



MANHATTAN INSTITUTE FOR POLICY RESEARCH

PRESS RELEASE:

January 31, 2011

Contact: Kasia Zabawa,
Deputy Director of Communications
(646) 839-3342
kzabawa@manhattan-institute.org

***Which historically segregated cities have changed the most?
How has access to credit affected integration of neighborhoods?
What roles have immigration and gentrification played in the decline of segregation?***

The End of the Segregated Century

New York, NY: On Tuesday, January 31, 2011, the Manhattan Institute's Center for State and Local Leadership released "[The End of the Segregated Century: Racial Separation in America's Neighborhood, 1890-2010.](#)" Authored by MI senior fellow and Harvard professor of economics Edward Glaeser and MI adjunct fellow and Duke University professor Jacob Vigdor, the report focuses on the pervasive decline in segregation that occurred during the first decade of the twenty-first century.

The report's key findings include the following:

- **American cities are now more integrated than they've been since 1910.** Segregation rose dramatically with black migration to cities in the mid-twentieth century. On average, this rise has been entirely erased by integration since the 1960s.
- **All-white neighborhoods are effectively extinct.** A half-century ago, one-fifth of America's urban neighborhoods had exactly zero black residents. Today, African-American residents can be found in 199 out of every 200 neighborhoods nationwide. The remaining neighborhoods are mostly in remote rural areas or in cities with very little black population.
- **Gentrification and immigration have made a dent in segregation.** While these phenomena are clearly important in some areas, the rise of black suburbanization explains much more of the decline in segregation.
- **Ghetto neighborhoods persist, but most are in decline.** For every diversifying ghetto neighborhood, many more house a dwindling population of black residents.

The decline in segregation carries with it several lessons relevant to public policy debates.

- **The end of segregation has not caused the end of racial inequality.** Only a few decades ago, conventional wisdom held that segregation was the driving force behind socioeconomic inequality. The persistence of inequality, even as segregation has receded, suggests that inequality is a far more complex phenomenon.
- **Access to credit has fostered mobility.** At a time when proposed regulations threaten to eliminate the market for lending to marginal borrowers, it is important to recognize that there are costs and benefits associated with tightening credit standards.
- **The freedom to choose one's location has helped reduce segregation.** Segregation has declined in part because African-Americans left older, more segregated, cities and moved to less segregated Sun Belt cities and suburbs. This process occurred despite some public attempts to keep people in these older areas.

To read the report visit http://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/cr_66.htm. To speak with Edward Glaeser or Jacob Vigdor, please contact Kasia Zabawa at (646) 839-3342 or by email at kzabawa@manhattan-institute.org.

Edward Glaeser is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, contributing editor of *City Journal*, a contributor to *The New York Times'* Economix blog, and the Fred and Eleanor Glimp Professor of Economics at Harvard University, where he has taught since 1992. He is director of the Taubman Center for State and Local Government and director of the Rappaport

Institute of Greater Boston. Glaeser teaches urban and social economics and microeconomic theory. He has published dozens of papers on cities, economic growth, and law and economics. Glaeser also edits the Quarterly Journal of Economics. His book, *Triumph of the City: How Our Greatest Invention Makes Us Richer, Smarter, Greener, Healthier, and Happier*, (The Penguin Press, 2011) was published in 2011. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1992.

Jacob Vigdor, Ph.D is an adjunct fellow at the Manhattan Institute, a professor of public policy and economics at Duke University, a faculty research fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research, and an external research fellow at the Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration. His research interests are in the broad areas of immigration, education policy, housing policy, and political economy. Within those areas, he has published numerous scholarly articles in outlets such as *The Journal of Political Economy*, *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, *The Journal of Public Economics*, *The Journal of Human Resources*, and *The Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*. He received a B.S. in policy analysis from Cornell University in 1994 and a Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University in 1999.

The Manhattan Institute, a 501(c)(3), is a think tank whose mission is to develop and disseminate new ideas that foster greater economic choice and individual responsibility.
www.manhattan-institute.org