

The Strip & Flip Disaster of America's Stolen Elections

Updated "Trump" Edition of
Strip & Flip Selection of 2016

Robert J. Fitrakis and Harvey Wasserman

CICJ BOOKS

Columbus, Ohio

Copyright©2017 Fitrakis & Wasserman

**Published by CICJ BOOKS
& The Educational Publisher Inc.
Columbus, Ohio**

ISBN: 978-1-62249-391-3

**Copyright ©2017
Bob Fitrakis & Harvey Wasserman
All Rights Reserved**

**Published in the United States of America by CICJ Books
Columbus Institute for Contemporary Journalism,
a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
1021 E. Broad Street, Columbus Ohio 43205
www.freepress.org
www.solartopia.org**

**Printed by Zip Publishing
1091 W. 1st Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43212
The Educational Publisher
www.EduPublisher.com
www.BiblioPublishing.com**

Contents

Prologue	1
Part One: “Strip”	4
The First Jim Crow	9
The Second Jim Crow	14
The Third Jim Crow	26
Part Two: “Flip”	40
The Fourth Jim Crow	40
The Fifth Jim Crow	58
The Electronic Selection of 2000	65
The Help American Vote Act of 2002	71
The “All the Above” Selection of 2004	73
Ohio	75
Post 2004 Ohio Election	90
Electronic Election Theft Since 2004	99
The Obama Era: The 2008 and 2012 Elections, and the Hollowing Out of the Democratic Party	114
The Disaster of 2016	125
Part One: The Primaries	126
Part Two: The General Election	132
A Post-Democracy America?	136
APPENDIX 2016 Election	138
Is the 2016 election already being stripped & flipped? by Bob Fittrakis and Harvey Wasserman MARCH 31, 2016	139

Is Hillary Stealing the Nomination? Will Bernie Birth a Long-Term Movement? by Bob Fitrakis and Harvey Wasserman APRIL 29, 2016	143
She Won! Abolish the Electoral College by Bob Fitrakis and Harvey Wasserman NOVEMBER 10, 2016	152
The Real Story of the Recount by Bob Fitrakis and Harvey Wasserman JANUARY 4, 2017	155
Postscript: Global Hackers & the Russians Have Made Hand-Counted Paper Ballots an Issue of Urgent National Security by Bob Fitrakis and Harvey Wasserman	165
About Bob Fitrakis and Harvey Wasserman	170

Prologue

The disaster of America's 2016 election was defined by three basic elements: the stripping of very large numbers of eligible American citizens from the voter rolls; the flipping of electronic vote counts; and the Electoral College.

These poisons have been with us in various manifestations since the birth of our nation. They have undermined our democracy and plunged our country into dire authoritarian straits.

They've determined not just the presidency but the makeup of the US Congress, the Supreme Court and overall judiciary, city, state and local governments, and much more.

They've taken control of our government away from the people and handed it to a cynical band of manipulative corporatists who have stripped our voter rolls and flipped our electronic outcomes, with disastrous results.

This book outlines the historic roots of this disaster, including the systemic disenfranchisement (mostly by race) of large sections of the American electorate through the birth of slavery, the Revolution, the Civil War, birth of Jim Crow segregation and beyond.

It also provides a set of answers: We need to win universal automatic voter registration; transparent voter rolls; a four-day national holiday for voting; ample locations for all citizens to conveniently cast ballots; universal hand-counted paper ballots;

Fitrakis & Wasserman

automatic recounts free to all candidates; abolition of the Electoral College; an end to gerrymandering; a ban on corporate money in our campaigns.

There's more. But that's a good start.

In 2016, some 29 Republican secretaries of state used a computer program called Crosscheck to strip countless citizens from the voter rolls. Most were black, Hispanic, Asian-American and Muslim non-millionaires.

Hillary Clinton actually won the official national vote count by some 2,800,000 ballots. She also won the exit polls in five key swing states (Florida, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin) that would have given her a victory in the Electoral College.

Democratic candidates for the US Senate also won the exit polls in three key races—Pennsylvania, Missouri and Wisconsin—that would have given them control of the US Senate. They also won three such races in 2014—in Colorado, Alaska and North Carolina. Having lost the Senate seats in those six states, the Democrats lost control of the US Supreme Court.

