

A close-up photograph of two young boys in school uniforms. The boy on the left is Black and the boy on the right is white. Both are smiling broadly and looking towards the camera. They are wearing white shirts and red neckties. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in similar uniforms.

# Racial & Ethnic Problems & Challenges in Contemporary Cuba

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# Main Objectives

Review racial & ethnic history of Cuba's population



Analyze prevailing racial discourse in Cuba



Assess impact of Cuban Revolution on Afro-Cubans

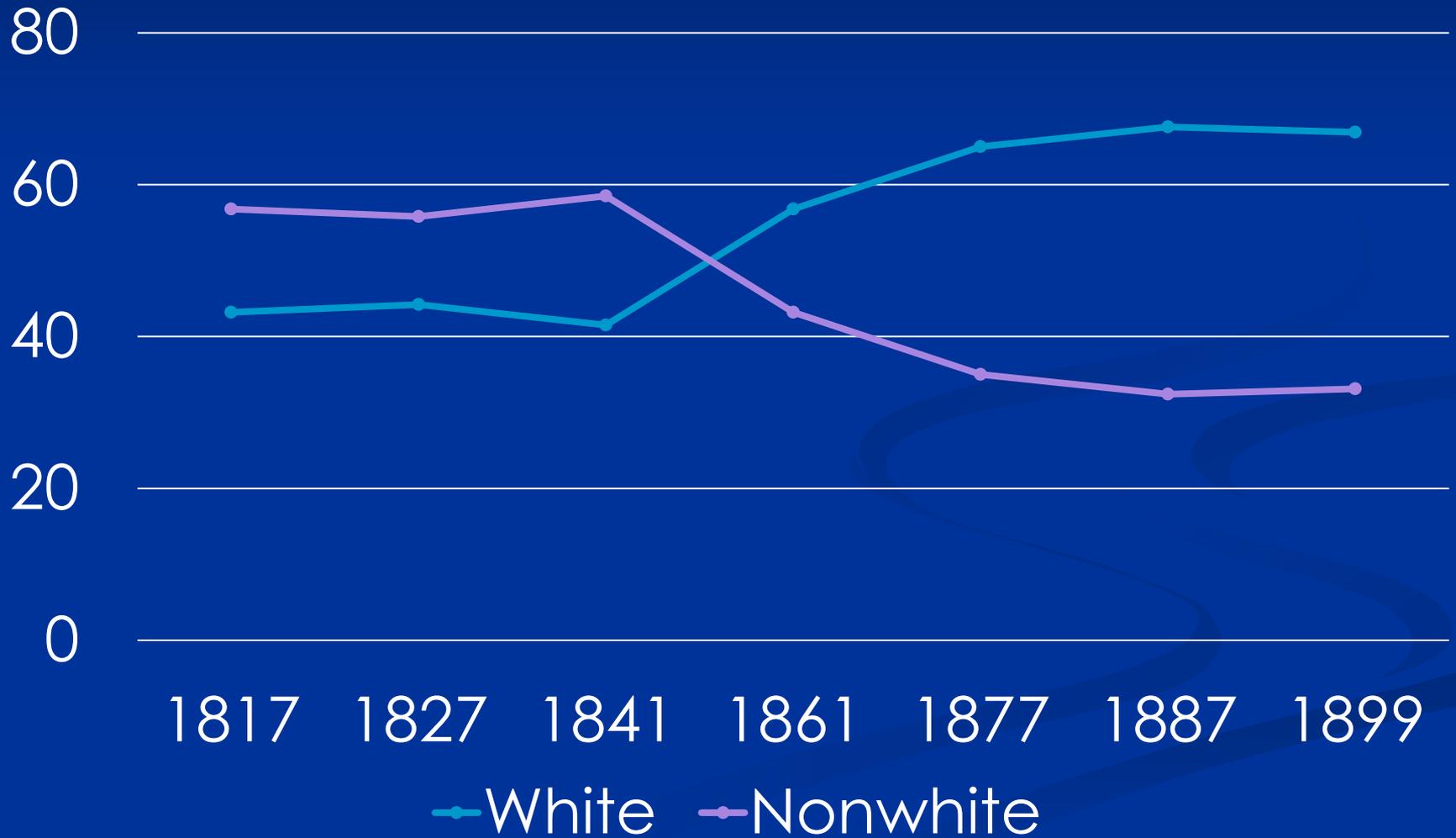


Examine continuing racial inequality on the island

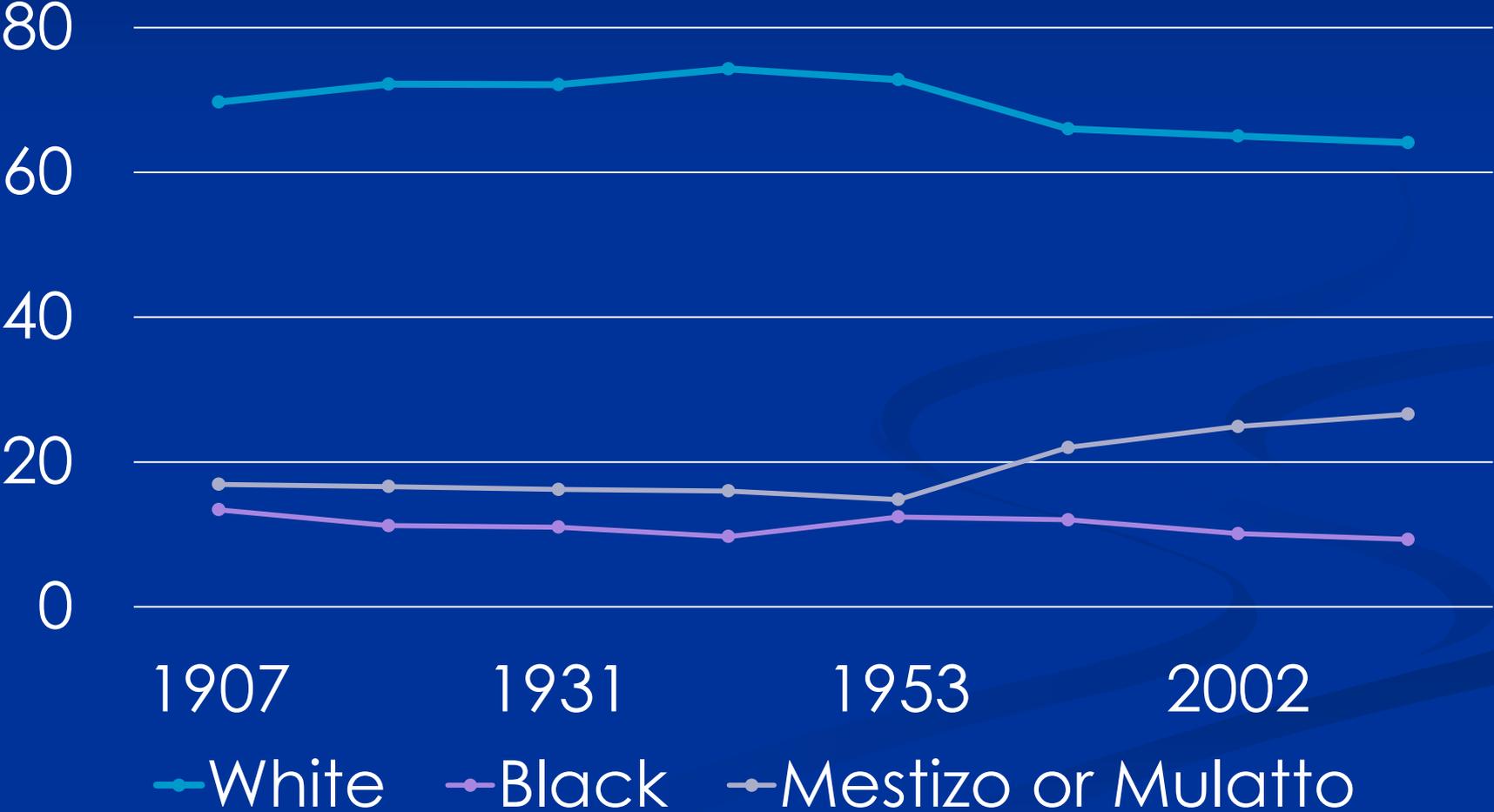


Compare racial profile of Cuba & its diaspora

# Race of Cuba's Population during 19<sup>th</sup> Century (%)



# Race of Cuba's Population since Independence (%)



# Main Ethnic Groups in Cuba

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Spanish      Andalusian, Canary Islander,  
Galician, Asturian

