



# What's Wrong with Color Blindness?

- I. The Standoff at Wounded Knee
- II. Robert Park and Assimilation
- III. Racism vs. Color Blindness?
- IV. Defending English and the Law  
(Attacking “Illegal Immigrants”)
- V. Championing Equal Opportunity and  
Diversity (Attacking Affirmative Action)

Wounded Knee Massacre (1890)

Dick Wilson

Guardians of the Oglala Nation  
(GOONs)

# Radical Aims of Race-Based Organizing

- Claimed and forged a collective racial identity.
- Rejected assimilation.
- Critiqued U.S. imperial and racist past and present.



**Robert Ezra Park**

# Framing Race as a Social Problem, not a Biological Problem

(Park and other social scientists, 1910s-1920s)

1. How did people become aware of racial differences?

2. How could people become unaware of racial differences? Or, how could people become color blind?

# Race Relations Cycle

Contact/Migration



Competition/Conflict



Accommodation



Assimilation

# Race Relations Cycle

Contact/Migration



Competition/Conflict (race prejudice)



Accommodation



Assimilation



“Negro Problem”

“Oriental Problem”

Why didn't African Americans and Asian Americans assimilate into American society like other groups?

# Framing Race

## Problem

Interracial Competition

Race Prejudice (Racism)

Conflict/Segregation

Ignorance

## Solution

Assimilation

Color Blindness

Interpersonal Contact

Individual Enlightenment

# Framing Race

## Problem

## Solution

Interracial Competition

Assimilation

Race Prejudice (Racism) ↔ Color Blindness

Conflict/Segregation

Interpersonal Contact

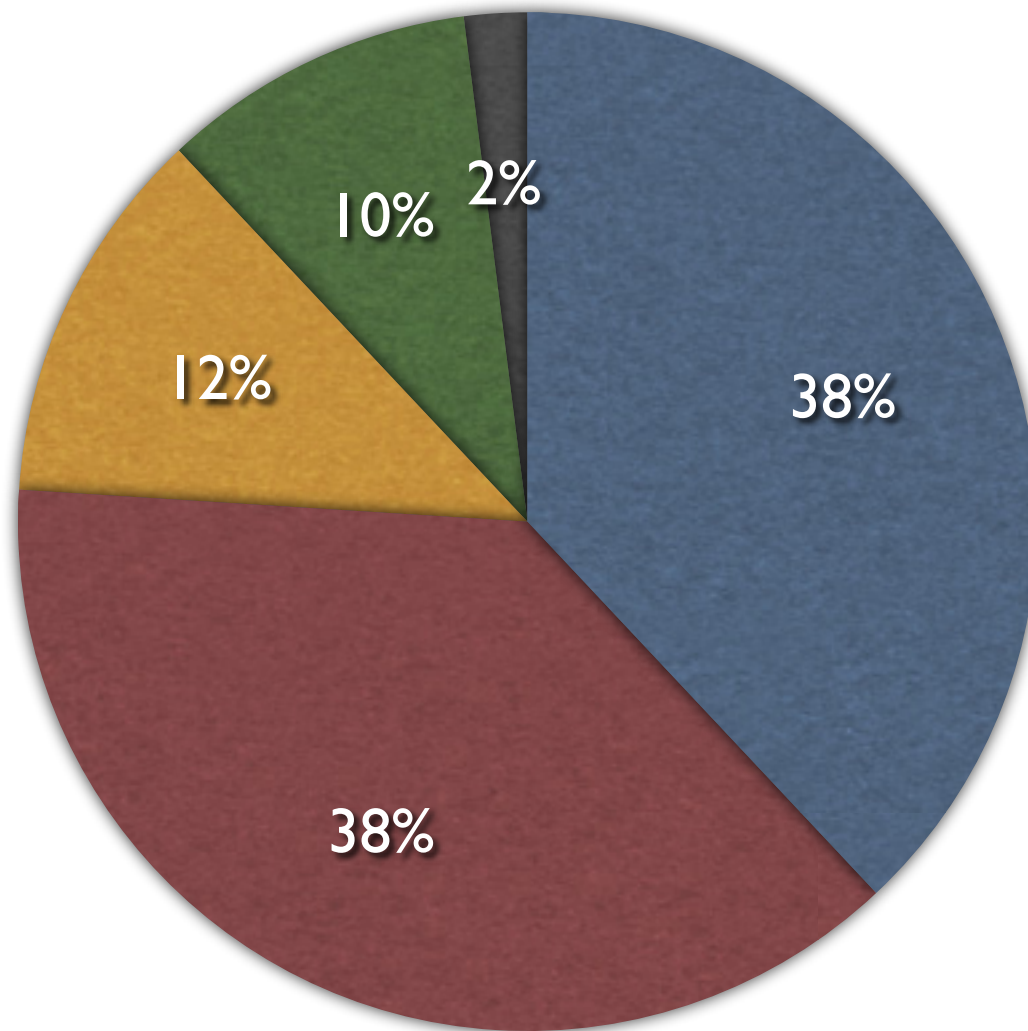
Ignorance

Individual Enlightenment

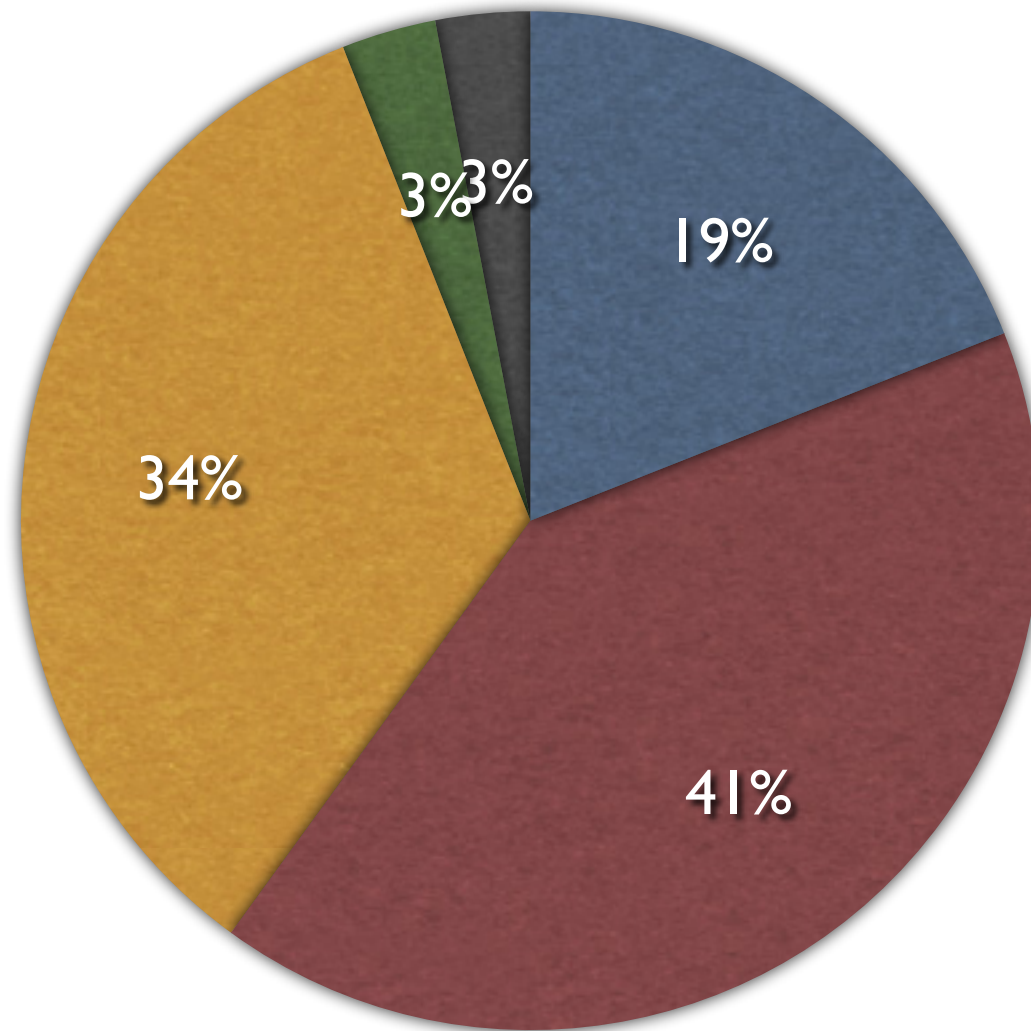
# Color Blindness

**Demanded by progressive reformers to end racial discrimination, 1920s-1960s.**

**Exploited by conservatives to perpetuate white supremacy, 1960s-present.**



Immigration Patterns, 1960s



Immigration Patterns, 1970s



U.S. English (established 1983)





John Tanton





**S. I. Hayakawa**

# The Pioneer Fund

Established in 1937 to support eugenics.