The Jim Crow stripping of the voter rolls made the difference in those races.

Meanwhile more than 80% of those who survive the stripping process cast their votes on electronic machines or on Scantron ballots, mostly counted by scanners with no verification process.

Finally, where that was not enough, the Electoral College flipped the presidential outcome.

The Strip & Flip Disaster of America's Stolen Elections

In characteristic fashion, Donald Trump denounced his popular vote defeat by falsely claiming some three million “aliens” had actually voted for Hillary Clinton, denying him a popular majority. He loudly and repeatedly said the election was “rigged.”

Indeed it was, but in exactly the opposite way Trump said. He was in fact put in the White House through the Jim Crow disenfranchisement of countless Americans who were stripped from the voter rolls because of their race and class. Since that was not enough, the outcome was then flipped by electronic voting machines. And finally it was certified by an Electoral College designed to enhance the power of slaveowners.

How did this happen? What are the five Jim Crows? How do we get rid of them? What can we do to make sure this never happens again?

Part One: “Strip”

The foundation of the American corporate power elite is now and always has been based on the manipulation of race as a “divide and conquer” strategy. It has focused on Five Jim Crows.

The First Jim Crow, slavery, has existed in various forms from the dawn of time. But in the colonies of British North America, and then in the United States, it took on a uniquely virulent incarnation.

Chattel slavery was of course a horrific, brutal labor system, designed primarily in the American South to power a network of plantations that produced tobacco, cotton, indigo, rice and other hot weather crops that could be grown in large fields.

But it also had a large, more sinister purpose. Our “peculiar institution” was meant to divide black laborers from white in a caste system that would guarantee they’d never unite in rebellion. As we’ll see, this originated with the infamous Bacon’s Rebellion of 1675 in Virginia, in which indentured servants of both races joined forces. Plantation owners vowed to make sure that never happened again.

When the United States became an independent country, plantation owners also vowed to secure political benefit from their slaves. Thus, they wrote into the Constitution a “3/5ths clause” that gave slave owners additional representation for their slaves, even though those slaves could not vote. That additional vote count guaranteed that every president from Jefferson to Lincoln

either owned slaves or his vice president did. And that the Congress was strongly controlled by slave owners right up to the outbreak of the Civil War.

After the Civil War, with formal slavery abolished, a second “Jim Crow” system of racial segregation overtook the South. Enforced by the Democratic Party and its Ku Klux Klan terror wing, white landowners updated the realities of slavery to again keep blacks and whites apart. The root of racism since 1865 has been the treatment of legally freed African-Americans as something less than human, guaranteeing all whites a sense of superiority and an economic leg up. When the Populist and Socialist movements that campaigned most powerfully from the 1880s to 1930s worked to overcome this separation, they were hammered by the court and electoral systems through a series of stolen elections and twisted, race-based legal decisions, and the fusion of the Democratic and Republican Parties in the 1917 municipal races in the Northeast.

Confirmed by the Supreme Court in the 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson decision, this updated Jim Crow caste system again guaranteed that blacks in the South (and parts of the North) would not be allowed to vote, and that they would be carefully divided from whites by caste as well as class.

Since 1970 the primary weapon for suppressing the non-white/non-millionaire vote has been the third Jim Crow, the Drug War. In the tradition of Bacon's Rebellion and the Populist/Socialist upheavals, blacks and whites once again began to unite during the Civil Rights and anti-war movements of the 1950s and 1960s.

In response, Richard Nixon's Republican Party invoked the divide-and-conquer “War on Drugs.” Confronted with the possible

integration and liberalization of the southern Democratic Party, Nixon feared that black votes might remake America's political map.

In GOP eyes there was only one solution: disenfranchise the African- American population, along with young and Latino voters who were leaning strongly to the left.

In 1972 Nixon pointedly ignored a powerful report from his own Blue Ribbon Shafer Commission on drug use and escalated the attack on marijuana and other drugs. In the 45 years since, a staggering 41 million Americans have been arrested for pot and other controlled substances. That's a number of human beings that exceeds the populations of more than 150 other countries worldwide. It has left the United States with the largest prison population in the history of the modern world (while having little or no impact on the actual use of drugs).