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African      Yoruba, Bantu, Arará, Carabalí

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Asian      Chinese

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Other      Haitian, Jamaican, Middle  
Eastern, Jewish

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# Decimation of Indigenous Population



# African Slavery in Cuba



# Spanish Migration to Cuba

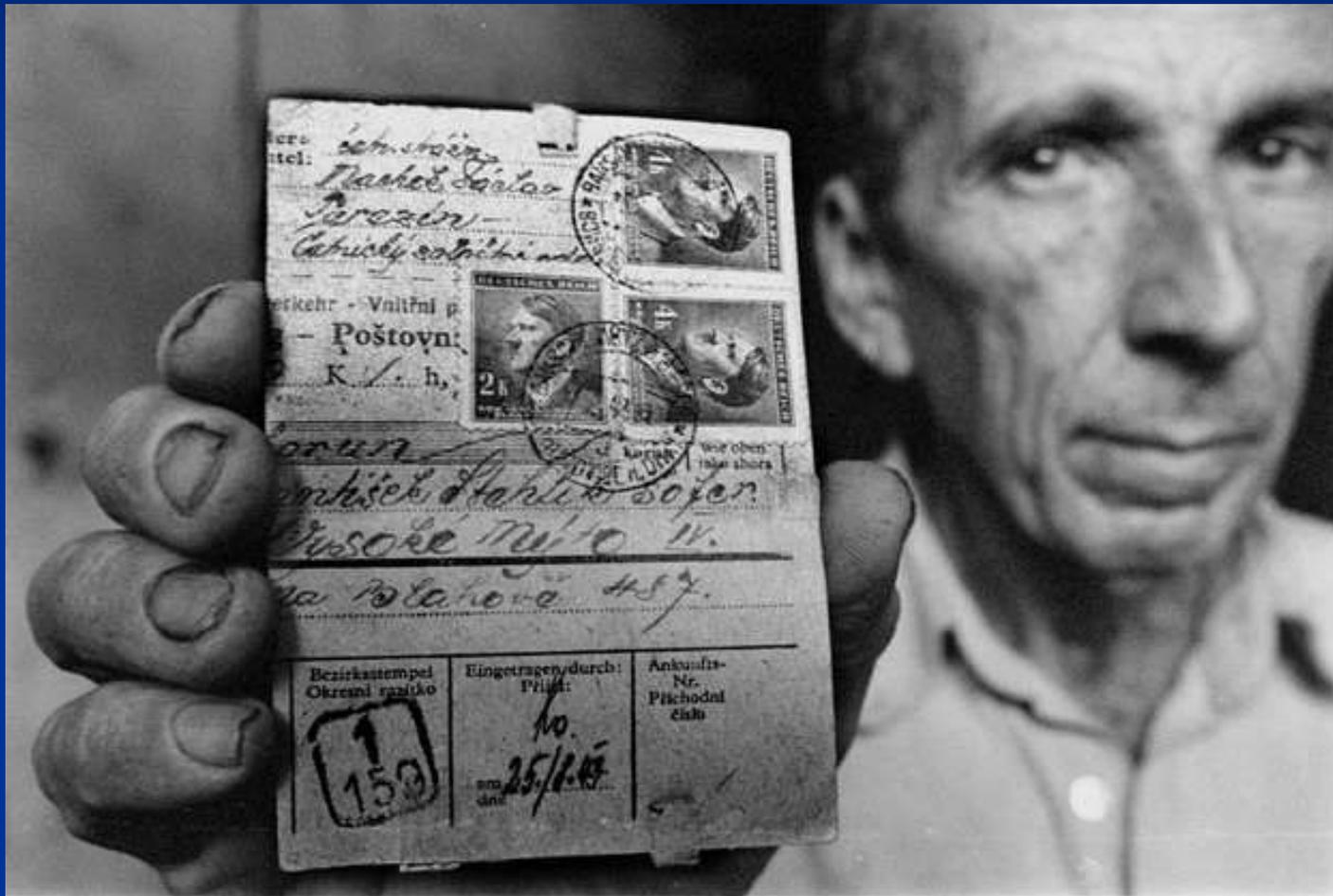


# Chinese Coolies in Cuba

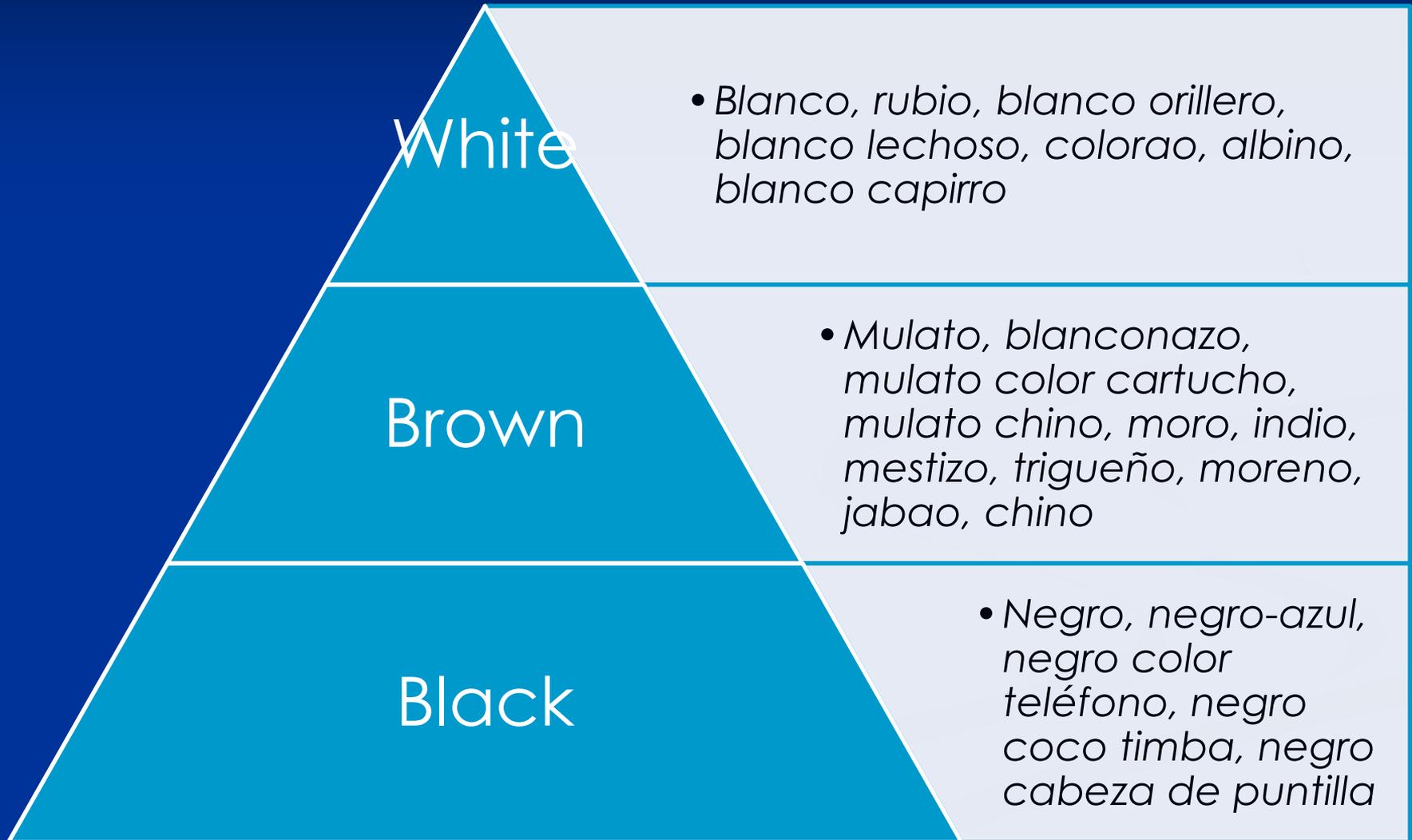


"THESE GREAT LOADS" IS ENOUGH... PRESENT AT WORK IN THE WILLOWY BEGGAR PLANTATION. ...

