

Mindmap => African American Issue in the US

1. Abolition of slavery

- The 13th Amendment (1865) ended slavery **except as punishment for a crime**.
- The “exception clause” created a loophole that allowed forced labor to continue legally.
- Black people were massively arrested under minor or fabricated charges.

2. The 13th Amendment loophole

- Enabled the growth of **convict leasing**, where imprisoned Black men were hired out for labor.
- Foundation of the **prison-industrial complex**.
- Shift from explicit slavery to “**slavery by another name**.”

3. Mythology of Black criminality

- Post-emancipation narratives depicted Black men as dangerous, criminal, and predatory: Used to justify mass arrests and racial terror.
- This stereotype becomes a **political and cultural weapon** that lasts for generations.

4. The Impact of *Birth of a Nation* (the film)

- Released in 1915, portrayed Black men as violent and unfit for freedom.
- Depicted the KKK as heroic defenders of white purity.
- First major motion picture in the U.S. — enormous cultural impact.

4.1. The impact of the film on the K.K.K

- Sparked a **revival of the Ku Klux Klan** nationwide.
- Used as a recruitment tool at Klan rallies.
- Reinforced racist ideologies and legitimized racial violence.

5. The lynching campaign

- Thousands of African Americans were murdered under false accusations.
- Public spectacles that reinforced white supremacy.
- Terror as a tool of social and political control.

6. Segregation

- Institutionalized racial separation after Reconstruction.
- Jim Crow laws enforced inequality in housing, education, and employment.

7. Civil Rights Movement (1954-1968), MLK

- Response to systemic injustice and racial terror.
- Being arrested as a form of protest and support of the movement.

8-11

- 8. Crime rate increase — connected to racial bias in policing.
 - 11. Nixon Era — “law and order” politics begin.
 - 12. Reagan Era — War on Drugs intensifies racialized incarceration.
 - 13. Role of media — reinforces stereotypes of Black criminality.