As Michelle Alexander has shown in her landmark book *The New Jim Crow*, the majority of those incarcerated have been black and Latino, with a devastating impact on our elections. Millions of these mostly young, mostly male citizens have been stripped of their right to vote, as well as their ability to maintain families, obtain work and meaningfully participate in the political lives of their communities.

All this has been by design. Once again, a new Jim Crow policy has been delegated by a ruling elite to strip our non-white population of its ability to exercise its fair share of power in our electoral process, and to unite with whites in political action.

In the 1890s, rising industrial interests committed the nation to a fourth Jim Crow, a course of race-based global empire. The US already had a history of foreign intervention, dating to Thomas

The Strip & Flip Disaster of America's Stolen Elections

Jefferson's 1803 use of our fledgling navy to fight pirates along the coast (the "shores of Tripoli") of what's now Libya. That was followed by the conquest of the North American continent, with genocidal warfare used against the indigenous peoples who'd lived here for millennia.

By the 1890s, with the frontier consumed, America's giant corporations began to expand overseas. They started with Hawaii (a constitutional monarchy dating back many centuries) and then pushed into Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Philippines and beyond. In all cases these interventions involved the white-ruled US interfering with the political systems of non-white nations.

In discussing this fourth Jim Crow we include an extensive (though not complete) list of these interventions. It underscores the reality that our own political system has become an imperial juggernaut, with the inevitable blowback bound to obliterate any residual pretense to real democracy at home.

Generally there's been an attempt to portray these interventions as benign, meant to bring "civilization," democracy, progress and the Christian faith to Third World nations. In fact, they've been largely economic in purpose – a "Dollar Diplomacy" meant to grab for our major corporations new frontiers for cheap resources, exploited labor and expanded markets.

Their impact on our own political system has been catastrophic. They've established the US as a corporate-ruled race-based empire, fueling the growth of a military whose intrinsic power overshadows our entire electoral process.

And they've given our intelligence operations, most importantly from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), a long history of overturning elections and stripping mostly non-white nations of

their right to self-rule. At the US Senate's landmark Church hearings in the 1970s, the Agency admitted to at least 5,000 such interventions in just the quarter-century since the end of World War II.

This fifth Jim Crow, an entrenched tradition of contempt for the democratic process overseas came home electronically in 1988, when former CIA chief George Herbert Walker Bush won a statistically impossible New Hampshire primary victory over Bob Dole on newly installed computer voting machines.

Overall, with more than 900 military bases, and troops or military advisors in 175 countries worldwide, the militarization of our own political processes has become entrenched. Perfected covert and overt techniques of stripping our non-white constituencies of their rights have become an integral part of all American elections.

All that has set the stage for the electronic stripping of our elections.

In the meantime, each of these five original Jim Crows has devastated America's ability to evolve and thrive. They have stripped our ability to function as an integrated, advanced body of human beings. They need, once and for all, to be stripped from our national election system and replaced with one that truly reflects the will of our people. In the long run, the only cure for authoritarian corruption is democracy, and it's to that process that this book is dedicated.

The First Jim Crow:

Slavery and the 3/5ths Clause

For 400 years, race and slavery have divided and conquered us.

In 1619, about a score of Africans were brought to Jamestown as indentured servants. Working conditions were harsh, but their basic human rights were assumed. Most achieved freedom. At least one eventually employed other workers.

As historian Lerone Benette, Jr., has put it:

Before Jim Crow, before the invention of the Negro or the white man or the words and concepts to describe them, the Colonial population consisted largely of a great mass of white and black bondsmen, who occupied roughly the same economic category and were treated with equal contempt by the lords of the plantations and legislatures. Curiously unconcerned about their color, these people worked together and relaxed together.

But then black and white indentured servants united in the 1675 Bacon's Rebellion. They burned Jamestown and forced the governor to flee.

In response, to make sure nothing like that ever happened again, Virginia landowners invented America's "peculiar institution."

It was a technically a labor system. But its more specific function was to separate the races, to make sure black and white never again united in rebellion.

Essentially a “bribe” to the whites, American chattel slavery cast blacks into an abyss of sub-human barbarity. Legally, they (and their children) became mere objects, sub-human slaves for life. White “owners” could sell, torture, rape and murder their black “property” with no legal penalties.

