When Affirmative Action Was White

- The New Deal policies and post-war GI Bill, instead of leveling the economic playing field, actually widened the gap between white and black Americans.

- Administered in discriminatory ways, New Deal programs deliberately excluded various categories of people working as maids, farmers, and migrant workers. Social security, unemployment insurance, and welfare programs compounded racial inequality.

- The post-war GI Bill, which stimulated the emergence of the white middle-class by underwriting the housing and schooling of veterans, prevented black veterans from receiving the benefits they had earned.

- Southern Democrats were in a position to leave out many African Americans by omitting categories of work constituting nearly 75% of those employed in the South.

- Southern Democrats insisted that the administration of assistance to the poor and support for veterans be placed in the hands of local officials deeply hostile to black equality and advance.

- Southern Democrats prevented Congress from attaching any sort of anti-discrimination provisions to community health services, school lunches, and all other social welfare programs that distributed monies to their region.