

United States

Ethnicity in United States

Group selection

We identify the following politically relevant ethnic groups:

Whites: Whites dominated the American political landscape for much of American history, and race relations were politicized for much of American history.

African Americans: African Americans are organized politically via the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) since the beginning of the 20th Century.

American Indians: The principal organization representing the interests of indigenous Americans, also called “American Indians” or “native Americans,” was founded in 1968 as the American Indigenous Movement (AIM). However, because the Constitution (Article I, Section 8) specifically points out the relationship between federal government and tribes, American Indians are considered “powerless” throughout.

Arab Americans: Arab Americans make up up to three million, or about 1 percent of the population. The 2000 census suggests that only 1,189,731 people self-identified as having some Arab ancestry. Despite this small number, Arab Americans are coded as “powerless” rather than “irrelevant” because their interests were represented by political organizations: The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (founded in 1980 by a US Senator from South Dakota, Jim Abourezk) and the Arab-American Institute (founded by Zogby in 1985).

Asian Americans: No single, major organization (or two or three) exists during this period that claimed to represent the interests of this group. Those groups that did exist were culturally, rather than politically, oriented. The category “Asian American” includes several sub-categories (Chinese, Filipino, Indian, etc.) who are represented by distinct organizations.

Latinos: The National Council of the Raza was founded in 1968.

*Power relations**1946-1965*

Whites and African Americans The period from 1946 to 1965 was characterized by a white (Caucasian-American) majority in the southern states excluding blacks (African Americans) from political power. During this period, the American South only had one party with nominal political clout (the Democratic Party), who maintained their power hold by holding all-white primaries to keep blacks from political power. During this period, Whites are coded as "senior partner" and African Americans as "discriminated". Various court decisions after World War II eroded the means by which whites in the South maintained this power monopoly, but the real turning point was the Voting Rights Act of 1965, after which black political participation increased dramatically and the white monopoly via the Democratic Party eroded.

The rights of **American Indian** tribes started to be recognized by Washington in the middle of the 19th century; thereafter, they were strengthened by many federal laws as well as court decisions. The basis of their status is found in the US constitution: Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States vests the federal government with the authority to engage in relations with the tribes. When the governmental authority of tribes was first challenged in the 1830s, Chief Justice John Marshall, basing himself on Article I, articulated the fundamental principle that has guided the evolution of federal Indian law to the present: tribes possess a nationhood status and retain inherent powers of self-government (⁴⁶⁵³). While this decision in itself did not constitute full regional autonomy, a critical juncture was the Indian Recognition Act of 1934, which constituted a strong improvement in the situation of Amerindian tribes; they could now be considered as having regional autonomy (⁴⁶⁵⁴).

⁴⁶⁵³ [US Government, 2005]

⁴⁶⁵⁴ [Wikipedia, 2014a]

Today, there are 562 federally recognized tribal governments in the United States. These tribes possess the right to form their own government, to enforce laws (both civil and criminal), to tax, to establish requirements for membership, to license and regulate activities, to zone and to exclude persons from tribal territories. Limitations on tribal powers of self-government include the same limitations applicable to states; for example, neither tribes nor states have the power to make war, engage in foreign relations, or coin money (this includes paper currency) (⁴⁶⁵⁵).

⁴⁶⁵⁵ [US Government, 2005]

1966-2008

Following the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and other anti-discrimination laws between 1964 and 1966, ethnic organizations blossomed and new ethnic groups thereby attained political relevance. This is considered as one single period; any minorities represented in the Cabinet are considered as "token", so that all groups but Whites are considered "powerless", including African Americans. However, several new politically relevant groups emerged during this period: Arab Americans, Asian Americans, and Latinos (see above).

2009-2014

The ascendance of Barack Obama to power marked a turning point in the U.S. ethno-political history and in **African Americans'** political status. Barack Obama was the first black representative at the highest level of executive power. Given the constitutional restraints to presidential power and the continuing dominance of white Americans in the Congress (and everywhere else in the political system), African Americans are still coded as "junior partner" only. **Whites** are coded as "senior partner".

Based on Obama's inclusive approach towards ethnic minorities, the other two major groups, **Latinos and Asian Americans**, are coded as "junior partners" as well. Both were represented in the cabinet (Gary Locke (Commerce), and Steven Chu (Energy) were Asian American; Hilda Solis (Labor) was Latina; Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, identified as Mexican American and pointed at instances of discrimination against him based on his ethnicity, including while being a U.S. senator.) In contrast, Arab Americans remained mostly powerless.

The status of **Arab Americans and American Indians** did not change with the Presidency of Barack Obama.