Various theological claptrap was soon invented to make this a "Christian" and "moral" practice, allegedly approved by the Bible. Whites also invented the myth that somehow slaves were "happy" under a system of tyranny that absolutely forbade them the least bit of freedom under penalty of torture and death.

The lie to all that was found in Slave Codes meant to completely degrade African immigrants and their progeny. The Codes gave whites a higher status that would permanently divide the races. No longer would whites and blacks be allowed to work, play, love or rebel together.

Poor whites could now tower (and cower) over a “slave caste.” The Jim Crow abyss still gives many the illusion of “superiority” to which they cling with fear and desperation. Those who wonder at the longevity of racism must always remember that this is what gives even the most destitute, desperate and self-hating white person a sense of being better than at least someone else on this Earth.

In 1787, as slavery persisted even after the Revolution, the wealthy white men who drafted the US Constitution were primarily bankers, merchants, lawyers, military men, large farm operators

The Strip & Flip Disaster of America's Stolen Elections

and slave owners. Many had a vested financial and political interest in the continued subjugation of black America.

Mostly against their will, a public suspicious of a strong central government forced the Founders to concede a Bill of Rights. But voting rights and procedures were left largely to the states.

It was clear at the time that few immigrants would come to a region dominated by slave labor. So to protect their interests in a nation where they were being rapidly outnumbered, southerners got an Electoral College that included a "3/5ths clause." Slaves (who could not vote themselves) were counted for 3/5ths of a vote for president and in establishing Congressional districts.

Thus all presidents from Washington to Lincoln either owned slaves or their vice presidents did. With additional representation, the South dominated the House of Representatives.

The festering sore on which it all rested was the Slave Codes:

- Enslaved African-Americans were stripped of all human rights. "Owners" and other whites were free to sell, rape, torture and kill enslaved black Americans without legal penalties.
- In many colonies and then states, it became illegal for free whites or blacks to socialize with enslaved African-Americans.
- Racial intermarriage was illegal in many states until the 1960s.
- Slaves could not speak to whites (or to free blacks) without permission of their "owners."
- Slaves could not testify in court except against other slaves.
- Slaves could not own property.
- Slaves could not earn their own wages, or buy or sell anything.
- Three slaves could not gather together without white supervision.

- Slaves could not travel outside plantations without a pass from their owners.
- Slaves could not marry and had no rights pertaining to their children, which could be sold away from them without a moment's notice.
- It was a capital crime for even a white "owner" to teach a slave to read, or for one to read even the Bible.
- "The Great Fear" ruling class whites embedded in the Slave Codes still divides black from white, permeates American life, and corrupts our electoral process.
- But during the Revolution, both the British and the Americans offered blacks their freedom in exchange for joining their respective armies.
- During that war, many blacks fought alongside whites.
- After the Revolution, African-Americans in many northern states could vote if they owned enough property to qualify.
- (Only Quaker-dominated New Jersey gave women the right to vote, which was rescinded in 1808).
- By most accounts when the US was governed by the Articles of Confederation, the majority of US citizens opposed the proposed new Constitution, which was drafted in secret in Philadelphia in the summer of 1787. The Founders were an elite group of bankers, lawyers, merchants, politicians, military leaders, plantation owners, and the printer/publisher Ben Franklin. There were no small farmers, workers, sailors, women, African-Americans, Indians or other "ordinary citizens" in the deliberations, which were held behind locked and guarded doors. The Convention sought ratification from nine of the twelve states (Vermont had not yet joined the union). Many believed the process would fail. By the time it

The Strip & Flip Disaster of America's Stolen Elections

came for New York to vote, nine states had ratified. But New York's approval was still critical. A strong majority of the convention was opposed, then somehow shifted to a 30-27 vote for ratification, which was essential to the Constitution's success. Had all electors voted as they were instructed by the populace, New York's ratification convention would have failed. At least some of those who switched their votes to negate the wishes of their constituents apparently received substantial material rewards later on.

