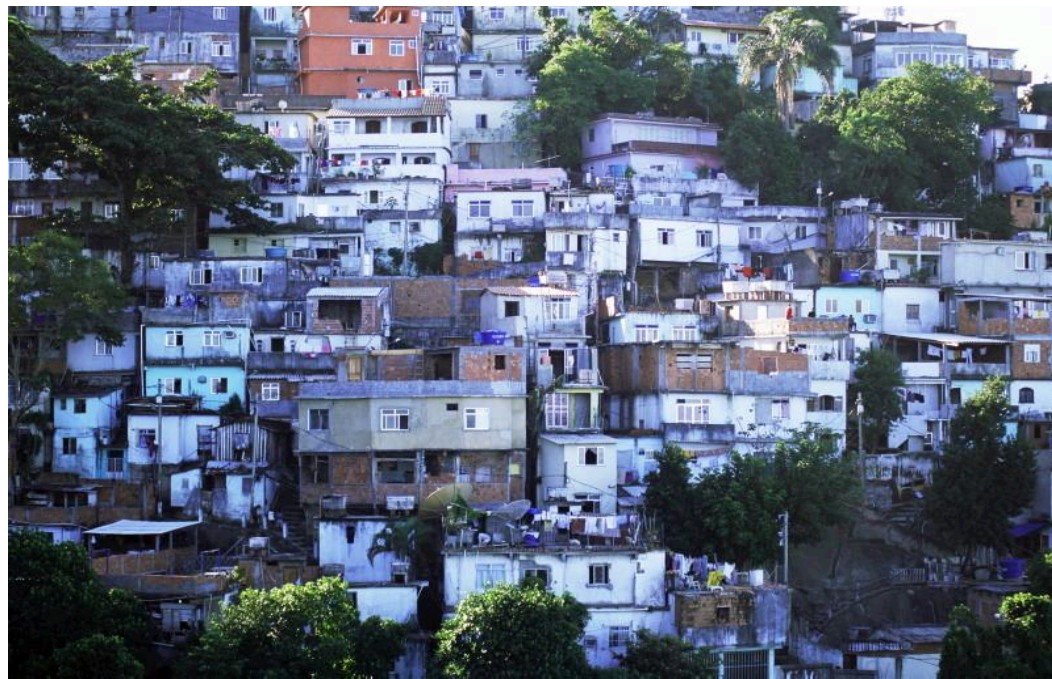# Influence of Governmental Policies in the Creation of American Ghettos and Brazilian Favelas
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Research Question

