

**0. Jim Crow Laws - Story Preface**

1. FREEDOM DAY
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This image by John T. McCutcheon, depicting the real (not theoretical) impact of "Jim Crow" laws in public transportation, is cropped from a larger political cartoon entitled "Mississippi at the St. Louis Fair." Published in McCutcheon's book *The Mysterious Stranger and other Cartoons* (1905). Online, courtesy Google Books.

*We cannot say  
that a law which authorizes  
or even requires  
the separation  
of the two races  
in public conveyances  
is unreasonable.*

United States Supreme Court  
Plessy vs. Ferguson  
May 18, 1896

On the 20th of January, 2009, Barack Obama became America's 44th President. A man of African-American heritage, seeking to unify a divided country, he noted in his inaugural address:

*This is the meaning of our liberty and our creed - why men and women and children of every race and every faith can join in celebration across this magnificent mall, and why a man whose father less than 60 years ago might not have been served at a local restaurant can now stand before you to take a most sacred oath.*

The President's father may not have been served in a D.C. restaurant, sixty years ago, because he was a black man. And in America, at that time, laws discriminated against people of color. This is a story about how that system - called "Jim Crow" - developed.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Jim-Crow-Laws>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Jim-Crow-Laws>

## White Car and Jim Crow Car

John Tinney McCutcheon was a famous cartoonist in the early 1900s. Many of his political cartoons were published in newspapers, especially the *Chicago Tribune*, and in subsequent books.

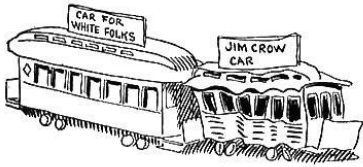
This image, depicting the real (not theoretical) impact of "Jim Crow" laws in public transportation, is cropped from a larger political cartoon entitled "Mississippi at the St. Louis Fair."

McCutcheon included that cartoon in his book *The Mysterious Stranger and other Cartoons* (published in 1905).

Cropped image, from "Mississippi at the St. Louis Fair," by John T. McCutcheon. Published in *The Mysterious Stranger and other Cartoons* (1905). Online, courtesy Google Books.

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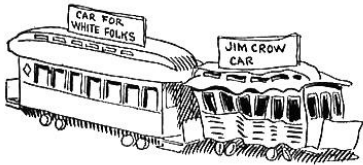


## Barack Obama - America's 44th President

Image and biography, courtesy the White House web site.

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## Jim Crow Laws

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## Barack Obama - Inaugural Address

President Barack H. Obama - 20 January 2009 Inaugural Address.

Online, courtesy C-SPAN.

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