- In 1800, the 3/5ths clause allowed Thomas Jefferson to win 74-65 in an Electoral College that otherwise would have gone 65-62 for John Adams. Jefferson owned (and fathered) some of the slaves that counted toward his victory even though they couldn't vote.
- In 1800, 1824, 1876, 1888, 2000 and 2016, the candidate who came in second in the official popular vote has won the Electoral College.
- Until 1860 many states used property qualifications to exclude both whites and blacks from voting.
- When Elbridge Gerry rigged representational districts to favor his party in the 1790s, critics said they looked like salamanders. This "gerrymandering" creates a situation where politicians choose their voters, instead of voters choosing their preferred candidate, resulting in extremists from both sides holding safe congressional seats, and resulting in severe gridlock. Gerrymandering has disenfranchised non-millionaire voters (both black and white) ever since.

The Second Jim Crow:

Racial Segregation (American Apartheid)

Some 200,000 black soldiers (60,000 of whom died) empowered the Union victory over the Confederacy. By contrast, some 200,000 poor white draftees deserted the Confederate army, running from what they called “a rich man’s war and a poor man’s fight.”

In 1869 President U.S. Grant sent federal troops into the South to guarantee black rights. This “Radical Reconstruction” joined freed African-Americans with poor whites in bi-racial governments, terrifying former slave owners.

The 1870 ratification of the 15th Amendment gave freed black men the right to vote. Many southern states were 40-50% black. With just a few white votes, the party of Lincoln could control much of the former Confederacy.

Under Grant, newly elected former slaves and poor white southerners established some of the world’s first bi-racial governments and began a “Second American Revolution.”

But the Democratic Party was founded by Andrew Jackson after the 1824 election, in which he won the popular vote but was denied the presidency through a corrupt deal in the Electoral College engineered by John Quincy Adams.

The Strip & Flip Disaster of America's Stolen Elections

A violent racist, Jackson meant to enshrine white rule. The new Democratic Party functioned as the "Party of Race and Slavery," and after the Civil War became the party of Jim Crow apartheid.

- The Civil War erupted in large part from the intense multi-decade campaigns of Abolitionists, both black and white, who demanded an end to slavery. Hatred of the "peculiar institution" spread throughout the entire American society, energizing men and women of all races and creeds, culminating in the 1859 raid by the white preacher John Brown at Harpers Ferry, Virginia. Brown hoped to distribute guns to black slaves, prompting a revolutionary multi-racial uprising. The power of this black-white movement against the slave system was a principle reason for the secession of the South that led to war. The Union Army could not have succeeded without the 200,000 blacks who fought (60,000 died) in Lincoln's Army alongside white northerners.
- After the Civil War and the abolition of slavery, the Ku Klux Klan worked as the terror wing of the Democratic Party (in the 1970s it shifted its services to Richard Nixon's GOP).
- In 1876, stolen electoral votes were used to give the presidency to Republican Rutherford B. Hayes, who lost the popular balloting by some 250,000 votes. In a corrupt deal with the Democrats, Hayes became the third losing candidate to use the Electoral College to take the White House. In exchange he ended Reconstruction and stripped away federal protection of freed former slaves, terminating a program that had begun to pave the way for long-term cooperation between the races.
- From 1865 through the 1980s, more than 4,000 lynchings (more than 300 per year) have been used to terrorize the black community throughout the South, stripping its ability to

organize or function as an effective political entity.

- The former Confederacy has since maintained a system of virtual slavery imposed on blacks wrongly imprisoned and then worked for years in hard unpaid contract labor. As shown by the documentary film “13th,” a system of prison-based involuntary servitude has replaced formal slavery, gutting the southern black community's rights and powers.
- These former slaves and their progeny have been systematically stripped of their right to vote for 150 years.
- Until the 1964 ratification of the 24th Amendment, the poll tax was used to strip southern blacks of the right to vote. Other methods of disenfranchisement, including demands for photo ID and the use of computerized stripping of registration rolls, are now being used to do the same thing.
- So-called “literacy tests” with impossible demands were used extensively to strip southern blacks of the right to vote.
- Whites were exempted from these requirements through the “Grandfather clause” granting the right to vote to all (i.e., whites) whose grandfathers could vote.
- After Reconstruction, a Jim Crow system of apartheid separation carried on the tradition of separating blacks and whites for political purposes.
- In 1888, Republican Benjamin Harrison lost the popular vote to incumbent President Grover Cleveland, but won the presidency in the Electoral College, becoming the fourth candidate to lose the popular vote while taking the White House.
- In the 1886 Santa Rosa railroad case, a clerk enshrined corporations with the right to “personhood” even though Supreme Court’s actual decision made no mention of it. This deliberate recording error ultimately led to the disastrous

The Strip & Flip Disaster of America's Stolen Elections

Citizens United decision in 2010 allowing corporations to spend massive amounts of money in political campaigns.

