

A complex network diagram with various sized nodes (black, blue, grey) and connecting lines, overlaid on a background of faint, light blue circular patterns.

Mathematics and Redistricting

Trinity College, Spring 2021 (Kyle Evans)

The Color of Law

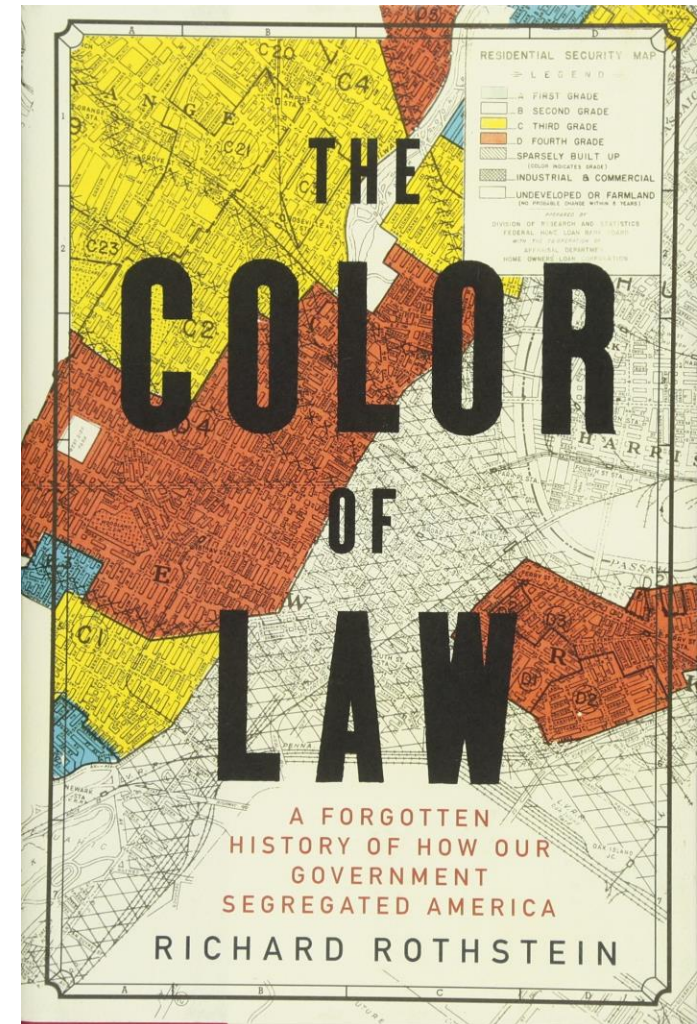
By Richard Rothstein (2017)

- details the systematic policies that led to residential segregation by race through the history of the United States
- Fair Housing Act (1968) part of Civil Rights legislation (along with Voting Rights Act of 1965) that have a relationship with redistricting and racial gerrymandering

The Color of Law

Policies that contributed to housing discrimination:

- Public Housing
- Racial Zoning
- Banking/Loans
- Restrictive Covenants
- Blockbusting
- Interstate Highways
- Schools



Fair Housing Act & Impacts today

- Fair Housing Act (1968) prohibited private discrimination in housing
- More *de facto* school segregation today than 40 years ago
- Hard to undo the damage of residential segregation:
 - Generational wealth
 - Suburban homes appreciated in price (furthering racial wealth gap)
 - “Low-income” housing built in already segregated neighborhoods
 - African-Americans already missed opportunity for low-cost housing that became valuable
- Affordability remains the biggest issue today
 - Whites more often homeowners, African-Americans more often renters

On The Line

- Open-source book by Jack Dougherty (Educational Studies) plus student collaborators on history of Hartford-area housing

