

Transcript - Thomas Sowell - Legacy of the Welfare State – posted by Liberty Pen at this link here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lm-FqtAOSB8>

## Transcript

0:15

Nicholas Kristoff columnist for the New

0:16

York Times got under your skin and not

0:18

for the first time readers of your

0:20

column will know New York Times writer

0:22

Nicholas Kristoff I'm quoting you is

0:23

search that there is overwhel you're

0:25

quoting him overwhelming evidence that

0:28

centuries of racial subjugation still

0:30

shape inequity in the 21st century quote

0:34

closing quote and he mentions open quote

0:36

the lingering effects of slavery close

0:38

quote and now this is Tom Soul if we

0:41

wanted to be serious about evidence we

0:45

might compare where blacks stood a 100

0:48

years after the end of slavery with

0:50

where they stood after 30 years of the

0:53

liberal welfare state yes explain that

0:57

well in 1960 which would be almost 100

0:59

years years after the end of slavery

1:02

right 22% of black kids grew up in homes

1:05

with only one parent just 22% yes four

1:09

out of five were in homes with both

1:10

parents yes uh 30 years later after the

1:14

liberal welfare state that number had

1:17

more than

1:18

tripled and so I say we let us compare

1:21

if if we we can speculate on how much

1:23

that 22% was due to the legacy of

1:25

slavery but we know that that tripling

1:29

was not due to Legacy of slavery it was

1:31

due to the legacy of a whole different

1:32

set of

1:34

policies and you can and and you can

1:36

look at it so many other

1:37

ways um education uh Stuyvesant High School

1:42

in New York as you know you get into

1:44

only by passing a very tough exam

1:46

M uh in

1:49

2012 the percentage of black students

1:51

who had gotten into colleges and high school

1:54

was less than one tenth of the

1:57

percentage of black students who had

1:58

gotten into Edison High School 33 years

2:01

earlier I didn't know that Dunbar High

2:05

School in Washington which was an elite

2:06

black high school for a very long

2:08

time in

2:10

1993 the number of uh kids out of Dunbar

2:14

High School who went on to college was

2:17

less than it was 60 years earlier which

2:20

would have been in the depth of the

2:21

Great

2:23

Depression and so you can run through a

2:26

whole bunch of other things like that uh

2:28

look at the the housing project

2:31

uh the housing projects in the first

2:33

half of the 20th century during that

2:34

first 100 years after slavery uh were

2:39

had did not have the high crime rates

2:42

the murder rates uh the

2:45

graffiti uh all the rest of we we none

2:48

of that was there uh people uh fact the

2:51

New York Times I

2:53

should uh Kristoff should read his own

2:56

old papers uh uh pointed out that on

3:00

Saturday mornings it was common in the

3:01

housing project of this earlier era for

3:04

for parents to leave their doors

3:07

unlocked because some of the parents

3:09

could afford television some couldn't so

3:11

the ones who had television would leave

3:12

their doors unlocked and the kids from

3:14

the other families could come down there

3:15

and watch television with them well now

3:18

the latest figures show that uh most

3:20

people below the poverty line have two

3:22

television sets and cable but they

3:24

wouldn't dare leave their doors unlocked

3:26

in a public housing project

3:30

I'm quoting that column again liberals

3:32

have wre more havoc on blacks than the

3:34

supposed Legacy of slavery they talk

3:37

about yes you don't mean that

3:39

hyperbolically no I do not you mean it

3:41

yeah and one one one another thing um

3:45

crime and and violence uh now we take it

3:48

for granted that there's crimes

3:50

tremendous levels of crime and violence

3:52

uh in the black community that was not

3:54

always the case in the 20s it was very

3:56

common for white celebrities including

3:58

George gers and William fauler to go up

4:00

to Harlem not only for entertainment

4:03

places but to go into private homes of

4:05

kid people they knew uh and gers would

4:07

play rsity in blue and this home where

4:10

Walter White lived uh Milton Freedman

4:14

when he was a graduate student at at

4:16

Columbia he and the lady later married

4:18

would go dancing at the seavoy Ballroom

4:21

in Harlem and he said we had no fear of

4:23

being uh mugged or costed on the street

4:26

or anything like that you've told I've

4:28

heard you say Tom when you were boy

4:30

Growing Up In Harlem yourself mhm your

4:33

own neighborhood felt totally safe to

4:34

you not not totally safe I I wouldn't

4:37

exaggerate but there nothing resembling

4:39

today I mean I did sleep on hot hot

4:41

nights I would sleep out on the fire