- The post-Civil War grassroots agrarian Populist movement attempted to unite black southern farmers with white farmers from the south and west in a movement for social justice and economic equality. The term "Populist" became identified with the grassroots leftist semi-socialist movement for social and economic equality meant to revive the multi-racial alliances that have moved America's "arc of history" toward justice.
- The multi-racial coalition, organized through the People's Party, threatened the corporate domination of the new industrial Robber Baron elite. It was shattered during the 1896 national election. The Populists advanced their broad-based coalition through the elections of the early 1890s. But in 1896 the Democratic nomination was won by William Jennings Bryan, a young (36) Nebraska Congressman who mouthed Populist slogans but shunned their hard reforms. His Vice Presidential nominee was a Maine banker.
- Bryan solicited and got the People's Party nomination, then scorned the party and its platform, shattering the Populist black-white, south-west coalition.
- Tragically, the left wing of the Populist Party wanted to nominate the legendary labor leader *Eugene V. Debs*, thus linking the radical farm and labor movements. But Debs supported Bryan at the time.
- Bryan ran a legendary whistlestop campaign in which he might have spoken to as many as five million Americans. William McKinley, the uncharismatic corporate Republican, campaigned from his front porch in Canton, Ohio.
- But the GOP campaign was coordinated by Mark Hanna, a

steel magnate and the Karl Rove of the day. Hanna levied a "tax" on corporations that yielded at least \$15 million in campaign funds, a gargantuan sum for the time.

- Hanna made it explicitly clear he would not allow Bryan to win, and that he would have the Nebraskan assassinated before letting him into the White House.
- Throughout the 1896 campaign Populist and Democrat organizers, black and white, were assaulted and killed. As many as three dozen died in the south alone.
- Throughout the country suspected Populist and Democrats were systematically deprived of their votes. Republican election officials solemnly reported that farm animals had eaten the ballots in key precincts. Thousands of ballots miraculously disappeared in Bryan districts and materialized in those for McKinley.
- McKinley's official victory by some 6 million votes remains highly dubious. But it shattered the grassroots movement. In years to come, many southern Populists blamed blacks for the defeat. Cynical commentators began using the term "populist" to describe poor whites who reverted to racism and later, in the Age of Trump, to outright fascism.
- In the wake of the disaster of 1896, violent assaults crushed remnant bi-racial southern governments that had survived since Reconstruction. In Wilmington, North Carolina, 500 armed whites killed at least 14 citizens. Similar violent counter-revolutionary assaults threw the entire south back under the thumb of Jim Crow segregation.
- The Supreme Court's 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision (the vote was 8-1) enshrined Jim Crow "separate but equal" segregation. In the racist, divisive spirit of the founding of slavery after Bacon's Rebellion, this post-Populist assault on racial

The Strip & Flip Disaster of America's Stolen Elections

integration stripped the ability of African-American and mixed race citizens to fully participate in national life.

- The Supreme Court's unanimous 1898 *Williams v. Mississippi* decision upheld the ability of states to strip blacks of their right to vote through the literacy test and poll tax, while upholding the grandfather clause that allowed whites to vote if their grandfathers had voted. The decision approved the hanging of a black man convicted of murder by an all-white Mississippi jury.
- After large corporate donations fueled Theodore Roosevelt's victorious 1904 presidential campaign, as they had McKinley's in 1896 and 1900, TR supported the 1907 Tillman Act limiting corporate donations to political campaigns. Those restrictions were mostly overturned in the 2010 Citizens United case.
- The disaster of the 1896 campaign helped persuade Eugene V. Debs to become a Socialist. The hugely popular labor leader fought for decades to win peace, economic justice and an end to Jim Crow segregation.
- Drawing enormous crowds wherever he went, the much-loved crusader ran for president in 1900, 1904, 1908, 1912 and 1920. In 1916 he ran for Congress from his home town of Terre Haute, Indiana.
- Despite unparalleled popularity and name recognition, Debs's official vote count never exceeded one million, a highly unlikely real outcome. When he ran for Congress in his home town of Terre Haute, surrounded by devoted family, friends and fellow socialists, his official vote count was recorded as precisely zero.
- Debs's 1912 opponent was the Virginia-born Democrat Woodrow Wilson, a Jacksonian racist and an outspoken