<https://ontheline.trincoll.edu/>

On The Line



**How Schooling, Housing,
and Civil Rights Shaped
Hartford and its Suburbs**



Hartford's evolution

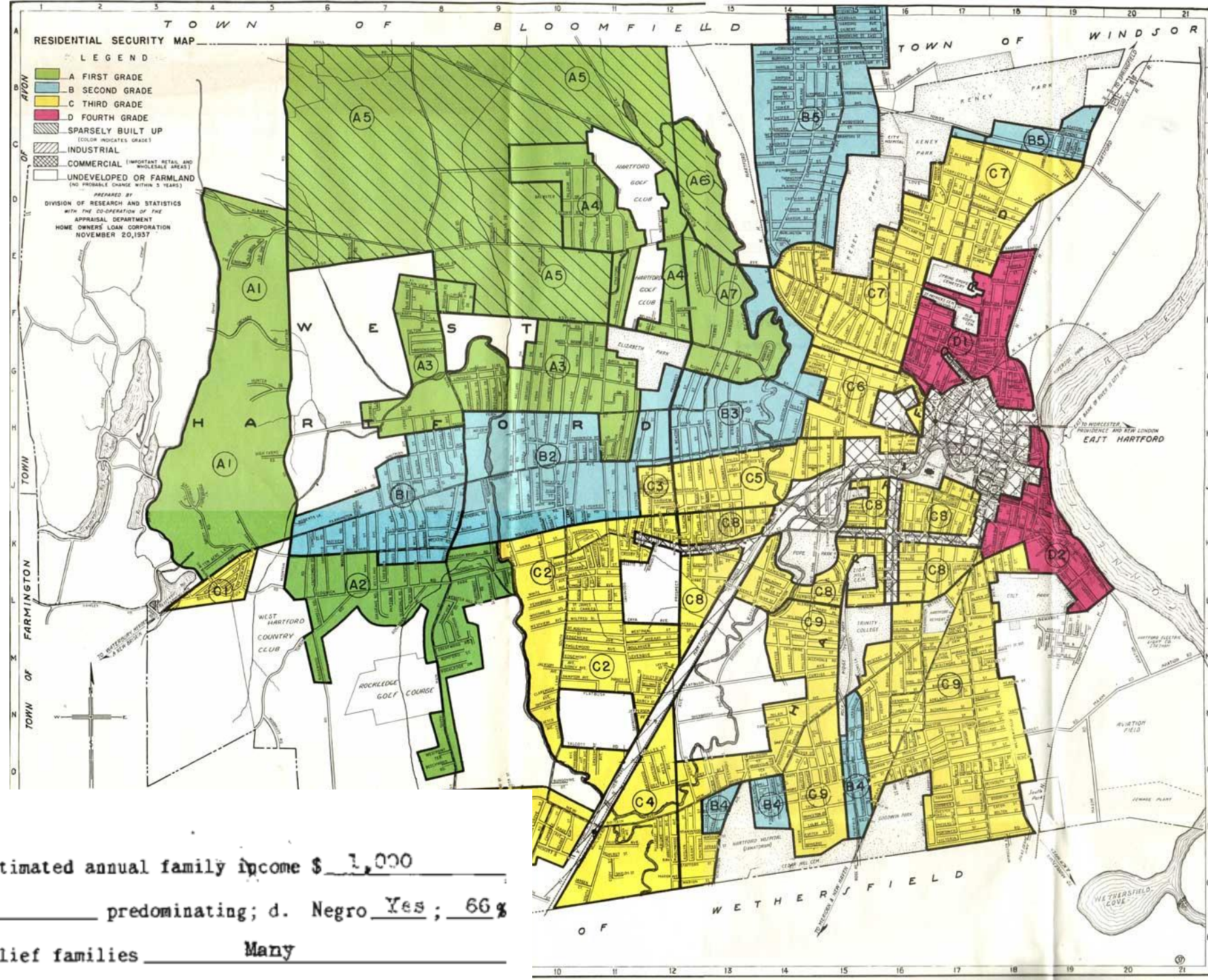
- In the late 1800s, Hartford known as “richest city in the nation”
 - Insurance companies (The Hartford and Aetna)
 - Colt's Arms Manufacturing
 - Culture – Mark Twain, Harriet Beecher Stowe, schools
- By 2000, Hartford known as second-poorest city yet surrounding metropolitan area one of top 10 richest in the country

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- By 2000, Hartford known as second-poorest city yet surrounding metropolitan area one of top 10 richest in the country
- Why? Housing opportunities, new attractive schools, white flight, interstate highways, job migration, etc. all contributed to pushing money to suburbs

“Redlining”

Residential Security map of Hartford in 1930's – mortgage risk rated based on race/ethnicity/ social class of each neighborhood

