

**11.1.2022 SHOW NOTES:**

**DHS Censoring Social Media to Aid Left  
and the Welfare Crisis which Could End the Country**

## THE INTERCEPT

# Leaked Documents Outline DHS's Plans to Police Disinformation

[Ken Klippenstein](#), [Lee Fang](#)

October 31 2022, 4:00 a.m.

The Department of Homeland Security is quietly broadening its efforts to curb speech it considers dangerous, an investigation by The Intercept has found. Years of internal DHS memos, emails, and documents — obtained via leaks and an ongoing lawsuit, as well as public documents — illustrate an expansive effort by the agency to influence tech platforms.

The work, much of which remains unknown to the American public, came into clearer view earlier this year when DHS announced a new “Disinformation Governance Board”: a panel designed to police misinformation (false information spread unintentionally), disinformation (false information spread intentionally), and malinformation (factual information shared, typically out of context, with harmful intent) that allegedly threatens U.S. interests. While the board was widely ridiculed, immediately scaled back, and then shut down within a few months, other initiatives are underway as DHS pivots to monitoring social media now that its original mandate — the war on terror — has been wound down.

Behind closed doors, and through pressure on private platforms, the U.S. government has used its power to try to shape online discourse. According to [meeting minutes](#) and other records appended to a lawsuit filed by Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt, a Republican who is also running for Senate, discussions have ranged from the scale and scope of government intervention in online discourse to the mechanics of streamlining takedown requests for false or intentionally misleading information.

### Key Takeaways

- Though DHS shuttered its controversial Disinformation Governance Board, a strategic document reveals the underlying work is ongoing.

- DHS plans to target inaccurate information on “the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic and the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines, racial justice, U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, and the nature of U.S. support to Ukraine.”
- Facebook created a special portal for DHS and government partners to report disinformation directly.

“Platforms have got to get comfortable with gov’t. It’s really interesting how hesitant they remain,” Microsoft executive Matt Masterson, a former DHS official, texted Jen Easterly, a DHS director, in February.

In a [March meeting](#), Laura Dehmlow, an FBI official, warned that the threat of subversive information on social media could undermine support for the U.S. government. Dehmlow, according to notes of the discussion attended by senior executives from Twitter and JPMorgan Chase, stressed that “we need a media infrastructure that is held accountable.”

“We do not coordinate with other entities when making content moderation decisions, and we independently evaluate content in line with the Twitter Rules,” a spokesperson for Twitter wrote in a statement to The Intercept.

There is also a formalized process for government officials to directly flag content on Facebook or Instagram and request that it be throttled or suppressed through a [special Facebook portal](#) that requires a government or law enforcement email to use. At the time of writing, the “content request system” at [facebook.com/xtakedowns/login](https://facebook.com/xtakedowns/login) is still live. DHS and Meta, the parent company of Facebook, did not respond to a request for comment. The FBI declined to comment.

DHS’s mission to fight disinformation, stemming from concerns around Russian influence in the 2016 presidential election, began taking shape during the 2020 election and over efforts to shape discussions around vaccine policy during the coronavirus pandemic. Documents collected by The Intercept from a variety of sources, including current officials and publicly available reports, reveal the evolution of more active measures by DHS.

According to a draft copy of DHS’s Quadrennial Homeland Security Review, DHS’s capstone report outlining the department’s strategy and priorities in the coming years, the department plans to target “inaccurate information” on a wide range of topics, including “the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic and the efficacy of COVID-

19 vaccines, racial justice, U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, and the nature of U.S. support to Ukraine.”

“The challenge is particularly acute in marginalized communities,” the report states, “which are often the targets of false or misleading information, such as false information on voting procedures targeting people of color.”

The inclusion of the 2021 U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan is particularly noteworthy, given that House Republicans, should they take the majority in the midterms, have vowed to investigate. “This makes Benghazi look like a much smaller issue,” [said](#) Rep. Mike Johnson, R-La., a member of the Armed Services Committee, adding that finding answers “will be a top priority.”

How disinformation is defined by the government has not been clearly articulated, and the inherently subjective nature of what constitutes disinformation provides a broad opening for DHS officials to make politically motivated determinations about what constitutes dangerous speech.

The inherently subjective nature of what constitutes disinformation provides a broad opening for DHS officials to make politically motivated determinations about what constitutes dangerous speech.

DHS justifies these goals — which have expanded far beyond its original purview on foreign threats to encompass disinformation originating domestically — by claiming that terrorist threats can be “exacerbated by misinformation and disinformation spread online.” But the laudable goal of protecting Americans from danger has often been used to conceal political maneuvering. In 2004, for instance, DHS officials faced pressure from the George W. Bush administration to heighten the national threat level for terrorism, in a bid to influence voters prior to the election, [according](#) to former DHS Secretary Tom Ridge. U.S. officials have routinely lied about an array of issues, from the causes of its wars in Vietnam and [Iraq](#) to their more recent obfuscation around the role of the National Institutes of Health in funding the Wuhan Institute of Virology’s coronavirus research.

That track record has not prevented the U.S. government from seeking to become arbiters of what constitutes false or dangerous information on inherently political topics. Earlier this year, Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a law known by supporters as the “Stop WOKE Act,” which bans private employers from workplace trainings asserting an individual’s moral character is privileged or oppressed based

on his or her race, color, sex, or national origin. The law, critics charged, amounted to a broad suppression of speech deemed offensive. The Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, or FIRE, has since filed a lawsuit against DeSantis, alleging “unconstitutional censorship.” A federal judge temporarily blocked parts of the Stop WOKE Act, ruling that the law had violated workers’ First Amendment rights.

“Florida’s legislators may well find plaintiffs’ speech ‘repugnant.’ But under our constitutional scheme, the ‘remedy’ for repugnant speech is more speech, not enforced silence,” wrote Judge Mark Walker, in a colorful opinion castigating the law.

The extent to which the DHS initiatives affect Americans’ daily social feeds is unclear. During the 2020 election, the government flagged numerous posts as suspicious, many of which were then taken down, documents cited in the Missouri attorney general’s [lawsuit](#) disclosed. And a 2021 report by the Election Integrity Partnership at Stanford University found that of nearly 4,800 flagged items, technology platforms took action on 35 percent — either removing, labeling, or soft-blocking speech, meaning the users were only able to view content after bypassing a warning screen. The [research](#) was done “in consultation with CISA,” the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

Prior to the 2020 election, tech companies including Twitter, Facebook, Reddit, Discord, Wikipedia, Microsoft, LinkedIn, and Verizon Media met on a monthly basis with the FBI, CISA, and other government representatives. According to NBC News, the meetings were part of an initiative, still ongoing, [between the private sector and government](#) to discuss how firms would handle misinformation during the election.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen stands alongside President Donald Trump as he speaks prior to signing the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Act in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 16, 2018.

Photo: Saul Loeb/AFP via Getty Images

The stepped up counter-disinformation effort began in 2018 following high-profile

[hacking incidents](#) of [U.S. firms](#), when Congress passed and President Donald Trump signed the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Act, forming a new wing of DHS devoted to protecting critical national infrastructure. An [August 2022 report](#) by the DHS Office of Inspector General sketches the rapidly accelerating move toward policing disinformation.

From the outset, CISA boasted of an “evolved mission” to monitor social media discussions while “routing disinformation concerns” to private sector platforms.

In 2018, then-DHS Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen created the Countering Foreign Influence Task Force to respond to election disinformation. The task force, which included members of CISA as well as its Office of Intelligence and Analysis, generated “threat intelligence” about the election and notified social media platforms and law enforcement. At the same time, DHS began notifying social media companies about voting-related disinformation appearing on social platforms.

#### Key Takeaways, Cont'd.

- The work is primarily done by CISA, a DHS sub-agency tasked with protecting critical national infrastructure.
- DHS, the FBI, and several media entities are having biweekly meetings as recently as August.
- DHS considered countering disinformation relating to content that undermines trust in financial systems and courts.
- The FBI agent who primed social media platforms to take down the Hunter Biden laptop story continued to have a role in DHS policy discussions.

In 2019, DHS created a separate entity called the Foreign Influence and Interference Branch to generate more detailed intelligence about disinformation, the inspector general [report shows](#). That year, its staff grew to include 15 full- and part-time staff dedicated to disinformation analysis. In 2020, the disinformation focus expanded to include Covid-19, according to a [Homeland Threat Assessment](#) issued by Acting Secretary Chad Wolf.

This apparatus had a dry run during the 2020 election, when CISA began working with other members of the U.S. intelligence community. Office of Intelligence and Analysis personnel attended “weekly teleconferences to coordinate Intelligence Community activities to counter election-related disinformation.” According to the

IG report, meetings have continued to take place every two weeks since the elections.

Emails between DHS officials, Twitter, and the Center for Internet Security [outline the process](#) for such takedown requests during the period leading up to November 2020. Meeting notes show that the tech platforms would be [called upon](#) to “process reports and provide timely responses, to include the removal of reported misinformation from the platform where possible.” In practice, this often meant state election officials sent examples of potential forms of disinformation to CISA, which would then forward them on to social media companies for a response.

Under President Joe Biden, the shifting focus on disinformation has continued. In January 2021, CISA [replaced](#) the Countering Foreign Influence Task force with the “Misinformation, Disinformation and Malinformation” team, which was created “to promote more flexibility to focus on general MDM.” By now, the scope of the effort had expanded beyond disinformation produced by foreign governments to include domestic versions. The MDM team, according to one CISA official quoted in the IG report, “counters all types of disinformation, to be responsive to current events.”

Jen Easterly, Biden’s appointed director of CISA, swiftly made it clear that she would continue to shift resources in the agency to combat the spread of dangerous forms of information on social media. “One could argue we’re in the business of critical infrastructure, and the most critical infrastructure is our cognitive infrastructure, so building that resilience to misinformation and disinformation, I think, is incredibly important,” said Easterly, speaking at a conference in November 2021.

CISA’s domain has gradually expanded to encompass more subjects it believes amount to critical infrastructure. Last year, The Intercept [reported](#) on the existence of a series of DHS field intelligence reports warning of attacks on cell towers, which it has [tied to](#) conspiracy theorists who believe 5G towers spread Covid-19. One intelligence report [pointed out](#) that these conspiracy theories “are inciting attacks against the communications infrastructure.”