admirer of the Ku Klux Klan and Jim Crow apartheid. As president, Wilson re-segregated much of the federal government by stripping thousands of African-Americans of their jobs.

- Wilson's forced entry into World War I was opposed by the vast majority of Americans, led primarily by Debs. Wilson had Debs and thousands more imprisoned in 1917 for daring to speak publicly against the war.
- The southern Democrat Wilson used war and the concocted Red Scare that followed as pretext to shred the Constitution, smash the Socialist Party and purge the labor movement of activists committed to social justice. Though socialism had been widely accepted as a legitimate mainstream ideology in American politics, until the Bernie Sanders campaign of 2016, no candidate running for president as a socialist was credited with more than a million votes.
- During the 1936 presidential campaign, many northern blacks who had traditionally voted Republican were attracted to the social programs of Democrat Franklin Roosevelt. Their votes had little influence on FDR, whose power in Congress depended on racist southern Democrats. Despite the liberal policies of his wife Eleanor, Franklin did little to support civil right legislation, including a high profile anti-lynch law which was never passed under his regime.
- During the World War II, however, facing a massive march organized by labor leader A. Philip Randolph, FDR did sign an executive order aimed at de-segregating defense factories.
- Not until 1937 did a black musician, pianist Teddy Wilson, perform in public with white musicians, in this case Jewish clarinetist Benny Goodman (“the King of Swing”) and the Italian- American drummer Gene Krupa (who was later

The Strip & Flip Disaster of America's Stolen Elections

imprisoned for possessing marijuana).

- The American Revolution was won by a bi-racial army, but blacks were stripped of the right to serve in integrated units until 1947 (the same year Jackie Robinson integrated Major League Baseball).
- In 1947, as segregation in the military and Major League Baseball were legally ended, black veterans returning from World War II were far less willing to endure racial segregation than any previous generation.
- The unanimous 1954 Supreme Court *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision opened the legal door for an all-out war against Jim Crow. Throughout the late 1950s, the Civil Rights Movement moved effectively to enhance the power of the African-American community, aiming especially to spread the right to vote.
- Beginning with Rosa Parks on December 1, 1955, the Montgomery bus boycott demonstrated the power of an organized activist community to defeat Jim Crow laws and customs.
- With lunch counter sit-ins, freedom rides and more, the spread of black activism (often sparked by returning black war veterans) began to re-shape the South.
- During the 1960 presidential election, the family of Martin Luther King asked the Nixon campaign to help get him out of jail, where he was being held for a non-violent protest, and where his survival was in danger. Nixon asked the Eisenhower White House, which declined.
- But Democrat John Kennedy, whose previous record on civil rights was spotty at best, did help get King released. The gesture sparked a decade-long shift in the Democratic Party from its historical bedrock in southern racism to an attempt to

ally with the southern black community. That move in turn prompted a counter-attack from Richard Nixon's Republicans, formerly the party of Lincoln.