2015-2017

Barack Obama won re-election and was sworn in for a second term in office on January 20, 2013, but a new period was not introduced, as there were no changes in the ethnic representation of groups, even though there was personnel reshuffle. Obama won reelection in 2012 with the support of a diverse voter coalition that consisted of "young voters, the unmarried, African-Americans, Hispanics, the liberal professional class" ⁽⁴⁶⁵⁶⁾. While "Obama won despite losing some of his 2008 margins among his key constituencies, including among younger voters, blacks and Jewish voters, ... he appeared to increase his share among Hispanics and Asians" ⁽⁴⁶⁵⁷⁾. This diverse voter support is reflected in Obama's top cabinet and executive picks.

⁴⁶⁵⁶ [New York Times, 2012a]

⁴⁶⁵⁷ [New York Times, 2012b]

Obama's cabinet included African Americans (Attorney General Eric Holder, Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson and Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx), Asians (Secretary of Veteran Affairs Eric Shinseki), and Hispanics (Secretary of Labor Thomas

Perez). While there were also voices that argued that Obama's representation is not enough (⁴⁶⁵⁸), the Washington Post reported that for the first time ever, the two top jobs in three executive departments (Homeland Security, Labor, Transportation) were headed by non-whites (⁴⁶⁵⁹).

The last year of the EPR coding, 2017, coincides with the last years of the Obama administration. Because of the January 1st rule the new government under President Donald Trump will only be reflected in the coding from 2018 onwards. Before, there were no significant changes that would affect the EPR coding (see ⁴⁶⁶⁰; ⁴⁶⁶¹; ⁴⁶⁶², ⁴⁶⁶³; UNHRC, 2017), apart from the resignation of the only Asian American cabinet member Eric Shinseki (Veteran Affairs Secretary) in 2014 (⁴⁶⁶⁴; ⁴⁶⁶⁵). Hence, from 2015 onwards **Asian Americans** are not included anymore as 'junior partner' and a new coding period is introduced.

⁴⁶⁵⁸ [Politico, 2013]

⁴⁶⁵⁹ [Washington Post, 2014]

⁴⁶⁶⁰ [Freedom House, 2017]

⁴⁶⁶¹ [IWGIA, 2017]

⁴⁶⁶² [MRGI, 2015]

⁴⁶⁶³ [MRGI, 2016]

⁴⁶⁶⁴ [The Daily Beast, 2014]

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Political status of ethnic groups in United States

From 1946 until 1965

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Whites	0.691	MONOPOLY
Latinos	0.125	IRRELEVANT
African Americans	0.124	DISCRIMINATED
Asian Americans	0.036	IRRELEVANT
American Indians	0.0078	POWERLESS
Arab Americans	0.0042	IRRELEVANT

From 1966 until 2008

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Whites	0.691	DOMINANT
Latinos	0.125	POWERLESS
African Americans	0.124	POWERLESS
Asian Americans	0.036	POWERLESS
American Indians	0.0078	POWERLESS
Arab Americans	0.0042	POWERLESS

From 2009 until 2014

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Whites	0.66	SENIOR PARTNER
Latinos	0.15	JUNIOR PARTNER
African Americans	0.124	JUNIOR PARTNER
Asian Americans	0.044	JUNIOR PARTNER
American Indians	0.0078	POWERLESS
Arab Americans	0.005	POWERLESS



Figure 972: Political status of ethnic groups in United States during 1946-1965.



Figure 973: Political status of ethnic groups in United States during 1966-2008.



Figure 974: Political status of ethnic groups in United States during 2009-2014.

From 2015 until 2017

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Whites	0.66	SENIOR PARTNER
Latinos	0.15	JUNIOR PARTNER
African Americans	0.124	JUNIOR PARTNER
Asian Americans	0.044	POWERLESS
American Indians	0.0078	POWERLESS
Arab Americans	0.005	POWERLESS

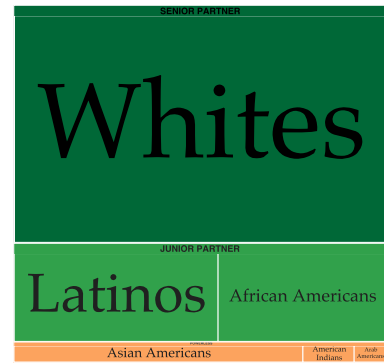


Figure 975: Political status of ethnic groups in United States during 2015-2017.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in United States

From 1946 until 1958

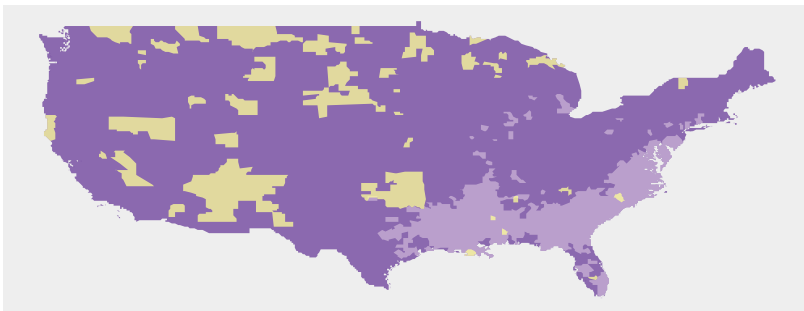


Figure 976: Map of ethnic groups in United States during 1946-1958.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■ Whites	7 933 030	Statewide
■ African Americans	1 037 432	Statewide
■ American Indians	938 702	Regionally based

Table 328: List of ethnic groups in United States during 1946-1958.

