

A complex network diagram with various sized nodes (black, blue, grey) connected by thin grey lines. Some nodes are highlighted with larger circles. The background is white with faint grey circular patterns.

Mathematics and Redistricting

Trinity College, Fall 2021 (Kyle Evans)

The Color of Law

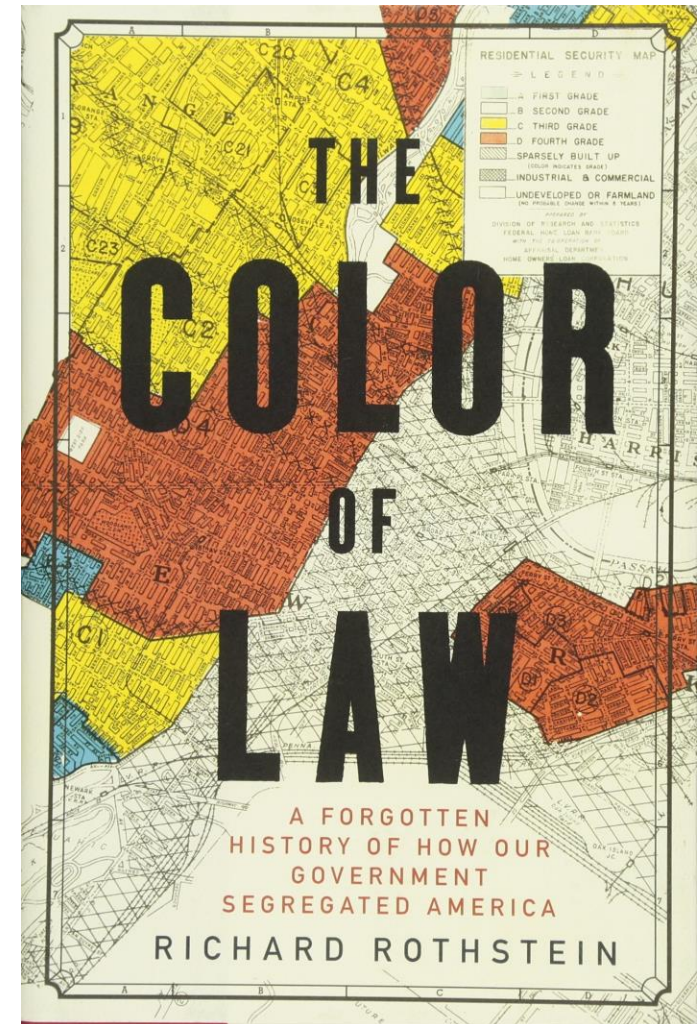
By Richard Rothstein (2017)

- 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
- main argument is that residential segregation today is *de jure* (by law and public policy) rather than *de facto* (from private practices)