CISA has [defended](#) its burgeoning social media monitoring authorities, stating that “once CISA notified a social media platform of disinformation, the social media platform could independently decide whether to remove or modify the post.” But,

as documents revealed by the Missouri lawsuit show, CISA's goal is to make platforms more responsive to their suggestions.

In late February, Easterly [texted](#) with Matthew Masterson, a representative at Microsoft who formerly worked at CISA, that she is "trying to get us in a place where Fed can work with platforms to better understand mis/dis trends so relevant agencies can try to prebunk/debunk as useful."

Meeting records of the CISA Cybersecurity Advisory Committee, the main subcommittee that handles disinformation policy at CISA, show a constant effort to expand the scope of the agency's tools to foil disinformation.

In June, the same DHS advisory committee of CISA — which includes Twitter head of legal policy, trust, and safety Vijaya Gadde and University of Washington professor Kate Starbird — drafted a [report](#) to the CISA director calling for an expansive role for the agency in shaping the "information ecosystem." The report called on the agency to closely monitor "social media platforms of all sizes, mainstream media, cable news, hyper partisan media, talk radio and other online resources." They argued that the agency needed to take steps to halt the "spread of false and misleading information," with a focus on information that undermines "key democratic institutions, such as the courts, or by other sectors such as the financial system, or public health measures."

To accomplish these broad goals, the report said, CISA should invest in external research to evaluate the "efficacy of interventions," specifically with research looking at how alleged disinformation can be countered and how quickly messages spread. Geoff Hale, the director of the Election Security Initiative at CISA, [recommended](#) the use of third-party information-sharing nonprofits as a "clearing house for information to avoid the appearance of government propaganda."

Last Thursday, immediately following billionaire Elon Musk's completed acquisition of Twitter, Gadde was terminated from the company.

Alejandro Mayorkas, secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, speaks during a new conference in Brownsville, Texas, on Aug. 12, 2021.

Photo: Veronica G. Cardenas/Bloomberg via Getty Images

The Biden administration, however, did take a stab at making part of this infrastructure public in April 2022, with the announcement of the Disinformation Governance Board. The exact functions of the board, and how it would accomplish its goal of defining and combating MDM, were never made clear.

The board faced immediate backlash across the political spectrum. “Who among us thinks the government should add to its work list the job of determining what is true and what is disinformation? And who thinks the government is capable of telling the truth?” [wrote](#) Politico media critic Jack Shafer. “Our government produces lies and disinformation at industrial scale and always has. It overclassifies vital information to block its own citizens from becoming any the wiser. It pays thousands of press aides to play hide the salami with facts.”

DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas alluded to broad scope of the agency’s disinformation effort when he [told](#) the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee that the role of the board — which by that point had been downgraded to a “working group” — is to “actually develop guidelines, standards, guardrails to ensure that the work that has been ongoing for nearly 10 years does not infringe on people’s free speech rights, rights of privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties.”

“It was quite disconcerting, frankly,” he added, “that the disinformation work that was well underway for many years across different independent administrations was not guided by guardrails.”

DHS eventually scrapped the Disinformation Governance Board in August. While free speech advocates cheered the dissolution of the board, other government efforts to root out disinformation have not only continued but expanded to encompass additional DHS sub-agencies like Customs and Border Protection, which “determines whether information about the component spread through social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter is accurate.” Other agencies such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Science and Technology Directorate (whose responsibilities include “determining whether social media accounts were bots or humans and how the mayhem caused by bots affects behavior”), and the Secret Service have also expanded their purview to include disinformation, according to the inspector general [report](#).

The draft copy of DHS's 2022 Quadrennial Homeland Security Review reviewed by The Intercept also confirms that DHS views the issue of tackling disinformation and misinformation as a growing portion of its core duties. While "counterterrorism remains the first and most important mission of the Department," it notes, the agency's "work on these missions is evolving and dynamic" and must now adapt to terror threats "exacerbated by misinformation and disinformation spread online" including by "domestic violent extremists."

To accomplish this, the draft quadrennial review calls for DHS to "leverage advanced data analytics technology and hire and train skilled specialists to better understand how threat actors use online platforms to introduce and spread toxic narratives intended to inspire or incite violence, as well as work with NGOs and other parts of civil society to build resilience to the impacts of false information."

The broad definition of "threat actors" posing risks to vaguely defined critical infrastructure — an area as broad as trust in government, public health, elections, and financial markets — has concerned civil libertarians. "No matter your political allegiances, all of us have good reason to be concerned about government efforts to pressure private social media platforms into reaching the government's preferred decisions about what content we can see online," said Adam Goldstein, the vice president of research at FIRE.

"Any governmental requests to social media platforms to review or remove certain content," he added, "should be made with extreme transparency."

A tweet about the FBI is displayed during a Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee hearing regarding social media's impact on homeland security on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 14, 2022.

Photo: Stefani Reynolds/AFP via Getty Images

DHS's expansion into misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation represents an important strategic retooling for the agency, which was founded in 2002 in response to the 9/11 attacks as a bulwark to coordinate intelligence and security operations across the government. At the same time, the FBI deployed thousands of agents to focus on counterterrorism efforts, through building informant networks and intelligence operations designed to prevent similar attacks.

But traditional forms of terrorism, posed by groups like Al Qaeda, evolved with the rise of social media, with groups like the Islamic State using platforms such as Facebook to recruit and radicalize new members. After initial reluctance, [social media giants](#) worked closely with the FBI and DHS to help monitor and remove ISIS-affiliated accounts.

FBI Director James Comey told the Senate Intelligence Committee that law enforcement agencies needed to rapidly “adapt and confront the challenges” posed by terror networks that had proven adept at tapping into social media. Intelligence agencies [backed new startups](#) designed to monitor the vast flow of information across social networks to better understand emerging narratives and risks.

“The Department has not been fully reauthorized since its inception over fifteen years ago,” the Senate Homeland Security Committee [warned](#) in 2018. “As the threat landscape continues to evolve, the Department adjusted its organization and activities to address emerging threats and protect the U.S. homeland. This evolution of the Department’s duties and organization, including the structure and operations of the DHS Headquarters, has never been codified in statute.”

The subsequent military defeat of ISIS forces in Syria and Iraq, along with the withdrawal from Afghanistan, left the homeland security apparatus without a target. Meanwhile, a new threat entered the discourse. The allegation that Russian agents had seeded disinformation on Facebook that tipped the 2016 election toward Donald Trump resulted in the FBI forming the Foreign Influence Task Force, a team devoted to preventing foreign meddling in American elections.

According to DHS meeting minutes from March, the FBI’s Foreign Influence Task Force this year includes 80 individuals focused on curbing “subversive data utilized to drive a wedge between the populace and the government.”

“The Department will spearhead initiatives to raise awareness of disinformation campaigns targeting communities in the United States, providing citizens the tools necessary to identify and halt the spread of information operations intended to promote radicalization to violent extremism or mobilization to violence,” DHS Acting Secretary Kevin McAleenan said in a September 2019 [strategic framework](#).

# THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

## The Effects of Welfare Reform

***The intention of Welfare programs is to benefit low income Americans, especially children. Yet the evidence indicates that children and parents are actively harmed rather than helped by welfare.***

[Robert Rector](#)

Senior Research Fellow, Center for Health and Welfare Policy

Robert is a leading authority on poverty, welfare programs, and immigration in America.

Nearly all Welfare aid for children goes to single parent households. But current research indicates that both Welfare dependence and single parenthood have significant deleterious effects on children's development, impeding their ability to become successful members of mainstream society.

- Prolonged Welfare dependence reduces children's IQ levels. Dependence also reduces a child's earnings in future years; the longer a child remains on AFDC in childhood the lower will be his earnings as an adult. Being raised on Welfare also increases the probability that a child will drop out of school and will be on Welfare as an adult. Analysis shows that these effects are caused by Welfare per se, not simply poverty; a poor child without Welfare will do better than a similar poor child with welfare.
- Out-of-wedlock childbearing and single parenthood are the principal causes of child poverty and Welfare dependence in the U.S. Children raised in single parent families are more likely to: experience behavioral and emotional problems; suffer from physical abuse; engage in early sexual activity, and do poorly in school. Boys raised in single parent households are more likely to engage in crime; girls are more likely themselves to give birth outside of marriage. These effects are the result of the collapse of marriage per se rather than poverty; a poor child living with a mother and father united in marriage will do better than a similar poor child living in a single parent home.

Conventional Welfare programs were based on the assumption that material poverty or low family income is the principal cause of social and behavioral

problems. Thus Welfare seeks to artificially boost household income. But the simple historical record calls into question this basic assumption. In 1950 around one third of Americans were poor; back in the 1920's more than half of Americans were poor by today's standards. If having a low income were the key cause of crime, illegitimacy, drugs, or child abuse, for example, then earlier periods should have been simply awash in those problems. Instead the opposite is the case, most social problems seem to have gotten worse as incomes rose.

Clearly poverty is not the cause behind the growth of these social problems. Instead, it is the ethos within families that is critical; the norms and values imparted to children concerning: marriage, work, education, and self-control. Conventional Welfare, by undermining this ethos (especially with regard to work and marriage), has increased rather than diminished most social problems.

### **The Goals of Welfare Reform**

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) enacted in 1996 set forth three legislative goals: 1) to reduce dependence; 2) to reduce child poverty; and 3) to reduce illegitimacy and strengthen marriage. The reform has been effective in meeting each of these goals.

- **Reducing Dependence.** Since the enactment of Welfare reform, the AFDC/TANF caseloads have dropped by roughly 50 percent. Some argue that this decline in Welfare dependence is due to a strong economy; however, in the last 50 years no previous economic boom has ever resulted in an appreciable decline in AFDC caseload, let alone a 50 percent drop. (See [Chart 1](#).) It is Welfare reform, not economic conditions, that has produced the huge decline in dependence in the mid-1990's.

This conclusion is borne out by an examination of changes in dependence between individual states. The fifty states vary enormously in their rates of caseload decline, but these rates of decline are uncorrelated to differences in underlying state economic factors such as unemployment or job growth rates. States with better economies have not had greater drops in caseload. By contrast, declines in dependence are directly and strongly linked to the rigor of state workfare policies.

- **Reducing poverty** Opponents of Welfare reform charged that reform would throw millions of children into poverty. In reality, child poverty has dropped substantially since reform was enacted, from 20.8 percent in 1996 to 16.9

percent in 1999. (See [Chart 2](#).) The black child poverty rate and the poverty rate of children in single mother families are now at the lowest points in U.S. history. States with strong workfare systems have tended to have more rapid declines in child poverty than have states with lenient work requirements.