# The Jewish Diaspora



# Folk Racial Terms in Cuba



# Racial Discourses in Cuban History

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National identity initially defined by Creole whites

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Attempt to “whiten” Cuba’s population

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Gradual inclusion of blacks & mulattos

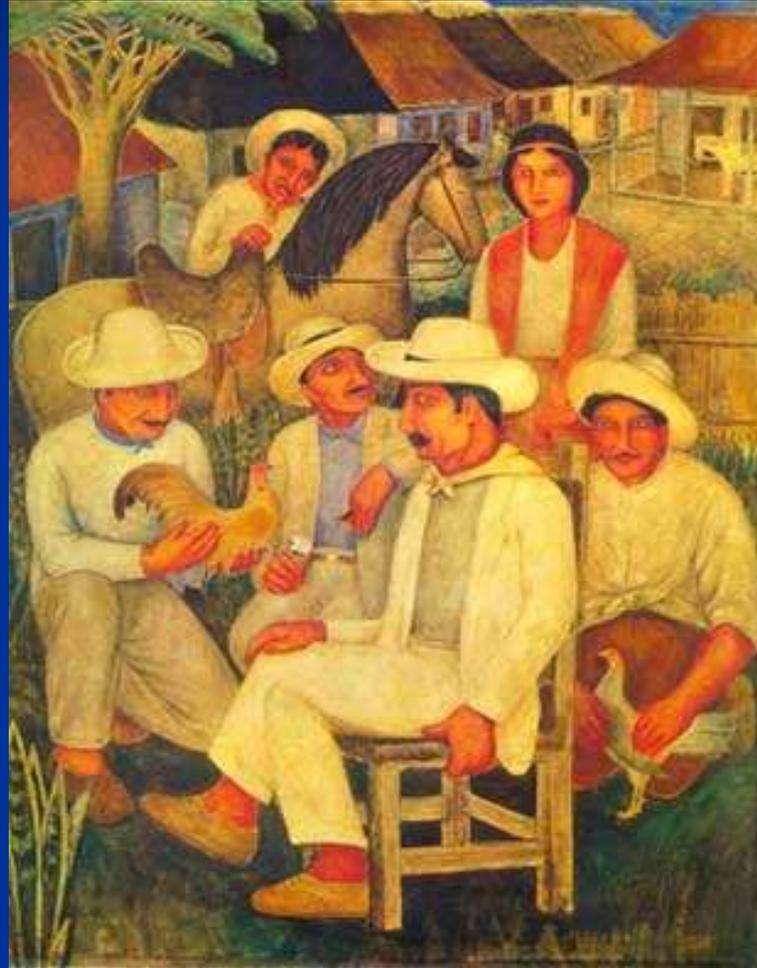
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Ideology of white supremacy

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Dominant discourse of “racial democracy”

# Enshrining the *Guajiro*



# The Afro-Cuban Movement



# Race Relations after 1959



# Black Cubans or Cuban Blacks?



# Impact of Special Period

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Development of “tourist apartheid”

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Growing migration from rural areas to Havana

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Stigmatizing “Palestinians”

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Afro-Cuban concentration in poorest regions & neighborhoods

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Racial differences in self-employment & remittances

