

## Video 5: Exclusion and Inclusion

*Featuring Dr. Alaina E. Roberts, University of Pittsburgh, Department of History*

Who was excluded and included in our nation's history? In what way? How did this shape the way people experienced day-to-day life? In [Exclusion and Inclusion](#), Dr. Roberts explores how the American experience was defined by processes of exclusion and inclusion.

### Key Concepts

- How the U.S. has fluctuated between exclusion and inclusion of people in various demographic groups specifically regarding the right to vote. [01:30 – 16:37]
- Case Study: Considering discrimination between people of color in discussions about exclusion and inclusion in American history. [16:55 – 29:44]

## New Jersey Student Learning Standards

### Grades 6-8

6.1.8.CivicsDP.3.a: Use primary and secondary sources to assess whether or not the ideals found in the Declaration of Independence were fulfilled for women, African Americans, and Native Americans during this time period.

6.3.8.CivicsDP.1: Identify an issue of inequality, develop multiple solutions, and communicate the best one to an appropriate government body.

6.3.8.CivicsHR.1: Construct an argument as to the source of human rights and how they are best protected.

### Grades 9-12

6.1.12.HistoryUP.2.a: Using primary sources, describe the perspectives of African Americans, Native Americans, and women during the American Revolution and assess the contributions of each group on the outcome of the war.

6.1.12.HistoryUP.2.c: Explain why American ideals put forth in the Constitution have been denied to different groups of people throughout time (i.e., due process, rule of law and individual rights).

## Review Questions

1. Dr. Robert's makes the point that the right to vote in America has, historically, not been a universal right. Is voting today accepted as a universal right? Provide examples to clarify.
2. Why is exclusion used as a form of retaliation against groups like Black Americans and American women? How do these examples of exclusion highlight a more complex U.S. history?
3. According to Dr. Roberts, why do we not talk very often about class in U.S. history? How is the concept of inclusion and exclusion used by different classes in relation to each other?
4. There were Native American tribes that bought and sold Black slaves. What were their motivations to purchase slaves? How does this history about slave-holding tribes complicate our understanding of slavery in the U.S.?
5. Provide an example of how some Native American tribes practiced the exclusion of Black Americans in their nations throughout history and today. Why do you think discrimination against Black Americans continues to exist in Native American nations? Does the discrimination of Black Americans occur in the United States today? Are the motivations behind discrimination or racism similar between these nations or different?

## Activities

1. Consider an example of exclusion of a group of people in the U.S. today, identifying who is excluded, from what rights, privileges, and ideas and for what reasons. How is this example of exclusion like those faced historically by Black American and Native American people?
2. Who gets to vote is still a contentious issue. Find examples from the 21st century of voters' rights being debated. Discuss what the issues are from multiple perspectives. Write a letter to the editor expressing your arguments from a specific point of view regarding voting rights in the U.S.
3. Review the voting map provided showing the last two presidential elections in the U.S. that provide detail by county. Focus on a state. What demographics might influence the voting patterns in this state? Using "census quick facts" or other sources, check the demographics of

a specific county. Consider why “purple” areas are transitioning from long standing voting patterns.

- <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/upshot/2020-election-map.html>
- <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/NJ>

## Resources

Joseph Lee. “A Native American Tribe in Oklahoma Denied Black Citizens COVID-19 Vaccines and Financial Relief,” BuzzFeed, March 16, 2021

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/josephvlee/seminole-oklahoma-black-freedmen-vaccines>

Allison Nobles. “How Racial Minorities Are Excluded from Being ‘American.’” The Society Pages. July 12, 2017.

<https://thesocietypages.org/trot/2017/07/12/how-racial-minorities-are-excluded-from-being-american/>

Catherine Ramirez. “Essential and Excluded: The Paradox of Assimilation in the United States.” University of California Press Blog. Nov 18, 2022.

<https://www.ucpress.edu/blog/53354/essential-and-excluded-the-paradox-of-assimilation-in-the-united-states/>