- **Out-of-Wedlock Childbearing** Starting in the mid-1960's the out-of-wedlock birth rate began a rapid and relentless climb. This increase continued without pause for three decades. (See [Chart 3](#).) Then, in 1993 and 1994, former President Clinton gave a series of speeches on social harm of illegitimacy; he was the first president to address this topic in nearly three decades.[1] He also proposed that Welfare use be limited to two years.[2] Then, in 1994, Republicans gained control of both chambers of the U.S. Congress for the first time in over fifty years. With this political shift came a dramatic change in the rhetoric concerning welfare. It became clear that future Welfare would indeed be time limited and would place a far heavier emphasis on self-reliance. Further, both parties now publicly asserted that illegitimacy was harmful to children and society; the new Speaker of the House of Representatives suggested that children born out-of-wedlock might be placed in orphanages.[3]

The very next year (1995) the out-of-wedlock birth rate dropped for the first time in nearly a half-century. In each subsequent year, the rate has remained flat or increased far more slowly than in the pre-reform period. The black out-of-wedlock birth rate has actually fallen each year since 1994.

The unique and dramatic slowdown in the growth of illegitimacy clearly coincided with Welfare reform. The slowdown is undoubtedly the result of changes in the social messages surrounding Welfare, particularly the new emphasis on limited aid and personal responsibility.

The slowdown is all the more remarkable given the fact that almost no states have active programs designed to reduce illegitimacy or increase marriage. The fact that behavior changed in a positive manner even without specific efforts to promote that change is encouraging; it offers cause for optimism concerning the potential

effects of programs specifically developed to increase marriage and reduce illegitimacy in the future.

### How Welfare Dependence Harms Children

The traditional Welfare system has led to high levels of Welfare dependence. Dependence, in turn, has profound negative effects on the well being of children. Dr. June O'Neill and Anne Hill, comparing children who were identical in social and economic factors such as race, family structure, mothers' IQ and education, family income, and neighborhood, found that the more years a child spent on Welfare, the lower the child's IQ. The authors make it clear that it is not poverty but Welfare itself which has a damaging effect on the child. Examining the young children (with an average age of five-and-a-half), the authors found that those who had spent at least two months of each year since birth on AFDC had cognitive abilities 20 percent below those who had received no Welfare, even after holding family income, race, parental IQ, and other variables constant.[\[4\]](#)

A similar study by Mary Corcoran and Roger Gordon of the University of Michigan shows that receipt of Welfare income has negative effects on the long-term employment and earnings capacity of young boys.[\[5\]](#) The study shows that, holding constant race, parental education, family structure, and a range of other social variables, higher non-welfare income obtained by the family during a boy's childhood was associated with higher earnings when the boy became an adult (over age 25). However, Welfare income had the opposite effect: The more Welfare income received by a family while a boy was growing up, the lower the boy's earnings as an adult.

Typically, liberals would dismiss this finding, arguing that families which receive a lot of Welfare payments have lower total incomes than other families in society, and that it is the low overall family income, not Welfare, which had a negative effect on the young boys. But the Corcoran and Gordon study compares families whose average non-welfare incomes were identical. In such cases, each extra dollar in Welfare represents a net increase in overall financial resources available to the family. This extra income, according to conventional liberal Welfare theory, should have positive effects on the well being of the children. But the study shows that the extra Welfare income, even though it produced a net increase in resources available to the family, had a negative impact on the development of young boys within the family. The higher the Welfare income received by the family, the lower

the earnings obtained by the boys upon reaching adulthood. The study suggests that an increase of \$1,000 per year in Welfare received by a family decreased a boy's future earnings by as much as 10 percent.[6]

Other studies have confirmed the negative effects of Welfare on the development of children. For example, young women raised in families dependent on Welfare are two to three times more likely to drop out and fail to graduate from high school than are young women of similar race and socioeconomic background not raised on welfare.[7]

Similarly, single mothers raised as children in families receiving Welfare remain on AFDC longer as adult parents than do single mothers not raised in Welfare families, even when all other social and economic variables are held constant.[8]

### How Illegitimacy and Single Parenthood Harm Children

The most obvious consequence of the rising tide of illegitimacy and declining marriage has been a dramatic increase in child poverty. [Chart 4](#) shows data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY) which contains a national representative sample of young mothers and their children. The charts divide children into four groups:

1. **Out-of-wedlock-Never Married** --- Children born out of wedlock whose mother has never married after the birth of the child;
2. **Out-of-wedlock-Subsequent marriage**--- Children born out of wedlock whose mother marries subsequent to the child's birth
3. **Within Wedlock-Divorced**--- Children born to married parents who later divorce;
4. **Within Wedlock- marriage Intact**--- Children born to parents who were married at the time of birth and remained married

The chart shows the amount of time since birth that a child has lived in poverty for the four different categories of children. Children born out-of-wedlock to never married women are poor fifty percent of the time. By contrast children born within a marriage which remains intact are poor 7 percent of the time. Thus the absence of marriage increases the frequency of child poverty 700 percent. However, marriage after an illegitimate birth is relatively effective, cutting the child poverty rate in half.

## **Additional Social Consequences of Rising Illegitimacy**

Children raised by never-married mothers have significantly more behavior problems when compared to children raised by both biological parents. When comparisons are made between families that are identical in race, income, number of children, and mother's education, the behavioral differences between illegitimate and legitimate children actually widen. Compared to children living with both biological parents in similar socioeconomic circumstances, children of never-married mothers have three times more behavioral problems than children raised in comparable intact families.[\[9\]](#)

Children born out of wedlock have less ability to delay gratification and poorer impulse control (control over anger and sexual gratification). They have a weaker sense of conscience or sense of right and wrong.[\[10\]](#) Adding to all this is the sad fact that the incidence of child abuse and neglect is higher among single-parent families.[\[11\]](#)

Being born out of wedlock increases the probability of teen sexual activity.

Boys and girls born out of wedlock and raised by never-married mothers are two-and-a-half times more likely to be sexually active as teenagers when compared to legitimate children raised in intact married-couple families.[\[12\]](#)

The absence of married parents is related to poor academic performance during school years. The longer the time spent in a single-parent family, the lower the education attained by a child. In general, a boy's educational attainment was cut by one-tenth of a year for each year spent as a child in a single-parent home. Controlling for family income does not reduce the magnitude of the effect noticeably.[\[13\]](#)

Perhaps the worse feature of illegitimacy is that it is passed, like a virus, between generations. Being born outside of marriage significantly reduces the chances the child will grow up to have an intact marriage.[\[14\]](#) Daughters of single mothers are twice as likely to be single mothers themselves if they are black, and only slightly less so if they are white.[\[15\]](#) Boys living in a single-parent family are twice as likely to father a child out of wedlock as are boys from a two-parent home.[\[16\]](#) Children

born outside of marriage themselves are three times more likely to be on Welfare when they grow up.[17]

Illegitimacy is a major factor in America's crime problem. Lack of married parents, rather than race or poverty, is the principal factor in the crime rate. It has been known for some time that high rates of Welfare dependency correlate with high crime rates among young men in a neighborhood.[18] But more important, a major 1988 study of 11,000 individuals found that "the percentage of single-parent households with children between the ages of 12 and 20 is significantly associated with rates of violent crime and burglary." The same study makes clear that the widespread popular assumption that there is an association between race and crime is false. Illegitimacy is the key factor. The absence of marriage, and the failure to form and maintain intact families, explains the incidence of high crime in a neighborhood among whites as well as blacks. This study also concluded that poverty does not explain the incidence of crime.[19]

Research on underclass behavior by Dr. June O'Neill confirms the linkage between crime and single-parent families. Using data from the National Longitudinal Survey of

Youth, O'Neill found that young black men raised in single-parent families were twice as likely to engage in criminal activities when compared to black men raised in two-parent families, even after holding constant a wide range of variables such as family income, urban residence, neighborhood environment, and parents' education. Growing up in a single-parent family in a neighborhood with many other single-parent families on Welfare triples the probability that a young black man will engage in criminal activity.[20]

### The Effects of Welfare Reform on Dependence

The War on poverty created an expensive Welfare system that encouraged dependence and penalized work and marriage. Until very recently, most liberal Welfare experts argued that the flaws of the Welfare system were unavoidable: Employment for most Welfare recipients was seen as impossible; swollen Welfare budgets and high levels of dependence were inevitable. Even the most aggressive reforms, it was argued, could reduce Welfare caseload by only a few percentage points and would cost more than the existing system.

In last few years, these liberal myths about the impossibility of reducing dependence have been shattered.[21] In the mid 1990's states began significant work-related reforms; this process was greatly accelerated by the passage of national reform in the summer of 1996. Coinciding with these changes was an unprecedented drop in AFDC/TANF caseload, which has declined some 60 percent from its peak level in March 1994.

Once it became indisputable that the AFDC/TANF caseload could drop enormously without a social catastrophe, liberal Welfare experts retreated to another line of defense, claiming that the declines in caseload were the result of economic conditions rather than Welfare reform. However there are definite problems with a primarily economic explanation of caseload changes. Historically, as Chart 1 shows, the link between periods of economic growth and recession and changes in AFDC/TANF caseloads is tenuous at best. Modest increases in AFDC caseloads occurred during some, but not all, recessionary periods. In contrast, although the chart shows eight previous periods of economic expansion prior to the 1990's, not one of these growth periods resulted in a substantial decrease in AFDC caseloads. In fact, previous economic booms coincided either with relatively flat caseloads or with substantial caseload growth (during the late 1960s and early 1970s). In reality, as the chart makes clear, no sustained and significant declines in AFDC caseload occurred at any point before the mid-1990's. Thus, claims that the recent unprecedented drop in dependence has been caused largely by the current economic expansion are clearly refuted by the historical record.

Another way to disentangle the effects of Welfare policies and economic factors on declining caseloads is to examine the differences in state performance. The rate of caseload decline varies enormously among the fifty states. If economic conditions are the main factor driving caseloads down then the variation in state reduction rates should be linked to variation in state economic conditions. On the other hand, if Welfare policies are the key factors behind falling dependence, then the differences in reduction rates should be linked to specific state Welfare policies.

