

## A. Detroit's demographics

### 1. Rise and fall of Detroit

#### 1) Population

##### a) Detroit's population

- i) Rises until the 0s
- ii) Levels off until now

##### b) Southeast Michigan

- i) Steady increase
- ii) Somewhat leveling off

#### 2) Horizontal city

##### a) Large geographic area

- i) Requires infrastructure
  - Serves more than a million
  - But now there's not as much people so the cost goes up
- ii) Difficult to get the city to turn around

### 2. Racial composition of Detroit

#### 1) As years go by (1900-2010)

##### a) First 50 years

- i) Population grows; especially Blacks

##### b) Next 50 years

- i) Population declines
- ii) Whites leave, blacks grow

#### 2) Flight of Black middle class from Detroit

##### a) South Detroit

- i) Changed a lot because it has a lot of Mexicans
  - Called Mexican Town
- ii) Immigrants brought life to former areas

##### b) New Arab Christians immigrating

- i) New revitalized neighborhoods

## B. Sugrue (2005)

### 1. Conditions that allow for the Time Bomb

#### 1) Could it have been prevented?

- a) Covenants
- b) Red-lining (FHA)
- c) Urban redevelopment
- d) Unions

#### 2) Is the time-bomb neutral/organic or has intervention?

- a) Could the politicians address the problem?
  - i) Or was it beyond their control?

### 2. Local politicians

#### 1) Sugrue's book isn't about city government

#### 2) No incentive to offer relief to minorities

- a) Institutions don't matter

#### 3) Incentive to stick it to the minority

- a) Majority will like you
- b) Elections have to be at large

C. Theories of the underclass

1. Cycle of urban poverty

1) American Dilemma by Myrdal

a) Poverty driven by 3 things

- i) Economics
  - Economic shifts → loss of low-skilled jobs
  - Poor education → little chance for new jobs
- ii) Flight of whites and blacks
  - Reduce social capital
  - Reduce political power
- iii) Social pathology
  - Violence
  - Substance abuse

2) The Negro Family by Moynihan

a) Culture of poverty

- i) Legacy of slavery; Jim Crow
- ii) Matriarchial, unstable families
- iii) Pathological socialization

b) National policy

- i) Blames poor according to left
- ii) Right says he left people off the hook

3) When Work Disappears by Wilson

a) Agrees and departs from Moynihan

b) Jobs for urban men

- i) Loss of low → skilled jobs for me
- ii) Job → loss disincentive to learn
- iii) Job loss → crime
- iv) Job loss → crime instability