From 1959 until 1959

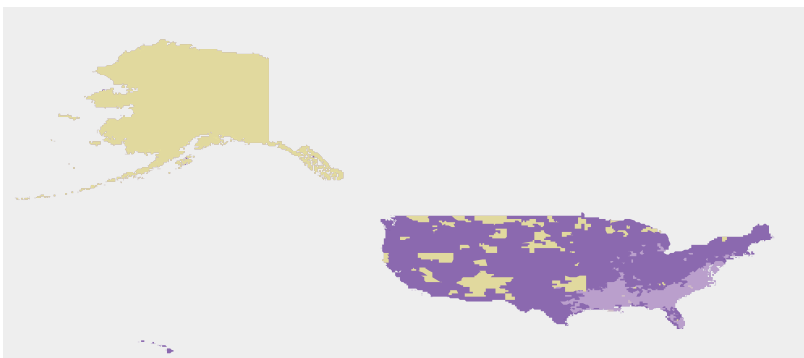


Figure 977: Map of ethnic groups in United States during 1959-1959.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
Whites	9 446 581	Statewide
American Indians	2 434 343	Regionally based
African Americans	1 037 432	Statewide

Table 329: List of ethnic groups in United States during 1959-1959.

From 1960 until 1965

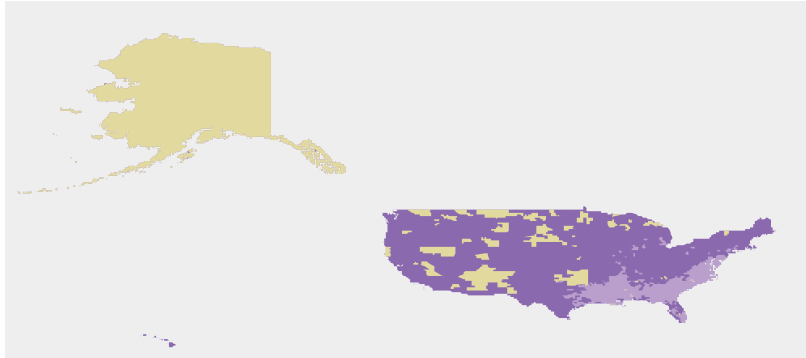


Figure 978: Map of ethnic groups in United States during 1960-1965.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
Whites	9 446 581	Statewide
American Indians	2 434 343	Regionally based
African Americans	1 037 432	Statewide

Table 330: List of ethnic groups in United States during 1960-1965.

From 1966 until 2017

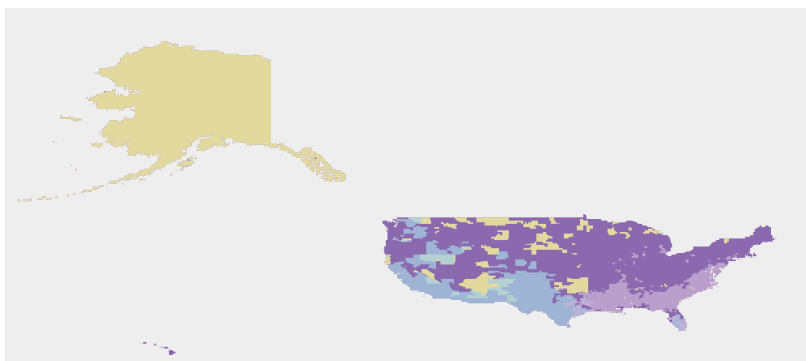


Figure 979: Map of ethnic groups in United States during 1966-2017.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■ Whites	9 446 581	Statewide
■ American Indians	2 434 343	Regionally based
■ Latinos	1 882 816	Regional & urban
■ African Americans	1 037 432	Statewide
Arab Americans		Urban
Asian Americans		Urban

Table 331: List of ethnic groups in United States during 1966-2017.

Conflicts in United States

Starting on 1950-10-29

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of United States of America	Puerto Rican Nationalist Party		1950-10-29			

Starting on 1983-10-24

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Grenada	Government of United States of America		1983-10-24			

Starting on 1989-12-15

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Panama	Government of United States of America		1989-12-15			

Starting on 2001-09-10

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of United States of America	al-Qaida		2001-09-10			

Starting on 2001-10-06

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Afghanistan	Government of United Kingdom		2001-10-06			
Government of Afghanistan	Government of United States of America		2001-10-06			

Starting on 2003-03-19

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Australia, Government of United Kingdom, Government of United States of America	Government of Iraq		2003-03-19			