In a 1999 paper, "The Determinants of Welfare Caseload Decline" the author examined the impact of economic factors and Welfare policies on falling caseloads between January 1997 and June 1998.[22] (Useful data on state Welfare policies were not available beyond that period.) This analysis showed that differences in state Welfare policies, specifically stringency of sanctions and timing of work requirements were highly successful in explaining rapid rates of caseload decline.

By contrast, the relative vigor of state economies, as measured by unemployment rates, changes in unemployment, or state job growth had no statistically significant effect on caseload decline. (See Table 1.)

- During the period analyzed, states with immediate work requirements and strong sanctions for non-compliant behavior had an average caseload reduction of 50 percent.
- By contrast, states with weak sanctions and no immediate formal work requirement had an average caseload reduction of 14.2 percent during the same period.[\[23\]](#)

Thus while the overall health of the U.S. economy has been a positive background factor contributing to the reduction of Welfare dependence, the economy has been neither a sufficient nor a primary factor in that reduction. The huge state variations in the rate of caseload decline cannot be attributed to differences in state economic factors, but can be convincingly explained by differences in the rigor of work-related Welfare reforms. Policy reform, not economics, has been the principal engine driving the decline in dependence.

Critics may charge that it is easy to cut caseloads simply by kicking individuals off Welfare whenever they commit a minor infraction. In reality, very little of the present caseload reduction is the result of states using sanctions simply to remove individuals from the rolls. Instead, serious work requirements sharply reduce dependence because they lower the attractiveness of Welfare compared to private sector employment.

#### Effects of Welfare Reform on poverty

During the debate over of Welfare reform in 1995 and 1996, reform opponents shrilly predicted that the reform would produce large increases in child poverty. In reality, decreases in dependence would have had beneficial effects on children's long-term development, even if they were accompanied by decreasing family income. However, as Chart 2 shows, the fall in the national AFDC/TANF caseload has resulted in a significant decrease in child poverty, not an increase.

Indeed, if the earned income tax credit, Food Stamps, and other means-tested benefits are counted as income, the child poverty rate now stands at 12.0 percent, the lowest rate since 1979. The black child poverty rate and the poverty rate of children living with single mothers are now at the lowest points in U.S. history.

This positive picture is confirmed at the individual state level. Wisconsin, for example, which has led the nation in reducing dependence, is also among the leading states in reducing child poverty. Wisconsin has cut its child poverty rate almost in half and now has one of the lowest rates of child poverty in the nation.

In general, those states, which have strong workfare systems and strict sanctions for non-compliant behavior by recipients, have seen more rapid drops in child poverty. By contrast, states, which have weak work requirements and lenient sanctions, on average, have seen the least decline in child poverty.

### Effects of Welfare Reform on Out-of-Wedlock Births

As Chart 3 shows, when the War on poverty began, 7.7 percent of American children were born out of wedlock. Today, that figure is 33 percent. The collapse of marriage among blacks has been particularly disturbing: At the outset of World War II, the black illegitimate birth rate was slightly less than 19 percent. Beginning in the late 1960s, however, the rate of black illegitimate births skyrocketed, reaching 49 percent in 1975 and 70 percent in 1995. Rapid increases in illegitimacy are also occurring among whites. The illegitimate birth rate among whites is 26 percent; among white high school dropouts, it is 48 percent.

In nearly every year since the mid-1960s, the percentage of births that were out-of-wedlock increased steadily. However, starting in 1995, there was an abrupt shift in the growth of illegitimacy. The growth of the white out-of-wedlock birthrate slowed considerably, and the black rate actually declined slightly.

It is no accident that this halt or slowdown in the growth of illegitimacy coincided with the debate and national passage of Welfare reform. Prior to the mid-1990's there had been a 30 year taboo on discussion of illegitimacy. While marriage disintegrated few politicians in either party were willing to even mention the topic. However, in 1993 and 1994, this gag rule was breached; then President Clinton gave a series of speeches on the social harm of illegitimacy. In 1994, serious legislation to reduce illegitimacy was introduced in both the House and the Senate; this legislation opened a vigorous public discussion on the harmful effects of illegitimacy for the first time in three decades. Both parties publicly acknowledged that illegitimacy was harmful to children and society. During this period press treatment of illegitimacy and its links to Welfare expanded tenfold.

In addition, in 1993, then President Clinton proposed placing a two year time limit on the receipt of AFDC.[\[24\]](#) Many states began moderate self-sufficiency programs placing work-related behavioral requirements on AFDC recipients. Most critically, in 1994, Republicans gained control of both chambers of the U.S. Congress for the first time in over fifty years. Republican control of Congress heralded a dramatic change in the rhetoric surrounding welfare. Through the "Contract with America" and repeated public announcements, it became clear that future Welfare would indeed be time limited and would place a far heavier emphasis on self-reliance. The newly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives suggested that children born out-of-wedlock might be placed in orphanages.

It was no mere coincidence that just one year later (in 1995) the illegitimate birth rate fell for the first time in nearly a half-century. In subsequent years the rate remained flat or increased only slightly. This slowdown in the growth of out-of-wedlock childbearing is undoubtedly the result of changes in the social messages surrounding Welfare, particularly the new emphasis on limited aid and personal responsibility.

The slowdown is all the more remarkable given the fact that almost no states have active programs designed to reduce illegitimacy or increase marriage. The fact that behavior changed in a positive manner even without specific efforts to promote that change is encouraging; it offers cause for optimism concerning the potential effects of programs specifically developed to increase marriage and reduce illegitimacy in the future.

### Recommended Policies

Future Welfare reform should be focused on three themes: encouraging marriage, requiring work, and controlling costs.

- **Encouraging marriage.** The erosion of marriage is the principal cause of child poverty, Welfare dependence, and a host of other social problems. The Welfare reform act of 1996 established illegitimacy reduction as a principal goal with the expectation that state governors would take the lead in developing innovative programs to restore marriage.[\[25\]](#) But, today, only a handful of governors even mention marriage and no state has a significant program to reduce illegitimacy.[\[26\]](#) Thus, it should be no surprise that the illegitimacy rate has not fallen more, and for whites has even begun to creep

slowly up again. A major challenge in Welfare reauthorization will be to create new programs that carry out the original goals of PROWRA to increase marriage and reduce illegitimacy.

In the future, 5 to 10 percent of federal TANF funds should be allocated to pro-marriage programs in at risk communities. These should include: pro-marriage education in high schools, public ad campaigns, marriage mentoring programs for young couples at risk of having children out-of-wedlock, pro-marriage counseling and services for pregnant non-married women participating in Medicaid, and divorce reduction programs.

- **Requiring work.** Welfare should not be a one way handout. Yet current data suggest that roughly half of the two million mothers presently on TANF sit idly on the rolls and are not engaged in any activity leading toward self-sufficiency. As part of reauthorization, states should be required to have 90 percent of their adult TANF recipients engaged in work activities or off the rolls. If this sort of serious work requirement were established, it would be reasonable to expect the national TANF caseload to fall to 700,000 or lower by the year 2010.
- **Controlling Costs.** As the TANF caseload continues to fall, there is no reason to maintain the high historic levels of federal TANF spending. Future TANF authorization levels should be cut by 10 percent.

## Endnotes

### *Endnotes*

*1. Former President Clinton gave three major addresses on the harms of illegitimacy in 1993 and 1994. He was the first president to address this topic since Lyndon Johnson. These speeches played an important role in changing public perceptions and in opening subsequent political discourse on the issue.*

*2. Former President Clinton merely intended that a small percentage of AFDC recipients would be required to work for benefits after two years on the AFDC rolls. However, his proposal was generally represented as "two years and off." Most politicians and the public thought this meant a termination of cash aid after two years on the rolls. In addition, a number of state governments were introducing their own work related reforms with a new emphasis on personal responsibility from 1993 to 1996; these programs may also have contributed to the halt in the growth of the illegitimacy rate in the mid-1990's.*

3. *Former President Clinton gave three major addresses on the harms of illegitimacy in 1993 and 1994. He was the first president to address this topic since Lyndon Johnson. These speeches played an important role in changing public perceptions and in opening subsequent political discourse on the issue. In addition, a number of state governments were introducing their own work related reforms with a new emphasis on personal responsibility from 1993 to 1996; these programs may also have contributed to the halt in the growth of the illegitimacy rate in the mid-1990's.*
4. *M. Anne Hill and June O'Neill, "Family endowments and the Achievement of Young Children With Special Reference to the Underclass," *Journal of Human Resources*, Fall 1994, pp. 1090-1091*
5. *Mary Corcoran, Roger Gordon, Deborah Loren and Gary Solon, "The Association Between Men's Economic Status and Their Family and Community Origins," *Journal of Human Resources*, Fall, 1992, pp. 575-601.*
6. *Corcoron et al.*
7. *R. Forste and M. Tienda, "Race and Ethnic Variation in the Schooling Consequences of Female Adolescent Sexual Activity, *Social Science Quarterly*, March 1992.*
8. *Mwangi S. Kimenyi, "Rational Choice, Culture of Poverty, and the Intergenerational Transmission of Welfare Dependency," *Southern Economic Journal*, April 1991.*
9. *Deborah A. Dawson, "Family Structure and Children's Health and Well-Being: Data from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey on Child Health," paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, Toronto, May 1990.*
10. *E.M. Hetherington and B. Martin, "Family Interaction," H.C. Quay and J.S. Werry (eds.), *Psychopathological Disorders of Childhood* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1979), pp. 247-302.*
11. *A. Walsh, "Illegitimacy, Child Abuse and Neglect, and Cognitive Development," *Journal of Genetic Psychology*, Vol. 15 (1990), pp. 279-285.*
12. *Research by the Heritage Foundation based on the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth*
13. *Sheila F Krein and Andrea H. Beller, "Educational Attainment of Children From Single-Parent Families: Differences by Exposure, Gender and Race," *Demography*, Vol. 25 (May 1988), p.228.*
14. *Neil Bennet and David Bloom, "The Influence of Non-marital Childbearing on the Formation of Marital Unions." Paper given at the NICHD conference on "Outcomes of Early Childbearing," May 1992.*
15. *Sarah S. McLanahan, "Family Structure and Dependency: Early Transitions to Female Household Headship," *Demography*, Vol. 5, No. 1 (1988), pp. 1-16.*

