

# United States

## *Ethnicity in United States*

### *Power relations*

*1946-1965:* 'Whites' are referred to at the 'sub-national' level—i.e. the US South. 1946-1965 was still the era of the one-party, Democratic South, and the Democratic party conducted all-white primaries to exclude blacks from political power. Various court decisions after World War II eroded the means by which whites in the South maintained this monopoly power, but the real turning point was the Voting Rights Act of 1965, after which black political participation increased dramatically and the white monopoly via Democratic party organization eroded.

*1966-2005:* This period saw the flowering of ethnic organizations, stimulated presumably both by government action (the anti-discrimination laws of 1964-1966) and other factors. Major organizations claiming to represent the ethnic groups listed above did not all emerge in 1966, of course, but many did shortly thereafter. In case it matters, here is some more detailed information regarding dates: African-Americans: The NAACP has been around since the early 20th century. Latinos: The National Council of the Raza was founded in 1968. Asian-Americans: This "group" was coded as irrelevant for three reasons. First, there does not appear to be a single, major organization claiming to represent the interests of Asian-Americans (or 2 or 3 for that matter), but rather a disparate array of such groups. Second, the groups that do exist are much more community and culturally than politically oriented, in contrast to the organizations for other ethnic groups. Third, "Asian-Americans" remains a contested category and lumps several distinct groups under its heading (as is reflected in the diversity of national organizations: Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, etc.). American Indians: The principal organization for mainland indigenous peoples is AIM, founded in 1968. Arab-Americans: There is a lot of dispute about the size of this population. Most Arab-American organizations cite 3 million, which would be a little more than 1 percent of the population. The 2000 Census data suggest that 1,189,731 people self-identified as having some Arab ancestry. The principal organizations that justify a designation of "powerless" rather than "irrelevant" are 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), both of which

are quite politically-oriented although not explicitly partisan.

A special note regarding the status of regional autonomy for the American Indians: Recognition of Indian tribes started in the middle 19th century and thereafter was strengthened by many federal laws as well as court decisions. The basis of their status can be 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 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 (<sup>3604</sup>). A critical juncture was the Indian Recognition Act of 1934 which constituted a strong improvement after which Amerindian tribes certainly have to be considered as having regional autonomy (<sup>3605</sup>). 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) (<sup>3606</sup>).

<sup>3604</sup> [US Government, 2005]

<sup>3605</sup> [Wikipedia, 2014a]

<sup>3606</sup> [US Government, 2005]

*2006-2008:* Foregoing period is extended. No significant changes in ethno-political constellation.

*2009:* The ascendance of Barack Obama to power marks a turning point in the U.S. ethno-political history and in African Americans' political status. While foregoing black cabinet members should be regarded as "token", Barack Obama is 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 remain "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 are represented in the cabinet. (Gary Locke (Commerce), and Steven Chu (Energy) are from the Asian minority; Hilda Solis (Labor) is Latina. Also current Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, identifies himself as Mexican American and points at his often being insulted for that - including while being a U.S. senator.) In contrast, Arab Americans remains mostly powerless.

The change in the political statuses of some groups and the consequential period break allows for the update of the population figures.

*2010-2013:* For the period no major changes in the ethnic power relations occurred. 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." <sup>(3607)</sup>. 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." <sup>(3608)</sup>. This diverse voter support is reflected in Obama's top cabinet and executive picks. Obama's cabinet includes 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 are also voices that argue that Obama's representation is not enough <sup>(3609)</sup>, the Washington Post reports that for the first time ever, the two top jobs in three executive departments/ministeries (Homeland Security, Labor, Transportation) are headed by non-whites <sup>(3610)</sup>.

There were no indications or evidence for a change in the power status of Arab Americans and/or American Indians.

<sup>3607</sup> [New York Times, 2012a]

<sup>3608</sup> [New York Times, 2012b]

<sup>3609</sup> [Politico, 2013]

<sup>3610</sup> [Washington Post, 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 2013

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

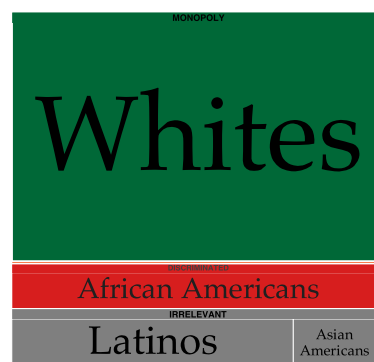


Figure 805: Political status of ethnic groups in United States during 1946-1965.

