

Contested Majority: The Representation Of The White Working Class In Us Politics From The 1930s To The 1990s

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Abstract

This dissertation examines the representation of the white working class in US politics from the 1930s to the 1990s: how politicians, journalists, pollsters, pundits, political commentators, social movement groups, and others have studied, written about, and claimed to speak for white working class people and how this work has shaped American politics. Most existing literature on the role of the white working class in American politics has examined political opinion and political identity formation among white working class people, too often treating the "white working class" as a homogenous group with uniform political views. This project takes a different approach, focused on elite engagement with the white working class as a social and political category. It traces how prominent elite-level understandings of white working class identity, politics, and culture—from progressive workers combating economic elites to culturally conservative "Middle Americans" opposed to liberalism—emerged and impacted political contestation. In doing so, it stresses the importance of the white working class as a political symbol, one that has consistently been at the center of conflict around fundamental issues in US politics, including the nature of privilege and disadvantage, challenges to racial, gender, and class inequality, the state's sphere of responsibility, and the contours of national identity.

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There are two opposing historic images of the Depression in 1930s Britain - poverty and prosperity. While many people were left unemployed in poor accommodation, others managed to grow their wealth. Part of. This created a depression across the rest of the world. Unemployment. Unemployment in Britain rose to 2.5 million (25 per cent of the workforce) in 1933. Worst hit were the areas of heavy industry (eg coal, iron, steel, shipbuilding) in Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the north of England. These industries were already struggling because they had not modernised after the war and had been badly affected by competition from other countries. The Depression meant that now these industries crumbled. In the 1930s, the National Negro Congress brought blacks into the newly formed United Steel Workers, and the union paid attention to the particular demands of African Americans. The NAACP assisted the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the largest black labor organization of its day. In the 1940s, the United Auto Workers, with NAACP encouragement, made overtures to black workers. The NAACP's successful fight against the Democratic white primary in the South was more than a bid for inclusion; it was a stiff challenge to what was in fact a regional one-party dictatorship. Concept and history of multiculturalism in US Politics More at: www.sneps.net. Often, traditionalists claim to espouse the 'will of the silent majority', and

hence seek to legitimise themselves through populist democracy. On the other hand, liberals including white progressives and their ethnic allies - have often been in the minority on cultural issues. In addition, they have tended to wield little power outside the nation's larger cities. We also chart the opposition from sections of the influential (and largely Catholic or Jewish) East Coast intelligentsia. Finally, we note the stalemate between multiculturalists and their opponents, as reflected in the policies of the Clinton and Bush administrations. The 1990 US Census Public Use Microdata Sample listed "Caucasian" or "Aryan" ancestry responses as subgroups of "white"[7] but the 2005 PUMS codes do not.[8] In U.S. census documents, the designation white or Caucasian may overlap with the term Hispanic, which was introduced in the 1980 census as a category of ethnicity, separate and independent of race.[9]. A statistical analysis done in 1958 estimated that 21 percent of the white population had African ancestors. The study concluded that the majority of Americans of African descent were actually white and not black.[11]. Hispanic Americans[edit]. Hispanic Americans are Americans who have a significant number of Spanish-speaking Latin American ancestors or Spanish ancestors. Descriptive Representation, Money, and Political Inequality in the United States. *Swiss Political Science Review*, Vol. 21, Issue. 2, p. 222. 1977. "The Ruling Class Does Not Rule: Notes on the Marxist Theory of the State." *Socialist Revolution* 7(3): 6–28. Block, Fred. "A Set of Independent Necessary and Sufficient Conditions for Simple Majority Decisions." *Econometrica* 20: 680–84. McChesney, Fred S. 1997.