16. William Marsiglio, "Adolescent Fathers in the United States: Their Initial Living Arrangements, Marital Experience and Educational Outcomes," *Family Planning Perspectives*, Vol.19 (1987), pp. 240-251, reporting a study of 5,500 young men.
17. Kristin Moore, "Attainment among Youth from Families that Received Welfare." Paper for DHHS/ASPE and NICHD, Grant #HD21537-03.
18. Arthur B. Elsters et al., "Judicial Involvement and Conduct Problems of Fathers and Infants Born to Adolescent Mothers," *Pediatrics*, Vol. 79, No. 2 (1987), pp. 230-234.
19. Douglas Smith and G. Roger Jajoura, "Social Structure and Criminal Victimization," *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, February 1988, pp.27-52.
20. M. Anne Hill and June O'Neill, *Underclass Behaviors in the United States: Measurement and Analysis of Determinants*, New York City, City University of New York, Baruch College, March 1990.
21. See Robert Rector, "[Wisconsin's Welfare Miracle](#)," Policy Review, March/April 1997.
22. Robert E. Rector and Sarah E. Youssef , "[The Determinants of Welfare Caseload Decline](#)" Report of the Center for Data Analysis, The Heritage Foundation, May 11, 1999.
23. Based on a regression analysis holding the rate of unemployment in the state constant. The values predicted by the regression model closely conform to the actual observed values in the states. The mean caseload reduction over the 18 month period among the states with both a strong full check sanction and a formal immediate work requirement was 55.2 percent. The mean caseload reduction among the fourteen states with weak sanctions and no immediate work requirement was 16 percent.
24. Former President Clinton merely intended that a small percentage of AFDC recipients would be required to work for benefits after two years on the AFDC rolls. However, his proposal was generally represented as "two years and off." Most politicians and the public thought this meant a termination of cash aid after two years on the rolls.
25. Much of the discussion about illegitimacy has been deliberately sidetracked into the non-controversial and far less important topic of "teen pregnancy." Only around 15 percent of out of wedlock births occur to girls under 18. Illegitimacy is primarily a problem of young adult men and women. Teen pregnancy could be eliminated completely without having much effect on the far larger problem of illegitimacy.
26. Governors George W. Bush of Texas, Frank Keating of Oklahoma, and Mike Leavitt of Utah have been unusual in their willingness to speak out in defense of marriage.

## [THE DAILY SIGNAL](#)

### [How Welfare Spending Hurts the People It's Supposed to Help](#)

[Paul Winfree](#) / [@paulwinfree](#) / August 01, 2015

Federal and state governments spent \$1.02 trillion on welfare in 2014—an increase of \$274 billion, or 36 percent, since 2003 after adjusting for inflation. At the federal level, the welfare bureaucracy spans numerous agencies and includes more than 80 different means-tested aid programs that provide cash, food, housing, medical care and social services to poor and low-income Americans. These programs range from public housing and food stamps to direct cash benefits through the earned income tax credit (EITC) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

The rapid growth in welfare spending has been driven by two interrelated factors. First, over time, more people above the poverty level have been made eligible for higher benefits. For instance, a forthcoming paper in the journal *Demography* finds that welfare benefits going to single parents with incomes less than half of the poverty level have decreased by 35 percent over the 1983 to 2004 period, whereas benefits to single parents making almost twice the poverty level have increased by 80 percent.

>>> [Read the full 2015 Index of Culture and Opportunity.](#)

A second factor driving the growth of welfare spending is the lack of incentives built into the system for states to be good stewards of the federal programs that they administer. About 75 percent of welfare spending is federal, with the remainder contributed by states; however, states administer the programs and therefore have—but do not exercise—the capacity to constrain welfare growth. Instead, states use their discretionary authority to expand welfare while at the same time underinvesting in anti-fraud activities.

For instance, a [recent report](#) by the U.S. Government Accountability Office found that Massachusetts had just 37 fraud investigators responsible for guaranteeing

that no one among the 888,000 people with SNAP benefits, the 1,273,000 receiving Medicaid, and the 92,000 with TANF cash assistance was abusing the program.

Far from being a compassionate series of programs worthy of defense against reform, the current welfare architecture has been a disaster for struggling communities and has done its gravest disservice to recipients themselves. The damage has been twofold.

First, the existing welfare system undermines work. By offering a generous system of entitlements to able-bodied adults without any obligation to work or prepare for work, welfare undermines the need and motivation for self-support. Welfare is primarily a system of one-way handouts: Only two out of more than 80 means-tested welfare programs include even modest work or training requirements.

Second, nearly all of these means-tested welfare programs impose significant penalties against marriage. For 50 years, welfare has driven fathers from the home. As a consequence, single mothers have become increasingly dependent on government aid. Meanwhile, low-income fathers, deprived of meaningful roles as husbands and breadwinners, have drifted into the margins of society. Their attachment to the labor force has deteriorated, and the tendency toward self-destructive and anti-social behavior has increased.

But the greatest victims of the anti-marriage incentives embedded in the welfare system have been children. Children raised without fathers in the home are substantially more likely to experience emotional and behavioral problems, to be expelled from or drop out of school, and to engage in juvenile and adult crime.

Nicholas Kristof in The New York Times [has reflected](#) on the unintended negative side-effects of welfare. Analyzing the Supplemental Security Income program for children, he recently wrote that “America’s safety net can sometimes entangle people in soul-crushing dependency. Our poverty programs do rescue many people, but other times they backfire.”

Costing over \$1 trillion per year, the current welfare system is enormous, but much of this spending is counterproductive. Today’s welfare programs undermine work and marriage, leading to a broadening pattern of intergenerational dependence and self-defeating behaviors.

Furthermore, if work provides benefits besides monetary compensation (such as a greater connection to society), the fact that welfare discourages work may have severe and immense long-term consequences. This shift in cultural standards is already having deep effects in other areas, such as the ability to build lasting relationships that increase opportunity and general fulfillment.

Welfare should provide aid to those who genuinely need it, but it should also strive to mobilize the best efforts of the poor to help themselves. The foundations of the welfare state must be revamped to promote rather than discourage work and marriage.

To accomplish this, all able-bodied, non-elderly adult recipients of means-tested welfare benefits should be required to work, or at least prepare for work, as a condition of receiving aid. In addition, welfare's current financial penalties against marriage must be reduced. Reforming the welfare system in this manner would best serve the interests of the poor, the taxpayers and society at large.

*Originally appeared in The Heritage Foundation's [2015 Index of Culture and Opportunity](#).*

## THE DAILY SIGNAL

# The Black Family Is Struggling, and It's Not Because of Slavery

[Walter E. Williams](#) / [@WE\\_Williams](#) / September 20, 2017

That the problems of today's black Americans are a result of a legacy of slavery, racial discrimination, and poverty has achieved an axiomatic status, thought to be self-evident and beyond question.

This is what academics and the civil rights establishment have taught. But as with so much of what's claimed by leftists, there is little evidence to support it.

The No. 1 problem among blacks is the effects stemming from a very weak family structure.

Children from fatherless homes are likelier to drop out of high school, die by suicide, have behavioral disorders, join gangs, commit crimes, and end up in prison. They are also likelier to live in poverty-stricken households.

But is the weak black family a legacy of slavery?

In 1960, just 22 percent of black children were raised in single-parent families. Fifty years later, more than 70 percent of black children were raised in single-parent families.

Here's my question: Was the increase in single-parent black families after 1960 a legacy of slavery, or might it be a legacy of the welfare state ushered in by the War on Poverty?

According to the 1938 Encyclopaedia of the Social Sciences, that year 11 percent of black children were born to unwed mothers. Today about 75 percent of black children are born to unwed mothers.

Is that supposed to be a delayed response to the legacy of slavery?

The bottom line is that the black family was stronger the first 100 years after slavery than during what will be the second 100 years.

At one time, almost all black families were poor, regardless of whether one or both parents were present. Today roughly 30 percent of blacks are poor.

However, two-parent black families are rarely poor. Only 8 percent of black married-couple families live in poverty. Among black families in which both the husband and wife work full time, the poverty rate is under 5 percent. Poverty in black families headed by single women is 37 percent.

The undeniable truth is that neither slavery nor Jim Crow nor the harshest racism has decimated the black family the way the welfare state has.

The black family structure is not the only retrogression suffered by blacks in the age of racial enlightenment.

In every census from 1890 to 1954, blacks were either just as active or more so than whites in the labor market. During that earlier period, black teen unemployment was roughly equal to or less than white teen unemployment.

As early as 1900, the duration of black unemployment was 15 percent shorter than that of whites. Today it's about 30 percent longer.

Would anyone suggest that during earlier periods, there was less racial discrimination?

What goes a long way toward an explanation of yesteryear and today are the various labor laws and regulations promoted by liberals and their union allies that cut off the bottom rungs of the economic ladder and encourage racial discrimination.

Labor unions have a long history of discrimination against blacks. Frederick Douglass wrote about this in his 1874 essay titled "The Folly, Tyranny, and Wickedness of Labor Unions," and Booker T. Washington did so in his 1913 essay titled "The Negro and the Labor Unions."

To the detriment of their constituents, most of today's black politicians give unquestioning support to labor laws pushed by unions and white liberal organizations.

Then there's education. Many black 12th-graders deal with scientific problems at the level of whites in the sixth grade. They write and do math about as well as white seventh- and eighth-graders.

All of this means that an employer hiring or a college admitting the typical black high school graduate is in effect hiring or admitting an eighth-grader. Thus, one should not be surprised by the outcomes.

The most damage done to black Americans is inflicted by those politicians, civil rights leaders, and academics who assert that every problem confronting blacks is a result of a legacy of slavery and discrimination. That's a vision that guarantees perpetuity for the problems.

## THE DAILY SIGNAL

### How Liberal Policies Destroyed Black Families

[Crystal Wright](#) / [@GOPBlackChick](#) / March 29, 2016

*This piece has been adapted from Crystal Wright's new book: "[Con Job: How Democrats Gave Us Crime, Sanctuary Cities, Abortion Profiteering, and Racial Division.](#)"*

It's well known how in 1965 Daniel Patrick Moynihan, assistant secretary of labor to Democrat President Johnson, warned that the black family was on the verge of a "complete breakdown" because of growing illegitimacy rates: in 1963 the out-of-wedlock birth rate for whites was 3 percent, and for blacks it was 23.6 percent.

Moynihan was part of a generation of Democrats who cared about lifting blacks up into the ranks of equal opportunity with whites, back in the days before the Democrat Party became completely morally corrupt.