Supported Proposition 187 (1994) and other anti-immigration initiatives and racial studies on IQ differences.

## *Hopwood v. Texas* (1996)

Affirmative action programs deemed a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment and the principle of individual equal opportunity (Fifth Circuit of U.S. Court of Appeals).

# Proposition 209 (1996)

## “California Civil Rights Initiative”

“The state shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education or public contracting.”

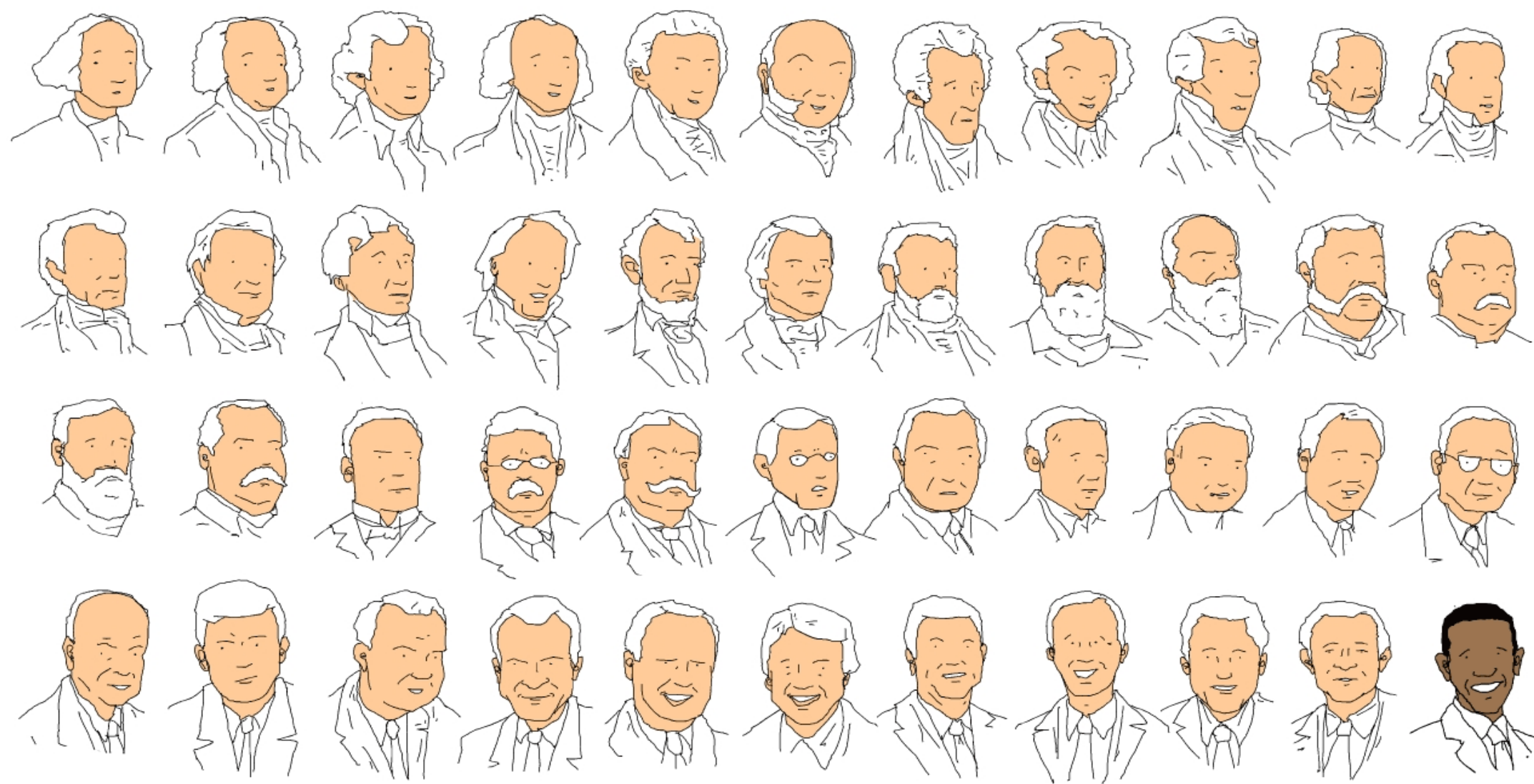


Ward Connerly



**George W. Bush's Cabinet (2001)**





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