4:42

escape when I tell people in Harlem that

4:44

today they they think I'm I'm I'm from

4:46

another galaxy you know but that people

4:49

slept in in uh on the fire escapes uh in

4:53

New York and in the public parks in the

4:56

30s all over the city

4:59

because because it was not like it was

5:01

not a jungle what there was a lady out

5:03

one other example there was a woman who

5:06

was uh black woman in Harlem who was an

5:08

actress she' be go down to the Theater

5:11

District and then after the play you

5:12

know they'd have their drinks and eat

5:14

something or whatever she said at 1:00

5:16

in the morning she would simply get on

5:18

the subway and go on up to Harlem uh and

5:22

and and walk home from there now it so

5:24

happens that the subway station she got

5:26



off at was right very near a

5:30

um a grocery store where I was a

5:32

delivery boy and on Saturday nights I

5:34

would be working usually until around

5:36

midnight and when I would go home I

5:37

would go past that very same subway

5:39

station she's talking about I never had

5:41

the slightest

5:42

trouble

5:45

W so if the comparison

5:48

between

5:50

progress simply the decency of the of

5:54

Life available to people they weren't to

5:56

Black and the families were intact and

5:59

school schools worked and the

6:00

neighborhoods were more or less safe

6:03

people were able to lead decent lives if

6:05

the contrast between that world and the

6:07

world we inhabit now is owing so

6:10

directly to the to Liberal policies

6:13

intended so we're told to help

6:17

African-Americans why do

6:19

African-Americans support the liberal

6:23

the more liberal of the two parties the

6:24

Democratic party at the rates of 90 and

6:27

more percent why is the first African

6:29

American president so deeply committed

6:33

to promoting and extending liberal

6:35

policies why is his African-American

6:38

attorney general again so so deeply

6:43

committed to affirmative action and

6:46

other why this makes no sense well well

6:50

well I don't I don't think we could be

6:52

enough hours we to answer all of those

6:54

but uh to take the political thing one

6:56

of the things I discovered in the

6:57

research from my from my book I'm

6:59

current working on is that leaders of

7:01

groups that are lagging in countries

7:03

around the world uh almost invariably

7:07

have counterproductive policies for them

7:09

and it makes perfect

7:10

sense because in so far as members of

7:13

lagging

7:15

groups assimilated into the values and

7:18

uh achievements of the larger society uh

7:21

they don't need those

7:24

leaders uh you know and uh you see this

7:27

you look look at the history of the

7:28

checks in the 19th century people are

7:31

worried that the Czechs are all learning

7:32

to speak German well at that time if you

7:35

wanted to become a professional person

7:38

scientist anything like that uh you had

7:41

to use books that were written in German

7:44

right simply because the German acquired

7:48

a volume of literature centuries ahead

7:51

of of Czech uh and yet they they fought

7:54

tooth and nail against that uh if you

7:57

look at the in Sri Lanka one of the

7:59

arguments that was made there to the

8:01

Buddhist leaders was that if we don't do

8:04

something the the Tamil minority will

8:06

assimilate members of the of of the uh

8:09

uh CES majority and then there will be

8:13

no Buddhist or CES in another several

8:16

generations and so I mean there's no

8:19

there's no mystery to me as to why Jesse

8:21

Jackson says what he does or Al Sharpton

8:24

and others because that benefits them

8:27

but it does not benefit the people they

8:28

lead and all the incentives are for for

8:31

leaders to lead people uh into things

8:34

that that don't help the people but help

8:36

the leaders what you you you'd create an

8:40

there would be an exception for Dr King

8:41

though wouldn't there yes but he was

8:44

different because he was earliest or

8:45

what why what's different about it's

8:47

like Insurgent movements in general uh

8:49

when an Insurgency starts off by

8:51

definition it it it has an uphill

8:53

battle now as the in and you can look at

8:56

the history of Christianity For Heaven's

8:57

Sake uh if if you're going to be a

8:59

Christian in the in in the Roman Empire

9:02

you know before the first in the first

9:04

century you had you had a lot of grief

9:06

to go through now but after Christianity

9:09

becomes the official religion of the

9:11

Roman Empire this is a bonanza and

9:14

there's a lot to be done and so now you

9:16

will follow policies that are the

9:18

opposite of what you advocated you will

9:20

see that see that with all kinds of

9:22

other uh Insurgent movements