In his 1965 "The Negro Family: The Case for National Action," Moynihan observed that because more blacks were being born into unmarried homes, more blacks were becoming dependent on welfare to survive.

Then, as now, blacks represented only a small percentage of the U.S. population but a disproportionate percentage of people relying on public assistance. At the center of this "tangle of pathology," as Moynihan called it, was "the weakness of the family structure" among blacks. "Once or twice removed, it will be found to be the principal source of most of the aberrant, inadequate, or antisocial behavior that did not establish, but now serves to perpetuate the cycle of poverty and deprivation."

The majority of black babies are being born to single mothers—a prescription for a life of poverty and crime.

Ever since, the problem has only gotten worse.

...

The majority of black babies are being born to single mothers—a prescription for a life of poverty and crime. And despite the warnings that have sounded off loudly

for over half a century, Democrats have done nothing to stop blacks, their most steadfast constituents, from having babies they can't take care of. This problem has perpetuated itself for generations, producing generational poverty among blacks.

If black lives truly matter, as Democrats shout at the top of their lungs, why don't they promulgate policies that encourage blacks to get married before they have kids?

Blacks' voting overwhelmingly for Democrats over the past half century is the quintessential definition of political suicide.

But what's bad for blacks translates into a high rate of return on investment for Democrats. Marketing the "no baby daddy" syndrome to blacks has translated into votes, lots of votes, approaching 100 percent from blacks over the past half century. And the black family has been dismembered in the process, like the fetuses Planned Parenthood chops up to sell for profit. Democrats don't quit while they're ahead. No, the donkey party doubles down on evil.

In his 1992 acceptance speech for the Democrat presidential nomination, Bill Clinton declared, "Governments don't raise children; parents do. And you should."

Clinton meant to say, "If you're white, I expect you to raise your kids" —because Democrats have made it their priority for society to normalize the idea that the federal government should be responsible for parenting blacks and their children. Neither Clinton nor any Democrat president since Johnson has done anything effective to ask black Americans as a race to take responsibility for raising our kids.

No greater or more glaring example of liberals' profiting politically off of black people's misery can be seen than the Democrats' refusal to address the illegitimate birthrate spiraling out of control among blacks.

More black babies are born out of wedlock today (72 percent) than into married homes. That's dramatically worse than when Moynihan initially raised the issue (when it was 23 percent)—thanks to fifty years of encouragement by the Democrat Party.

In other words, in America today, it is rare for black babies to be born to married parents. Black fathers are simply not part of the black family equation. Think about that.

Black fathers are simply not part of the black family equation. Think about that.

A few years ago, my mother tutored a four-year-old black girl in pre-K at a Richmond, Va. public school. It was part of an after-school program organized by her church's outreach ministry. One afternoon in February, my mother was explaining to the little girl the meaning of Valentine's Day's. Helping the child make a card for her mother, my mother told her that she was going to give Valentine's Day cards to special people like her husband and her children.

The little girl looked up at my mother in disbelief, asking, "You can have a husband?" Slightly shocked and a little taken aback, my mother simply responded, "Yes."

It's a sad state of affairs when the word husband is a foreign word to a little black girl.

A few weeks later, around Easter, the little girl asked my mother again, "Mrs. Wright, you have a husband?"

"Yes," my mother responded. "Husbands, friends, they're all the same," replied the little girl.

No, they certainly are not all the same. But the little girl probably had gone home and asked her single mother what a husband was, and her mother had told her that. It's difficult to have a conversation with a four-year-old about the importance of marriage.

But the problem is that this little girl will grow up with her mother's message that husbands are just the same as boyfriends. Based on the statistics, she will likely follow her mother's bad example and have a baby out of wedlock.

Women having babies without fathers isn't just a sign of the moral collapse of our culture, it's hazardous to the child. When a child is born into a single-parent home, the chances of that child's growing up in poverty are much greater.

According to a Brookings Institution study published in 2009, if a person graduates from high school, works a fulltime job, and waits until twenty-one to get married and have children, his or her chance of succeeding in life and becoming a member of the middle class rises to 76 percent. If a person doesn't finish high school, doesn't

marry, and has a baby before the age of twenty-one, his or her chance of becoming poor soars to 74 percent.

One of the anti-poverty solutions the Brookings study recommended was for the federal government to advocate policies that strengthen families, such as programs “to reduce unplanned pregnancies for teens and twenty-somethings.”

The Brookings researchers seem to have understood that the breakdown of the black family has been the main driver of the chronic wealth gap between whites and blacks over the past five decades. The lack of intact families among blacks leads to a lack of education and jobs, which translates into higher rates of crime and government dependency among blacks. Eureka!

You don't have to be a neurosurgeon to see that a child born to an unmarried teenage mother isn't going to have a rosy future in life. The conclusions of the Brookings research are obvious, but Democrats continue to ignore the plain truth. Back in 1965, Moynihan was pelted with virulent criticism for telling the truth about black America.

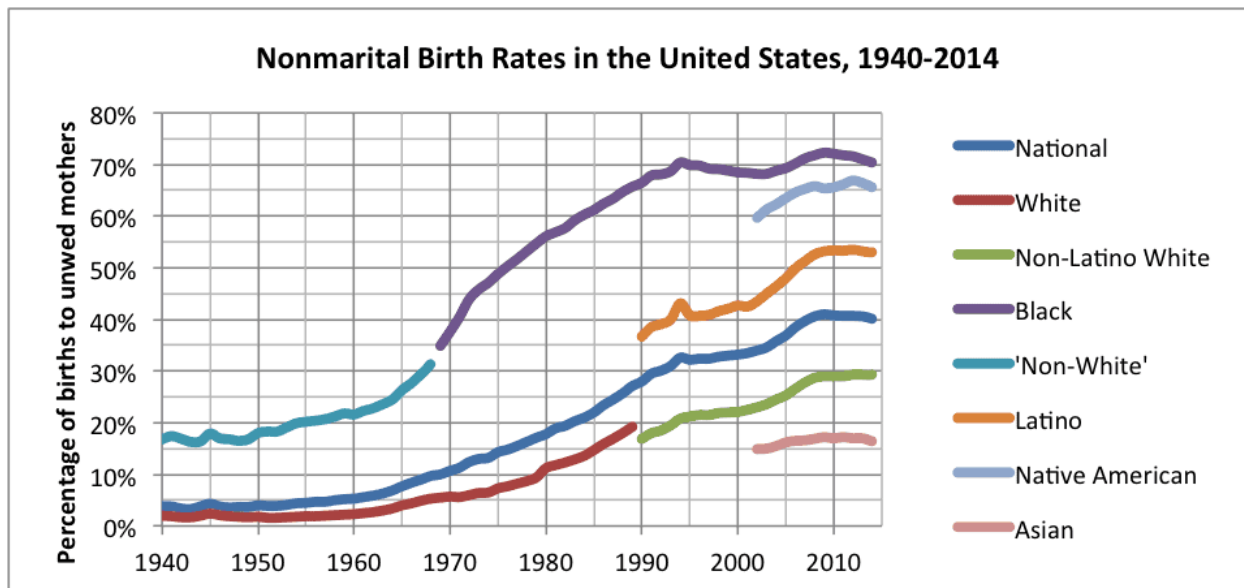
Things have only gotten worse since then.

## FOUNDERS BROADSHEET

### The destruction of the black family by progressives

*America's black underclass exists not because the nation is systemically racist, as Democrats claim, but because progressives' welfare policies and the "War on Poverty" destroyed the black family.*

September 20, 2020 by [editor](#)



The top line (blue on the left, then black) captures the rise of black children born out of wedlock. Note the sharp rise from the middle 1960s on, when progressives massively expanded welfare and launched the "War on Poverty." This accelerated the destruction of the black family and the creation of a huge multi-generation black underclass. Note the stabilization of children born out of wedlock — albeit at an unacceptably high 70% — after the passage of Republican-backed welfare reform in 1996. The rate remained so high because Democratic-governed states refused to enforce the work and other requirements of the 1996 reform bill.

**by Richard Schulman**

The claim that the United States is systemically racist is a colossal lie being pushed by the progressives who dominate the Democratic Party. It is being used to justify the looting, riots, murders, and destruction of public and private property that has

engulfed the country for several months now, especially in cities run by Democratic mayors.

The false charge is reason sufficient for defeating at the polls every single Democrat who refuses to repudiate this lie and the violence it has engendered. This repudiation – let's call it patriotic cancel culture – should start at the top with the Biden-Harris presidential ticket.

So how do we explain the higher rates of poverty and incarceration in the African-American underclass if not by white racism?

The principal explanation is to be found in government policies implemented by progressives beginning with the Lyndon Johnson administration's "War on Poverty." The policies wreaked havoc on the previous relative stability of the black family, leading to the present circa 70% of African-American children born to unwed mothers.

This contrasts with a 28% rate among non-Hispanic white mothers and 12% among Asian-Americans.

### **A culture encouraging out-of-wedlock childbearing**

This is not a matter of race but of culture, a crucial expression of which is the rearing of children in a stable two-parent structure that encourages education, hard work, and individual responsibility and initiative. That is what propelled Jewish immigrants to the US to prominent positions in law, medicine, and education in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, despite prejudice against them; and the equally spectacular success of Asian-Americans more recently.

This is not a prejudiced "white" view of black underclass culture. It's acknowledged by prominent African-Americans, such as Columbia University professor [John McWhorter](#). He blames the self-destructive side of contemporary black culture on the welfare policies that progressives introduced in the 1960s. These policies encouraged multi-generational welfare dependency in families with often absent fathers, headed by teenage unmarried mothers.

The main source of the destructive welfare policies was LBJ's "War on Poverty," intellectually seconded by two progressive Columbia University professors, Frances Fox Piven and Richard Cloward.

## **LBJ's failed \$22 trillion war**

Regarding this "War on Poverty," Robert Rector of the Heritage Foundation [wrote](#) in 2015 how

Fifty-one years ago, President Lyndon B. Johnson launched the War on Poverty. Since then, taxpayers have spent more than \$22 trillion fighting Johnson's war, three times the cost of all military wars in U.S. history. Last year, taxpayers spent more than \$920 billion on 80 different anti-poverty programs. A major reason for the nation's lack of success for the last half century has been the collapse of marriage. Marriage is a powerful force in reducing poverty.... More than two-thirds of all poor families with children in the U.S. are headed by single parents. But since the beginning of the War on Poverty, marriage has declined sharply.