# Racial Inequality in Today's Cuba



# Prominent Afro-Cuban Dissidents



Guillermo  
Fariñas



Manuel  
Cuesta  
Morúa



Berta Soler

# Racial Challenges on the Island

Persistence of  
racist attitudes &  
practices

White  
overrepresentation  
in upper social  
strata

Ambivalent  
policies toward  
Afro-Cuban culture

Silencing race from  
public &  
academic  
debates

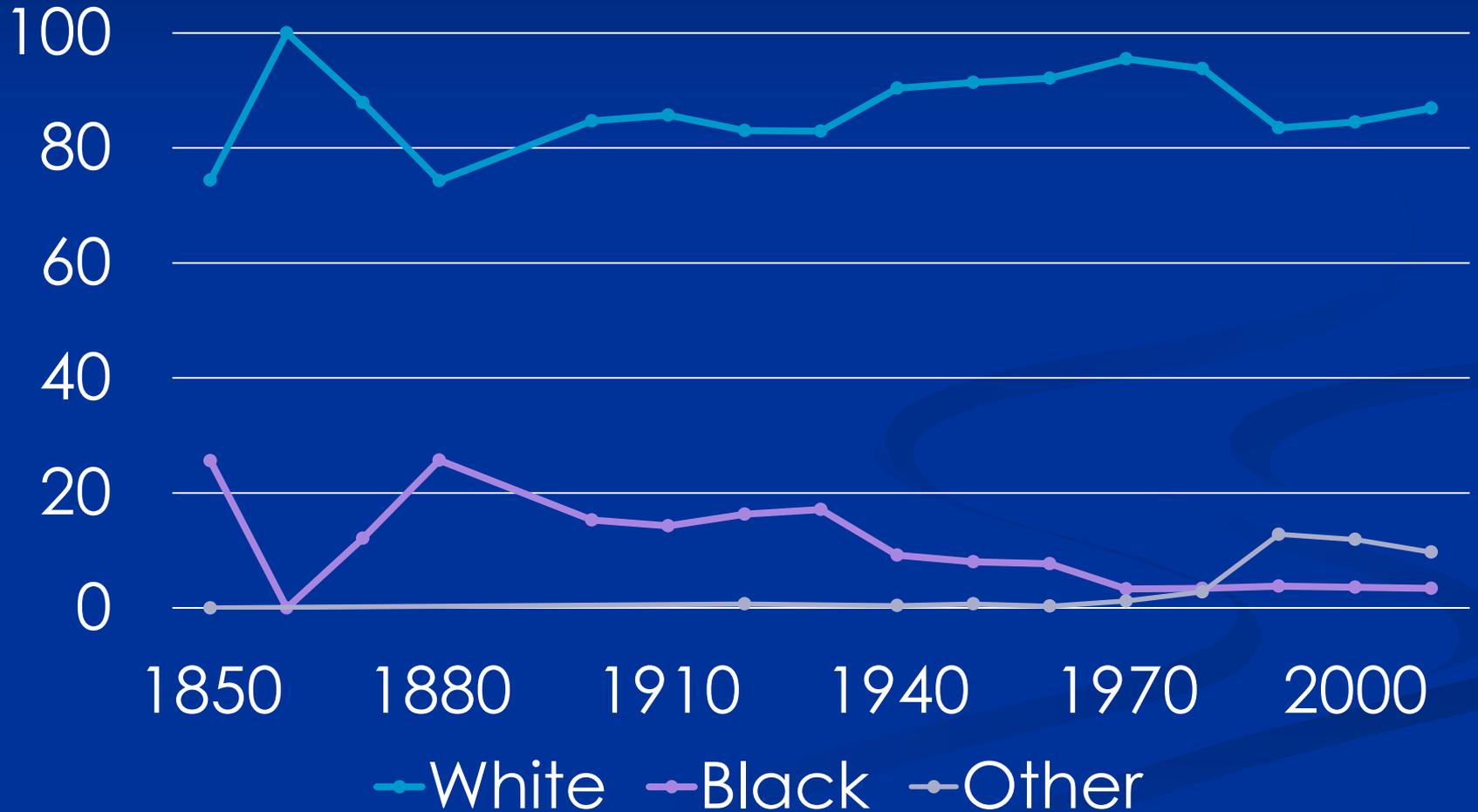
# The Zurbano Affair



# The Cuban Hip Hop Movement



# Racial Classification of Cubans in the U.S. (%)



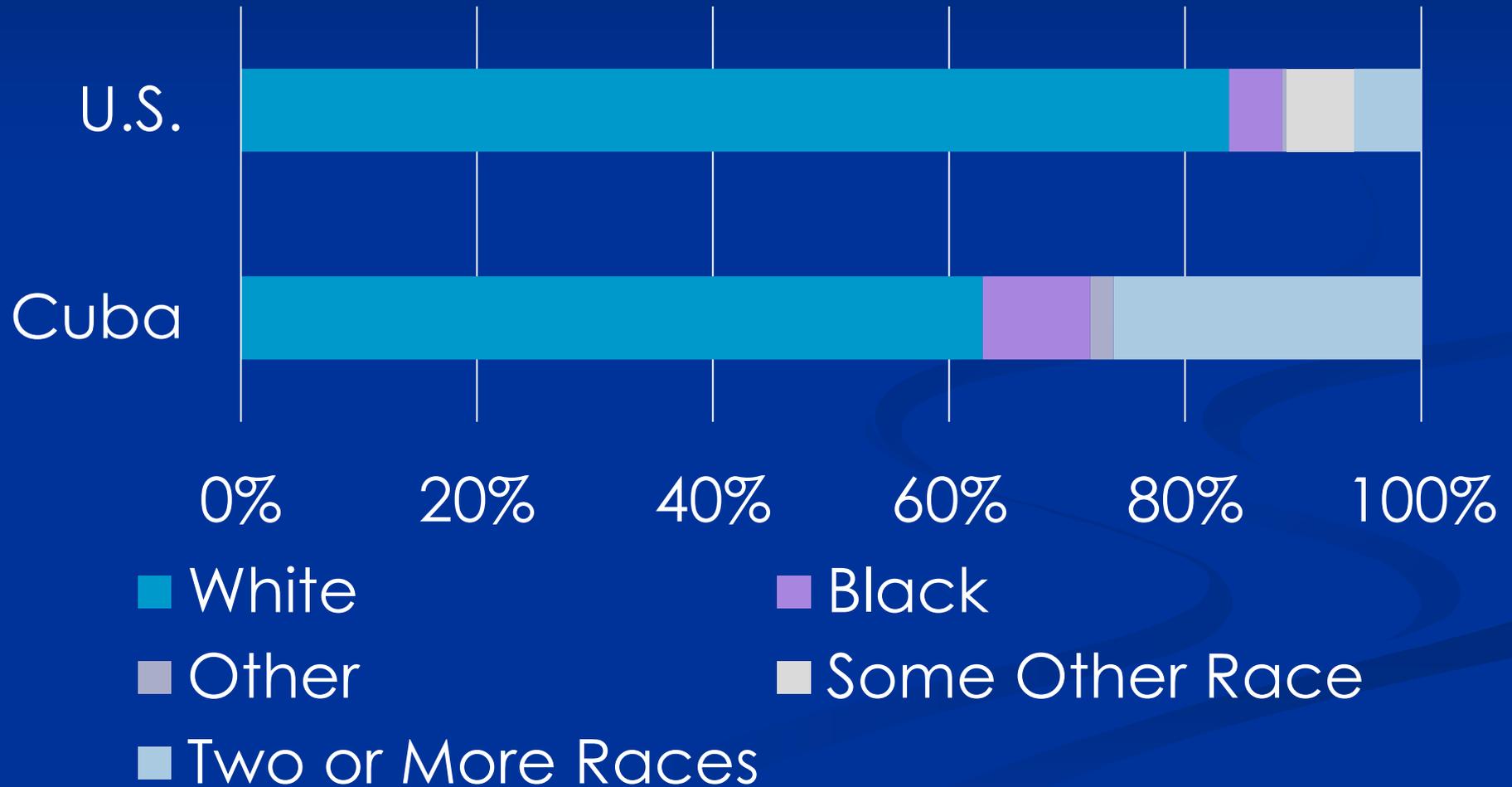
# Cubans in Tampa, Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century



# Cuban Exiles after 1959



# Cuban Population by Race, 2010–12



# Underrepresentation of Afro-Cubans in the U.S.

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Correlation between race & class in prerevolutionary Cuba

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Benefits of revolutionary programs for black Cubans

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Popular awareness of U.S. racism

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Anti-American Cuban propaganda