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

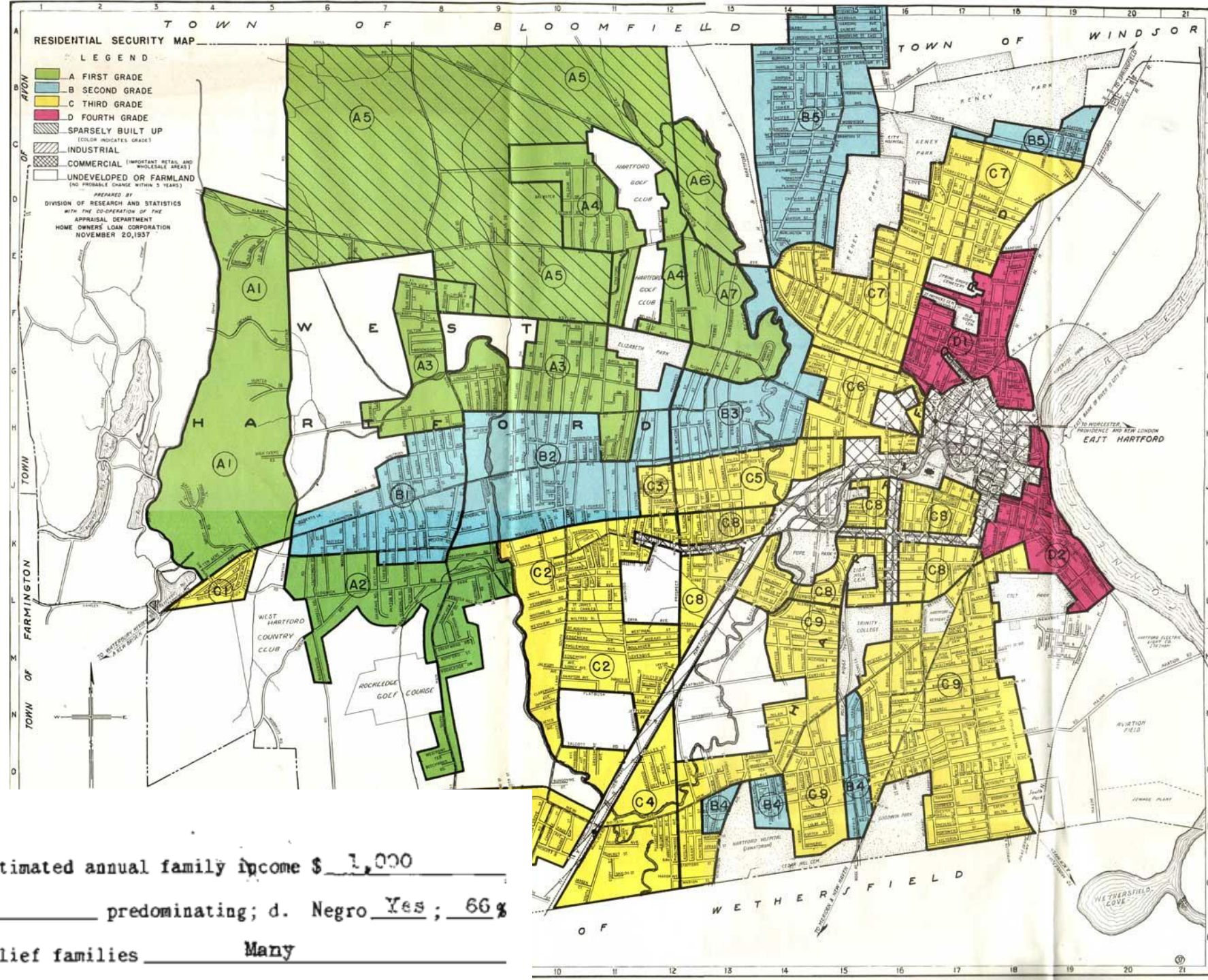
- In the late 1800s, Hartford known as “richest city in the nation”
 - Insurance companies (The Hartford and Aetna)
 - Colt's Arms Manufacturing
 - Culture – Mark Twain, Harriet Beecher Stowe, schools
- By 2000, Hartford known as second-poorest city yet surrounding metropolitan area one of top 10 richest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