African-American families were the worst-hit by the Johnson administration's welfare policies. In New York's Harlem in 1925, 85% of black households had two parents. By 2015, the statistics had reversed: non-marital births for African-Americans had reached 77%. (The HHS gives slightly lower statistics of 69% for 2018.)

McWhorter is particularly incensed at the progressive ideologues who reinforced the misconceived policies of the War on Poverty by trying to use and then to promote a permanent underclass dependent on government through a guaranteed income. McWhorter writes:

Until the late sixties, welfare allowed one to eat but was very hard to stay on for very long and was harder for black people to get than whites. The welfare world we now recall so easily was born only when white activists such as Columbia social work professors Frances Fox Piven and Richard Cloward devoted themselves to bringing down the American financial system by dragging as many people, especially poor black ones, onto the welfare rolls as possible. Their goal was to bankrupt the Treasury so that the Feds would give a guaranteed income to poor people. But in the end, all that happened was that generations of poor blacks idled on the dole, getting just enough money that they were doing better than they could in entry-level jobs.

Black fathers became redundant and wandered from household to household spawning illegitimate children on black matriarchs. Social workers were encouraged to practice job preservation by keeping their clients on welfare rather

than pressuring them to find work. A spurious prestige was conferred upon social workers through the creation of graduate social work degree programs taught by Piven and Cloward and their acolytes.

### **The Moynihan report**

Yet the basic problem had been partly identified in 1965 by Patrick Daniel Moynihan, an American sociologist serving as Assistant Secretary of Labor in the Johnson administration. He wrote a report that made him famous but came to be widely denounced by the progressives. In the report, he

focused on the deep roots of black poverty in the United States and controversially concluded that the high rate of families headed by single mothers would greatly hinder progress of blacks toward economic and political equality. Moynihan argued that the rise in black single-mother families was caused not by a lack of jobs, but by a destructive vein in ghetto culture, which could be traced to slavery times and continued discrimination in the American South under Jim Crow. Black sociologist E. Franklin Frazier had introduced that idea in the 1930s, but Moynihan was considered one of the first academics to defy conventional social-science wisdom about the structure of poverty.

*[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Negro\\_Family:\\_The\\_Case\\_For\\_National\\_Action](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Negro_Family:_The_Case_For_National_Action)*

Moynihan called for “a new kind of national goal: the establishment of a stable Negro family structure.” He realized that the Johnson administration’s civil rights legislation and US economic prosperity by themselves couldn’t address the more important issue, the breakdown of the family among lower class blacks.

But Moynihan missed the important truth that it wasn’t slavery and Jim Crow that were wreaking the greatest damage on the stability of the black family but rather the welfare policies of the very administration he served.

The War on Poverty and its accompanying dedication to welfare rights had just the opposite effect that Moynihan sought. Single motherhood, illegitimacy, crime, and delinquency increased in urban black communities.

Ironically, when a significant effort, under Republican impetus, was made in 1996 to end black multi-generational dependency by moving welfare recipients to jobs,

Moynihan, now a senator from New York, denounced the major reform in the strongest terms. He refused to believe that the pro-welfare policies of his party had worsened the problem, as they clearly had.

Unsurprisingly, however, his report singling out the breakdown of the black family “is still anathema to many on the left.” They prefer to blame “systemic racism” for the problems of the black underclass, not black culture, and prefer to mimic the worst features of black underclass culture by the present Democratic Party-backed Antifa / Black Lives Matter rioting, burning, and looting.

### **“Dan Quayle was right”**

From the 1960s down to the present, the left has refused to recognize the central importance of two-parent families for bringing up children and providing a secure educational and economic environment for them. In 1992, the cultural left vilified Dan Quayle for his defense of the two-parent family in opposition to the glorification of single motherhood by *Murphy Brown*.

In one of its rare moments of reality recognition, the *Washington Post* published a fine op ed by Isabel Sawhill titled, “20 years later, it turns out Dan Quayle was right about *Murphy Brown* and unmarried moms.” She [wrote](#):

On May 19, 1992, as the presidential campaign season was heating up, Vice President Dan Quayle delivered a family-values speech that came to define him nearly as much as his spelling talents. Speaking at the Commonwealth Club of California, he chided *Murphy Brown* — the fictional 40-something, divorced news anchor played by Candice Bergen on a CBS sitcom — for her decision to have a child outside of marriage....Quayle’s argument — that *Brown* was sending the wrong message, that single parenthood should not be encouraged — erupted into a major campaign controversy....Twenty years later, Quayle’s words seem less controversial than prophetic....

[A] wealth of research strongly suggests that marriage is good for children. Those who live with their biological parents do better in school and are less likely to get pregnant or arrested. They have lower rates of suicide, achieve higher levels of education and earn more as adults. Meanwhile, children who spend time in single-parent families are more likely to misbehave, get sick, drop out of high school and be unemployed.”

Dr. Sawhill, now a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, wrote that op ed in 2012, but how little things have changed. In 2017, Amy Wax, the Robert Mundheim Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, co-authored a [brilliant](#) defense of middle-class values titled “Paying the price for breakdown of the country’s bourgeois culture.” The cultural left, including most of her colleagues at the law school, furiously denounced her for writing that

Too few Americans are qualified for the jobs available. Male working-age labor-force participation is at Depression-era lows. Opioid abuse is widespread. Homicidal violence plagues inner cities. Almost half of all children are born out of wedlock, and even more are raised by single mothers. Many college students lack basic skills, and high school students rank below those from two dozen other countries.

The causes of these phenomena are multiple and complex, but implicated in these and other maladies is the breakdown of the country’s bourgeois culture....Get married before you have children and strive to stay married for their sake. Get the education you need for gainful employment, work hard, and avoid idleness. Go the extra mile for your employer or client. Be a patriot, ready to serve the country. Be neighborly, civic-minded, and charitable. Avoid coarse language in public. Be respectful of authority. Eschew substance abuse and crime.

These basic cultural precepts reigned from the late 1940s to the mid-1960s.... Adherence was a major contributor to the productivity, educational gains, and social coherence of that period.

Although the values that Wax espoused were universal and common sense to those not infected by progressivism and identity politics, the *New Yorker* response was typical of the cultural left. Its denunciation was titled “A Penn Law Professor Wants to Make America White Again.”

### **Why Dems ignored the Moynihan report**

Which raises the question as to why neither Moynihan nor LBJ did anything useful about the breakdown of the black family that Moynihan himself had flagged. It’s likely that they were too committed to creating a dependent black voting bloc wedded to identity politics and the Democratic Party. Moynihan later as a senator wrote a bill that forced many independent consultants and contractors to be reclassified as employees. Independent consultants and contractors are small

businessmen and more prone to value their independence, invest in their tools and education, oppose tax increases, and vote Republican. Employees can potentially be herded into Democratic unions, denied deductions for business investments, and as dependents be more likely to vote Democrat.

California has just forced the reclassification of professionals and Uber and Lyft drivers for the same reason, destroying their independence.

Dinesh D'Souza has written a scathing [indictment](#) of LBJ's motives for his civil rights and welfare policies, titled "LBJ's Democratic Plantation." One of many anecdotes he retells is this one:

In the mid-1960s, LBJ nominated African-American lawyer Thurgood Marshall to the Supreme Court. When an aide suggested to LBJ that there were other qualified black jurists he could have chosen, suggesting as an alternative possibility Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, LBJ responded, "The only two people who ever heard of Judge Higginbotham are you and his momma. When I appoint a nigger to the court, I want everyone to know he's a nigger."

...The man he called a "nigger" was the nation's most prominent African-American attorney who had argued the landmark 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* case.

### **Piven and Cloward's contribution**

The Democrats' problem in the mid-1960s was how to replace the no-longer popular racism of the party's Democratic base in the South with an organizing strategy that would herd urban blacks into the party and keep them there. Piven and Cloward provided the strategy. Their 1966 article published in *The Nation*, "The Weight of the Poor: A Strategy to End Poverty," outlined a quasi-socialist strategy for organizing change by the creation of chaos. They wrote:

It is our purpose to advance a strategy which affords the basis for a convergence of civil rights organizations, militant anti-poverty groups and the poor. If this strategy were implemented, a political crisis would result that could lead to legislation for a guaranteed annual income and thus an end to poverty....

[I]t is not generally known that for every person on the rolls at least one more probably meets existing criteria of eligibility but is not obtaining assistance.

The discrepancy is not an accident stemming from bureaucratic inefficiency; rather, it is an integral feature of the welfare system which, if challenged, would precipitate a profound financial and political crisis. The force for that challenge, and the strategy we propose, is a massive drive to recruit the poor onto the welfare rolls.”

<https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/weight-poor-strategy-end-poverty/>

Public assistance is largely handled at the local and state level, Piven and Cloward complained. There its visibility faces strong local resistance to expansion of recipients and benefits. We can overcome this resistance, Piven and Cloward continued, by moving it out of sight to the federal level.

Widespread campaigns to register the eligible poor for welfare aid...would produce bureaucratic disruption in welfare agencies and fiscal disruption in local and state governments. These disruptions would generate severe political strains...in the big-city Democratic coalition...To avoid a further weakening of that historic coalition, a national Democratic administration would be constrained to advance a federal solution to poverty that would override local welfare failures.

*op. cit.*

Piven and Cloward didn't get their guaranteed national income. They did, however, motivate the Democrats to massively and proactively expand welfare at the federal level. “Amendments to the Social Security Act extended welfare benefits to millions of new recipients,” political scientist Robert Albritton wrote in 1979.

That massive expansion of welfare greatly accelerated the decline of the family in the US, with black families being hit the worst of all.

## **What now?**

As a writer recently [noted](#) in *Issues and Insights*,

America's minority groups face a host of important economic issues, despite the current focus on police brutality. Indeed, when it comes to addressing inequality, *economic, education and family issues* are far more important than police brutality.

Following the passage of the 2017 Tax Reform Bill by the Republicans and President Trump, the *economic* issues were well on their way to being resolved –until China's

Communist regime deliberately allowed the Wuhan virus to infect the West. Before that infection, black unemployment had plunged to a historic low. The wages of blacks were growing rapidly and even faster than those of other social groups.

It is unlikely that growth could be restored under the anti-growth economic program the Biden-Harris team have committed themselves to.

The Democrats have also proved themselves the enemies of black urban *education*. Beholden to the teachers' unions, they've opposed vouchers and school choice that would provide an alternative to failing urban public schools.