- The Republican counter-attack soon focused on persuading southern white racists to join the GOP while stripping southern blacks of their right to vote.
- Dr. King's 1963 March for Jobs and Freedom in Washington DC attracted a crowd of 250,000 to the Lincoln Memorial, including about 60,000 whites. Less than three months later, JFK was assassinated.
- In 1964, the reborn vision of a black-white rebellion took shape during Mississippi Freedom Summer, when thousands of white college students poured into the South to work for voter rights. Tragically, Michael Goodman, James Cheney and Andrew Schwerner were murdered outside Philadelphia, Mississippi. Cheney was black; Goodman and Schwerner were both white. So was Viola Liuzzo, a Detroit housewife working for civil rights who was shot dead by Klansmen in a car that also carried an FBI informant, Gary Thomas Rowe.
- In the wake of JFK's murder, Lyndon Johnson pushed a powerful pro-integration agenda, including a Civil Rights Act, a Voting Rights Act and the 24th Amendment, banning the poll tax. He publicly worried that the Democrats may now have "lost the South." But blacks comprised 40% or more of many southern states, meaning if they were able to vote along with a relatively small percentage of liberal whites they could carry the "newly reconstructed" South for a newly progressive Democratic Party.
- In 1968 Republican strategists launched their "Southern Strategy" aiming to switch southern whites from the Democrats to the GOP while trying to avoid appearing overtly

racist. As Republican strategist Lee Atwater put it:

You start out in 1954 by saying, "Nigger, nigger, nigger." By 1968 you can't say "nigger"—that hurts you. Back fires. So you say stuff like forced busing, states' rights and all that stuff. You're getting so abstract now [that] you're talking about cutting taxes, and all these things you're talking about are totally economic things and a byproduct of them is [that] blacks get hurt worse than whites. And subconsciously maybe that is part of it. I'm not saying that. But I'm saying that if it is getting that abstract, and that coded, that we are doing away with the racial problem one way or the other. You follow me—because obviously sitting around saying, "We want to cut this," is much more abstract than even the busing thing, and a hell of a lot more abstract than "Nigger, nigger."

- In 1968 Alabama Governor George Wallace staged an independent run for the White House. Chanting "segregation forever," Wallace demonstrated the power of the race card to attract working class white voters throughout the South and in some northern blue-collar areas. In 1972 on the eve of his victory in the Michigan primary, Wallace was shot and paralyzed, forcing him into a wheelchair and ending his presidential run. Wallace later recanted his racism and in the 1970s became governor of Alabama as an integrationist.
- The GOP Southern Strategy couldn't carry the South with white votes alone. Many states of the former Confederacy were 40% or more black. If allowed to vote, black Democrats could win political control in alliance with just a small percentage of liberal white voters, as had happened during Reconstruction after the Civil War, and in some places during the 1890s Populist Movement.
- The Civil Rights Movement succeeded in raising black voter

participation. African-American registration rates soared in Georgia from 19.3% to 60.4%; in Alabama from 19.3% to 61.3%; in Mississippi from 6.7% to 66.5%; in Louisiana from 31.6% to 60.8%. With African-Americans now voting heavily for the Democrats, the Republicans would need to disenfranchise them if they're to take the South.

- After narrowly winning the White House in 1968 in large part by secretly subverting Vietnam peace talks, Nixon prolonged the war for seven years and courted a “Silent Majority” essentially portrayed as angry reactionaries. Nixon attacked the hippie/integrationist counter-culture while welcoming southern white racists into the Republican Party. But the next Jim Crow, the Drug War, would be his ultimate assault weapon.
- In the 2000 election, George W. Bush became the fifth presidential candidate to lose the popular vote nationwide while winning in the Electoral College. His margin of victory came by 537 votes in the state of Florida, where his brother Jeb was governor.
- The Florida victory was organized by Secretary of State Katherine Harris, who used rigged computer lists and an old Jim Crow law (barring ex-felons from voting) to disenfranchise more than 90,000 African-Americans and Latinos on the false pretense that they were former convicts and thus could not vote. But as primarily reported by investigator Greg Palast, virtually none of those disenfranchised were in fact ex-felons.
- The list was supplied by Choicepoint, an IT company that worked for the FBI and the US Justice Department. Harris was mandated by the citizens of Florida to run a fair non-partisan election. But she worked as Co-Chair of the Bush-Cheney Election Committee in Florida while simultaneously

The Strip & Flip Disaster of America's Stolen Elections

supervising the election and the vote count.

- Jim Crow segregation stripped effective black participation in most southern elections through the entire 20th century, preventing passage of numerous proposed anti-lynching laws (finally prompting a Congressional apology in 2005) still without a formal anti-lynching law having been entered into the books.
- Millions of Americans, mostly black and Latino, are now being disenfranchised through apartheid-based photo ID requirements that mirror the old Jim Crow poll taxes.