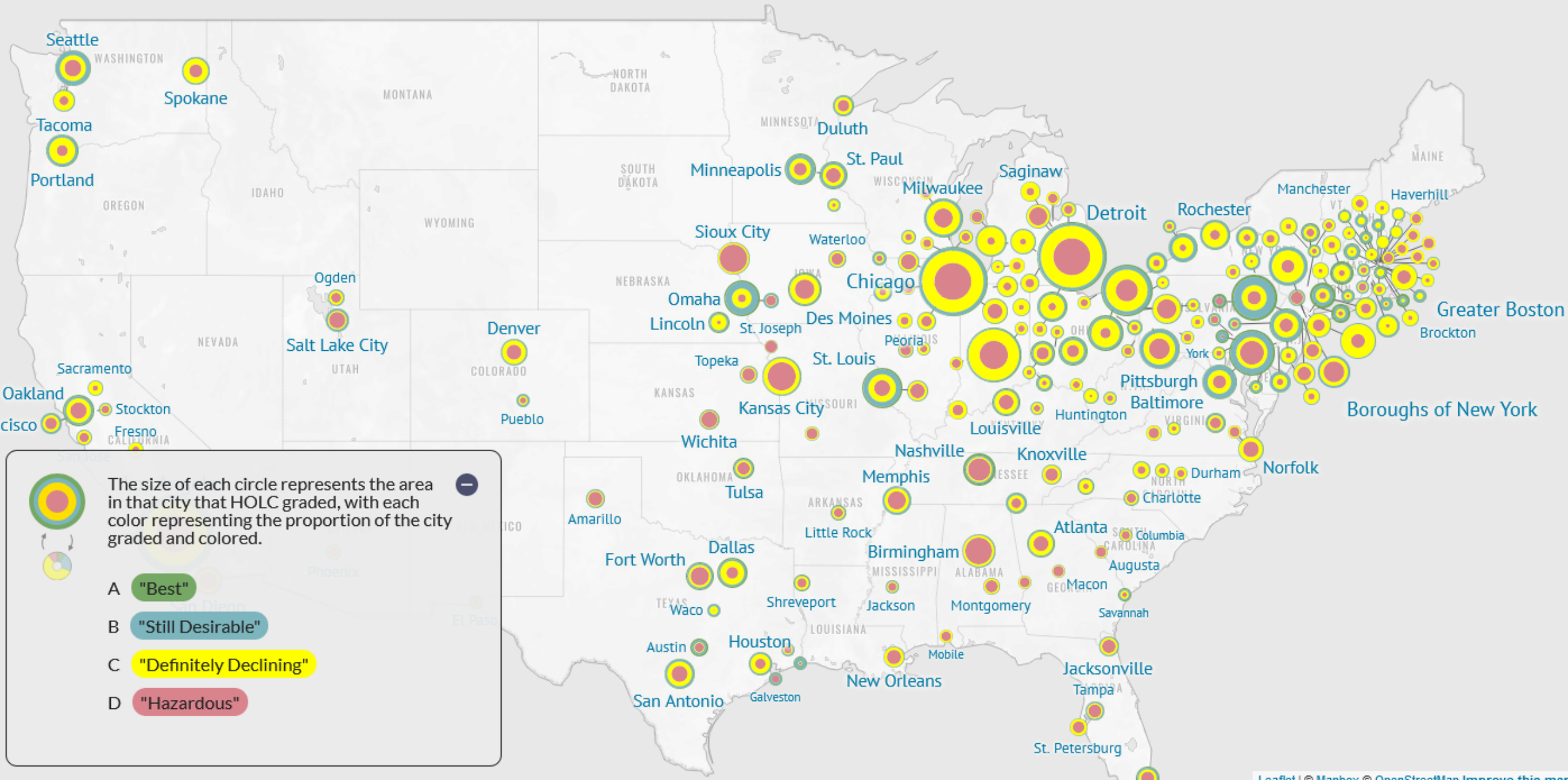


Area D-1

INHABITANTS:

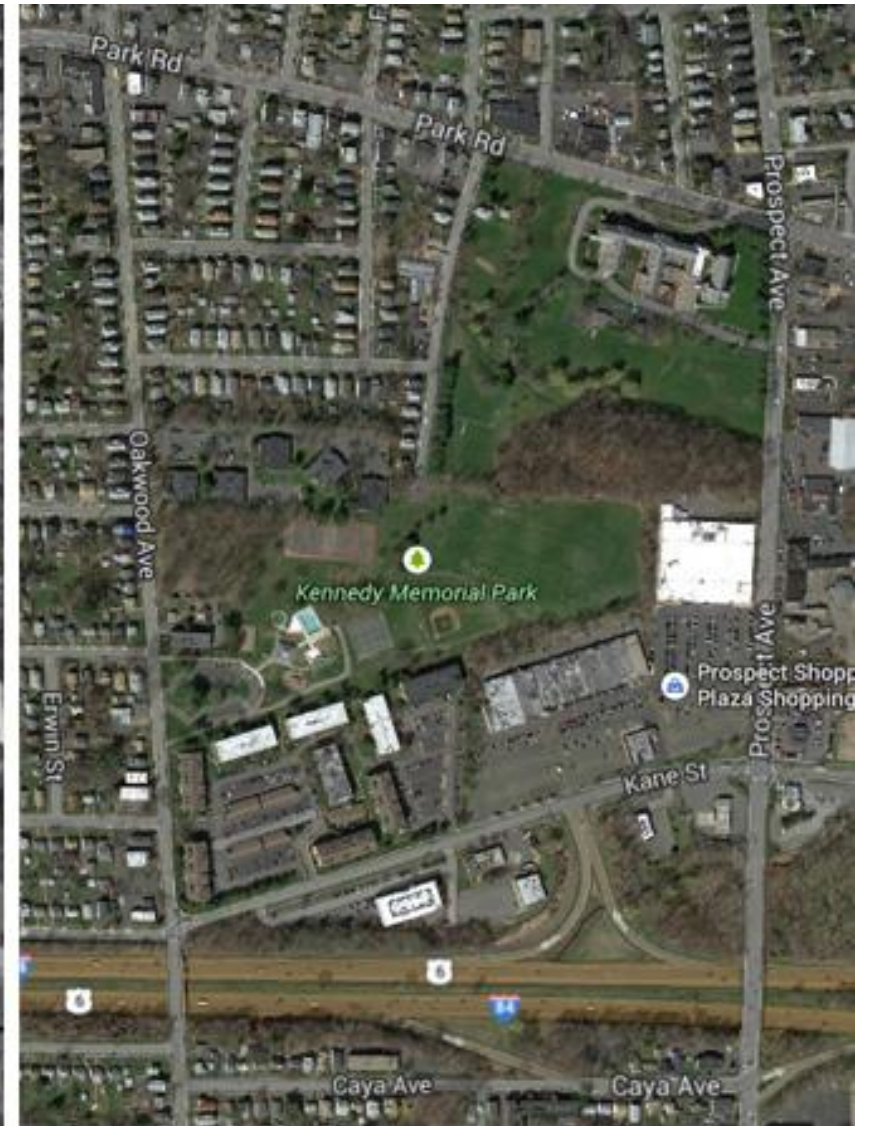
- a. Occupation Laborers & domestics; b. Estimated annual family income \$ 1,000
- c. Foreign-born families 34 %; Italians predominating; d. Negro Yes; 66 %
- e. Infiltration of Some; f. Relief families Many

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](#)

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- Wealth barriers supported by government policies
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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