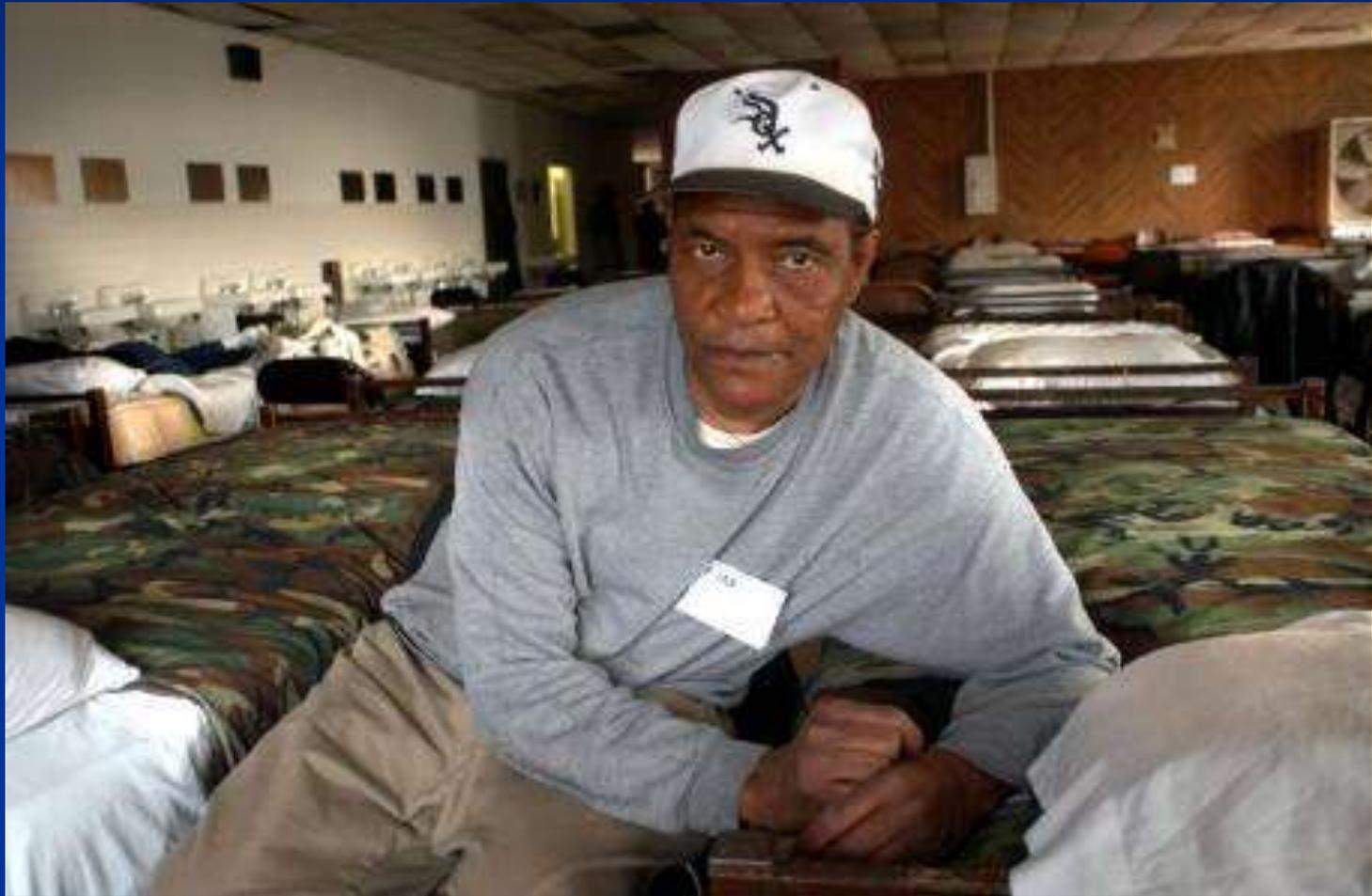
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Preference for family reunification in U.S. visa system

# “Yucas”



# A “Marielito”



# The Recent Cuban Diaspora



# Conclusions

History of racial & ethnic mixture in Cuba



Popular taxonomies beyond racial binary



Improved race relations after Revolution



Intensification of racial inequality since 1989



White overrepresentation in Cuban diaspora