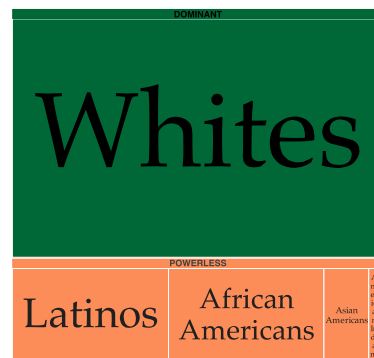


Figure 806: Political status of ethnic groups in United States during 1966-2008.



Figure 807: Political status of ethnic groups in United States during 2009-2013.

## Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in United States

*From 1946 until 1965*

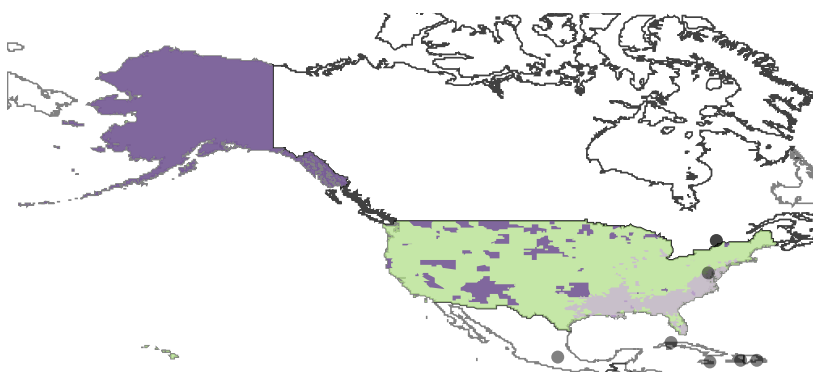


Figure 808: Map of ethnic groups in United States during 2009-2013.

Group name	Area in km <sup>2</sup>	Type
Whites	9 447 198	Statewide
American Indians	2 434 682	Regionally based
African Americans	1 039 029	Statewide

Table 236: List of ethnic groups in United States during 1946-1965.

*From 1966 until 2013*

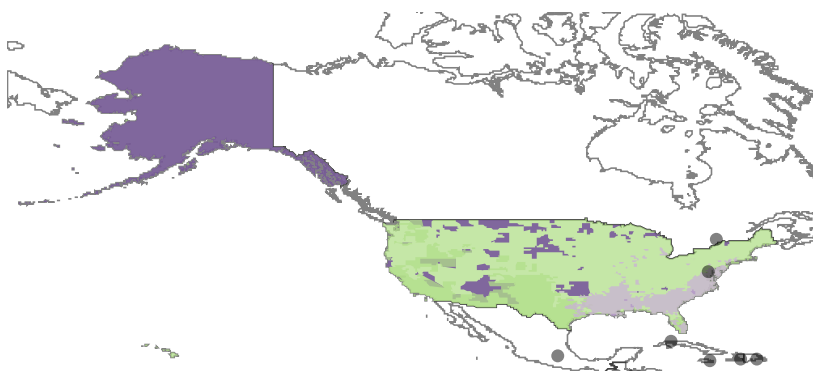


Figure 809: Map of ethnic groups in United States during 2009-2013.

Group name	Area in km <sup>2</sup>	Type
■ Whites	9 447 198	Statewide
■ American Indians	2 434 682	Regionally based
■ Latinos	1 882 927	Regional & urban
■ African Americans	1 039 029	Statewide
Asian Americans		Urban
Arab Americans		Urban

Table 237: List of ethnic groups in United States during 1966-2013.



## *Conflicts in United States*

*Starting on 1950-10-30*

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of United States of America	Puerto Rican Nationalist Party		1950-10-30			

*Starting on 1983-10-25*

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Grenada	Government of United States of America		1983-10-25			

*Starting on 1989-12-16*

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Panama	Government of United States of America		1989-12-16			

*Starting on 2001-09-11*

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of United States of America	al-Qaida		2001-09-11			

*Starting on 2003-03-20*

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Australia	Government of Iraq		2003-03-20			
Government of United Kingdom	Government of Iraq		2003-03-20			
Government of United States of America	Government of Iraq		2003-03-20			