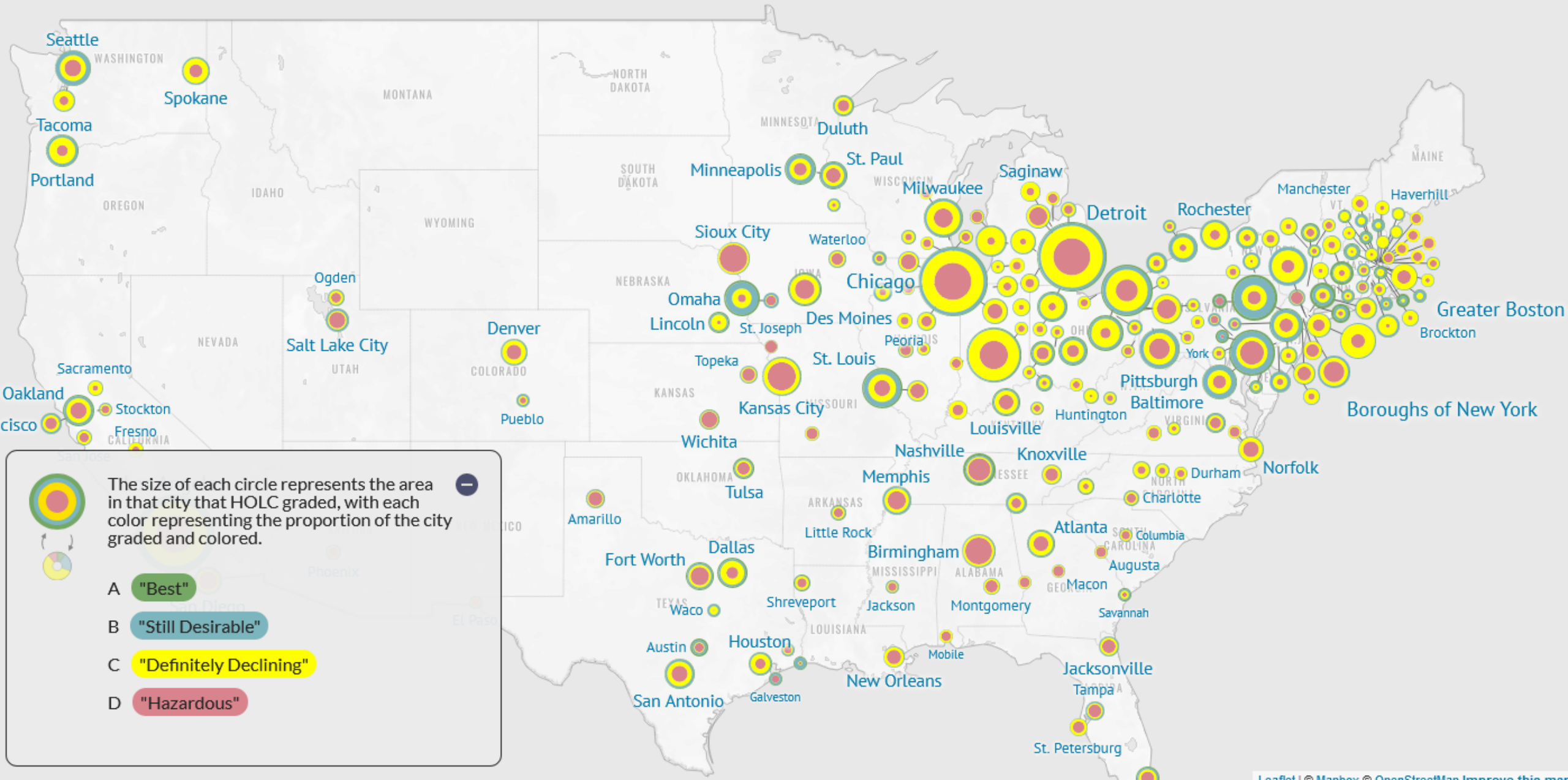


Area D-1

INHABITANTS:

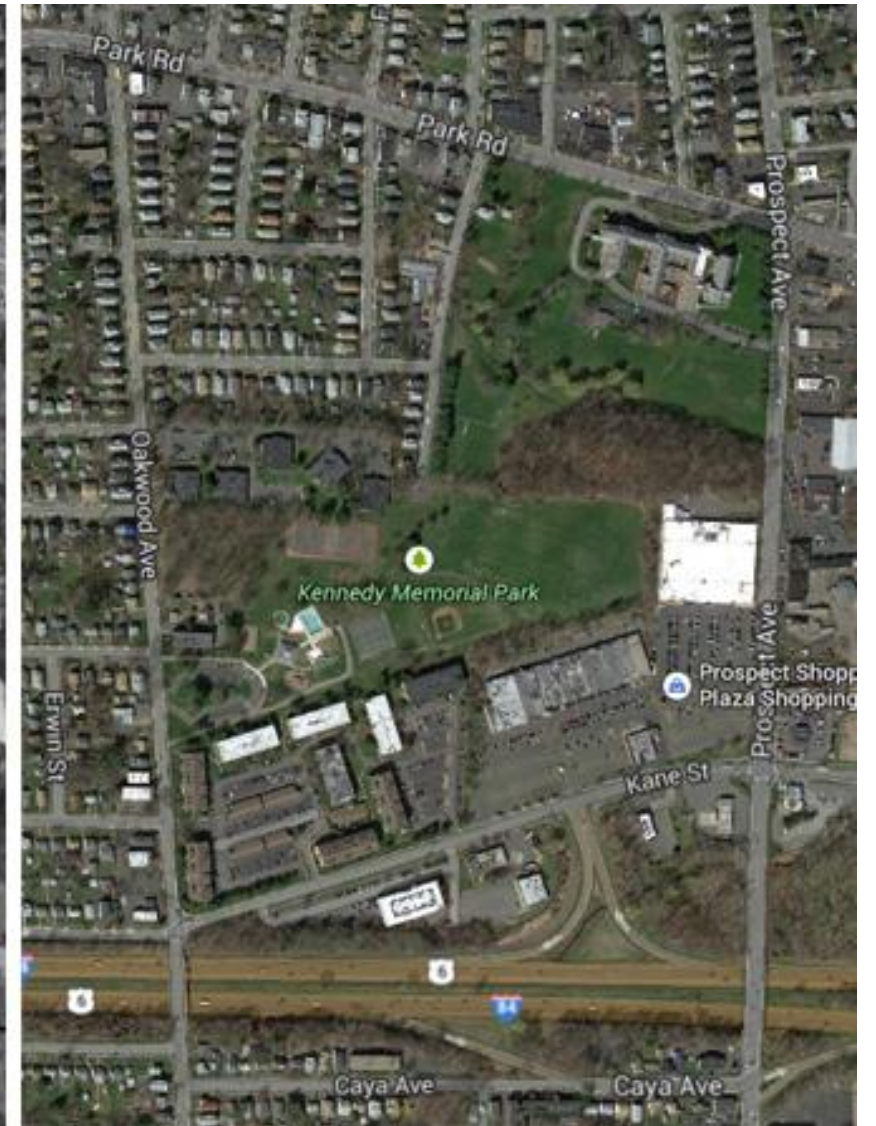
- a. Occupation Laborers & domestics; b. Estimated annual family income \$ 1,000
- c. Foreign-born families 34 %; Italians predominating; d. Negro Yes; 66 %
- e. Infiltration of Some; f. Relief families Many

map options + -



The case of Oakwood Acres Housing Tract in West Hartford

Wartime housing in the 1940s



Housing Policy in CT Today

- Wealth barriers supported by government policies
- Exclusionary zoning
 - Minimum lot size for multifamily buildings
 - Maximum density of units per acre
 - [Connecticut Zoning Initiative](#)

Housing Policy in CT Today

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- Zoning Reform
 - [Desegregate Connecticut](#)
 - Increase equity and diversity in communities
 - Increase supply to meet demand, want to increase state's population
 - Protect environment by reducing sprawl and carbon emissions

Housing Policy in CT Today

- SB 1024 – Bill in current session about zoning policies in CT
 - Allow Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) anywhere and for anyone to live in them
 - Standardizing design codes for buildings and streets
 - Limit parking space requirements
 - More training for land use commissioners
 - Explicit definition of “character” in zoning codes
 - Modernize sewer and traffic standards
- In original bill
 - Allow 2-4 family housing units built in “Main Street” areas of towns
 - Transit-oriented development – multi-family housing units within area of public transit stations
- Zoning reform across the country
 - MA passed Housing Choice – multi-family housing allowed within area of T stations

Connection to Redistricting

- Zoning laws naturally shape the way political districts are drawn
 - More multi-family housing units = more people in a compact area
- History of segregation through zoning shaped locations of minority communities
 - Racial gerrymandering and majority-minority districts
- Housing and zoning reform plus new construction could lead to more diverse communities, naturally impacting composition of districts
- Zoning laws and population shifts can also impact legislators serving the needs of their constituents