African Americans and Asian Americans assimilate into American society like other groups?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Solution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interracial Competition</td>
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</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Framing Race

**Problem**
- Interracial Competition
- Race Prejudice (Racism)
- Conflict/Segregation
- Ignorance

**Solution**
- Assimilation
- Color Blindness
- Interpersonal Contact
- Individual Enlightenment
Color Blindness

Demanded by progressive reformers to end racial discrimination, 1920s-1960s.

Exploited by conservatives to perpetuate white supremacy, 1960s-present.
Immigration Patterns, 1960s

- Europe: 38%
- Latin America: 38%
- Asia: 12%
- Canada: 10%
- Other: 2%
Immigration Patterns, 1970s

- Europe: 41%
- Latin America: 34%
- Asia: 3%
- Canada: 3%
- Other: 19%
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Built, powered and made great by immigrants who learned English.

U.S. English (established 1983)
John Tanton
The Pioneer Fund

Established in 1937 to support eugenics.

Supported Proposition 187 (1994) and other anti-immigration initiatives and racial studies on IQ differences.
Hopwood v. Texas (1996)

Affirmative action programs deemed a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment and the principle of individual equal opportunity (Fifth Circuit of U.S. Court of Appeals).
Proposition 209 (1996)
“California Civil Rights Initiative”

“The state shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education or public contracting.”
George W. Bush’s Cabinet (2001)