The destruction of the black *family* can begin being reversed by returning all public assistance to the states and local communities and encouraging the latter to enact or strengthen work requirements, detoxification programs, adult education classes, the easing of professional licensing requirements, and the tightening of child support requirements on biological fathers who refuse to behave as true fathers should.

And finally, in the bully pulpit category, let's have one, two, many Dan Quayles speak up — to put Hollywood and the media to shame.

Once middle-class norms, including married child-bearing, return to the black underclass, we think the last obstacle to its full participation in US prosperity will have been removed, and it will transform itself from an underclass to a middle class.

But this will require the defeat of the progressives determined to keep blacks on the Democratic reservation as government dependents and who accuse the nation of systemic racism for the very ills they themselves did so much to create.

The Democrats were the slave-owners' party until the Civil War, the Ku Klux Klan and Jim Crow party after the Civil War, and the family-destroying welfare-rather-than-jobs party from LBJ down to Obama and Harris-Biden.

**Welfare State Is Destroying America**

**The welfare state is destroying America**

**Economist Walter Williams: Welfare state "destroyed"  
black family**

**How Social Welfare Works to Destroy the Black Family**

**Welfare and Feminism Destroyed the American Family**

**THE WELFARE STATE HAS DESTROYED THE BLACK FAMILY  
AND BLACK COMMUNITIES**

## THE CAIRCO REPORT

### Cloward–Piven strategy - fundamentally transforming America

#### What is the Cloward–Piven strategy?

The Cloward–Piven strategy was developed in 1966 by Americans Richard Cloward and Frances Fox Piven - both sociologists and political activists. The Cloward–Piven strategy focused on overloading the United States public welfare system in order to precipitate a crisis, which would ultimately lead to replacing the welfare system with a national system of "a guaranteed annual income and thus an end to poverty".

An ancillary consequence of the strategy includes shoring up of the Democratic Party, which at the time was splintered by pluralistic interests. Another side effect would be relieving local and state governments of public welfare burdens, since the burden would be shifted to the federal government - in other words, in a manifestation of socialism. Taxpayers, of course, would cover the cost in either case.

Cloward and Piven focused primarily on redistribution of income, stating that full enrollment in welfare programs:

***"would produce bureaucratic disruption in welfare agencies and fiscal disruption in local and state governments" that would: "...deepen existing divisions among elements in the big-city Democratic coalition: the remaining white middle class, the working-class ethnic groups and the growing minority poor. To avoid a further weakening of that historic coalition, a national Democratic administration would be constrained to advance a federal solution to poverty that would override local welfare failures, local class and racial conflicts and local revenue dilemmas."...***

***The ultimate objective of this strategy—to wipe out poverty by establishing a guaranteed annual income—will be questioned by some. Because the ideal of individual social and economic mobility has deep roots, even activists seem reluctant to call for national programs to eliminate poverty by the outright redistribution of income.***

## Near-term effects of the Cloward–Piven strategy

In a new 2010 introduction to the original article, Frances Fox Piven wrote in *The Nation*:

***Our objective was not, as later critics of the Glenn Beck variety later charged, to propose a strategy to bring down American capitalism. We were not so ambitious. But we did think that the minority poor and their allies might create sufficient disturbance to force reforms in the American income support programs. And we were not entirely wrong.***

Political commentator James McWhorter wrote in his 2006 book *Winning the Race* that the rise in the welfare state after the 1960s could be attributed to the Cloward Piven strategy. ***He reported that the strategy unfortunately "created generations of black people for whom working for a living is an abstraction."***

Whether or not the above point is wholly true, the strategy has affected change, as noted by Piven.

## Long-term effects of the Cloward–Piven strategy

The strategy, while originally intended to bring about a socialistic guaranteed national income, ***remains a viable way to transform an entire nation. Indeed, many of the changes we see in America today are consistent within the framework of the Cloward–Piven strategy.*** A few examples are provided below:

### 1965 Immigration Act

The [1965 Immigration Act](#) marked the turning point when American immigration was no longer managed for the American interest. In his article [The Collapse of America - A Plan Decades in the Making](#), David Risselada states:

***In my article "[Amnesty and the Immigration Act of 1965](#)", I discussed the origins of the immigration crisis we are now facing and how it was nothing but a plot to secure more voters for the Democrat Party. This was based on the ideas of [Marxism](#) and the teachings of [Antonio Gramsci](#), who taught that America's culture would have to be changed incrementally from within. The immigration act of 1965 was signed into law by Democrat President Lyndon B. Johnson. This is the***

*same president who promised Americas black communities free welfare for their votes...*

*At the time America's immigration laws were based on a quota system, meaning that immigrants from any part of the world were allowed in based on the number of existing immigrants already in country from that part of the world. This was done in an effort to maintain national identity and ensure that people with useful skills and a desire to assimilate into our culture would be the ones to immigrate here. This meant that most of the people who were immigrating here were of European ancestry and just as is the case today, people referred to this as a racist system...*

It should be noted that this act resulted in ever-increasing numbers of foreigners - both legal and illegal - entering America who would become dependent on America's generous taxpayer-paid welfare system.

## **2008 financial crisis**

From the article: [Chandler: The Cloward-Piven strategy](#), The Washington Times, October 15, 2008.

*There is plenty blame to go around for the financial crash. Yet, there is a distinct odor of the shadowy Cloward-Piven strategy as the taproot of abusive practices that triggered the crisis. The strategy's goal is to bring about the fall of capitalism by overloading and undermining government bureaucracy.*

*Its supporting tactics include flooding government with impossible demands until it slowly cranks to a stop; overloading electoral systems with successive tidal waves of new voters, many of them bogus; shaking down banks, politicians in Congress, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development for affirmative-action borrowing; and, now, pulling down the national financial system by demanding exotic, subprime mortgages for low-income Americans with little hope of repaying their loans. These toxic mortgages are an important source of the foul smell engulfing the entire financial bailout...*

*Stanley Kurtz of the Ethics and Public Policy Center explained that "community organizers help to undermine America's economy by pushing the banking system into a sink-hole of bad loans."...*

## 2014 Border crisis - Unaccompanied Alien Children

In Summer 2014, a massive influx of [unaccompanied alien children \(UACs\)](#) inundated our southern border. Barak Obama's immigration actions (or lack thereof) seemed to be an efficacious implementation of the Cloward–Piven strategy. Elizabeth Lee Vliet, M.D. warned that "Carried by this tsunami of illegals are the invisible "travelers" our politicians don't like to mention: diseases the U.S. had controlled or virtually eradicated: tuberculosis (TB), Chagas disease, dengue fever, hepatitis, malaria, measles, plus more."

Obama invited these minors into the US. He has virtually gutted America's immigration enforcement system, and has taken even more [outrageous executive actions](#). *Of course, both political parties are culpable, as there is an active bipartisan amnesty exponent in Congress.*

The 2014 border crisis was a manufactured crisis of the first order, which in the short term backfired. Virginia voters immediately fired House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA), predominantly because he signed on to the Republican amnesty plan and expressed intent to work with Obama on a "[Kids Act](#)" for [Dreamers](#). But the long-term damage remains.

## 2015 Syrian refugees - importing terrorism

After the November 2015 Paris Islamic terrorist attacks, Obama recommitted to bring Syrian "refugees" into the United States. This was notwithstanding the facts that a sizeable proportion are not from Syria, a majority are young men of military age, and that the U.S. government has no way to vet those coming in as "refugees".

Such refugees would become an additional burden on American taxpayers and could indeed comprise a very real terrorist threat.

Read more - see [Syrian refugees and national security](#) the [Refugee Resettlement](#) racket.

## The end result - fundamentally transforming America

In the 2014 article, [Why the White House Wants Amnesty](#), Ben Shapiro writes:

***Cloward-Piven's goal was to create impetus for government to guarantee a universal living. The modern Democratic Party is significantly less interested in guaranteed benefits than for an economic leveling. The motivating factor of the left is not caring for the poor but tearing down the wealthy...***

***And so the Democrats will move to bankrupt the system. No welfare state can survive with open borders. That is a truism. And yet that's exactly what Democrats are now promoting: open borders with a full welfare state. Why? Not because Democrats believe that the homegrown poor in America will be better off with more people joining them on the dole; they won't. Rather, Democrats love the size and scope of the state and despise the rival the state faces in individual success. A growing welfare base requires higher taxation, more degradation of individual success. That is the goal...***

The Cloward–Piven strategy remains an active instrument of change in America. Ultimately, it is the tool by which multicultural elites aim to "fundamentally transform America."

## References

[The Collapse of America - A Plan Decades in the Making](#), David Risselada, Freedom Outpost, July 16, 2014. (This article contains a many additional references.)

[The Cloward–Piven strategy](#), Richard Chandler, The Washington Times, October 15, 2008.

[The Weight of the Poor: A Strategy to End Poverty](#), Richard Cloward and Frances Piven, The Nation, March 8, 2010 (original 1966 article with updated introduction).

[The Weight of the Poor: A Strategy to End Poverty](#), Richard Cloward and Frances Piven, Common Dreams, March 24, 2010 (original 1966 article from The Nation).

[Bad News for Liberals May Be Good News for a Liberal Magazine](#), Jeremy W. Peters, The New York Times, November 7, 2010.

[John McWhorter: How Welfare Went Wrong](#) NPR, John McWhorter, August 9, 2006.

[Chandler: The Cloward-Piven strategy](#), Robert Chandler, The Washington Times, October 15, 2008.

[Cloward-Piven at the border](#), John Hayward, Human Events, June 10, 2014.

[Unaccompanied Alien Children \(UAC\) - Illegal alien kiddie colonists invited by Obama administration](#), CAIRCO, August 21, 2014.

[Deadly diseases crossing border with illegals](#), Elizabeth Lee Vliet, M.D., World Net Daily, June 20, 2014.

[Colorado won't block Syrian refugees](#), November 17, 2015.

[Syrian refugees and national security](#).

The [Refugee Resettlement](#) racket.

## [\*\*The Cloward-Piven Strategy: Orchestrating A Crisis So Government Can "Solve" It\*\*](#)

### [\*\*Frances Fox Piven vs. Milton Friedman, Thomas Sowell\*\*](#)

### [\*\*Milton Friedman vs. Frances Fox Piven on Free Enterprise\*\*](#)

### [\*\*Thomas Sowell Dismantles Egalitarianism \(Frances Fox Piven Edition\)\*\*](#)