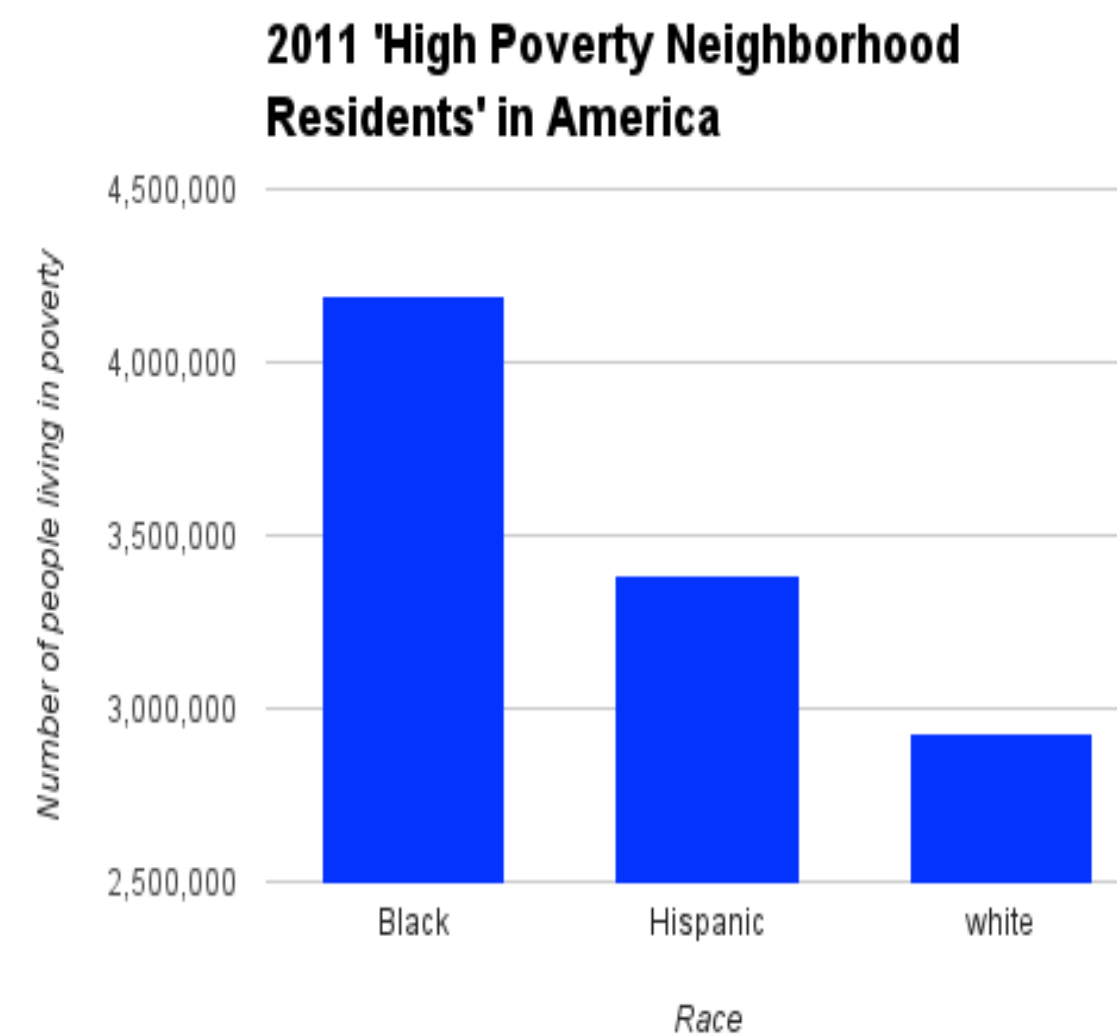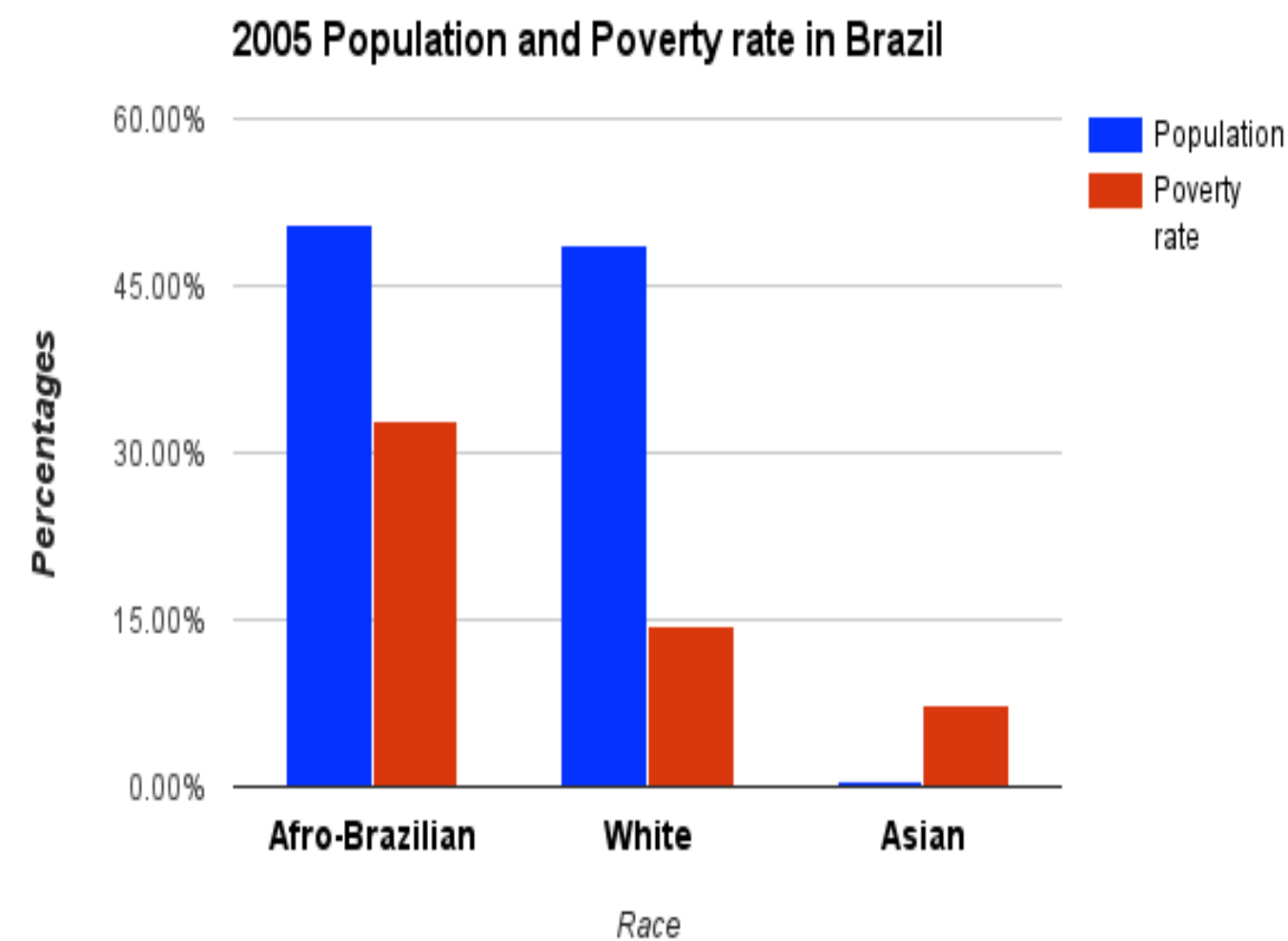How are policies intertwined in the making of American Ghettos and Brazilian favelas?

Background of Ghettos

- "The term 'ghetto' in the United States currently refers to an impoverished area populated by minority groups, predominantly blacks and Latinos" (Some use the term 'high poverty neighborhoods.')
- "1934-1968: Federal Housing Administration (FHA) mortgage insurance requirements utilize redlining; the practice of denying or limiting financial services to certain neighborhoods based on racial or ethnic composition without regards to the residents' qualifications or creditworthiness."
- A lot of times, FHA insurance was excluded to new residential developments on the edges of major cities ("considered safer investments") and not to inner city neighborhoods. As a result, many middle class residents left the inner city, leaving the neighborhoods to decay.

Background of Favelas

- "A favela is a Brazilian slum."
- Favelas are racially mixed, with Afro-Brazilian being the majority.
- After a spread of diseases (plague, cholera, and yellow fever), during the early 1900s, mayor Pereira Passos removed people from the central areas of Rio, by "restricting construction of housing in these areas." However, not on the hills. The construction of wood was prohibited on most of the streets in the center of Rio. However, not on uninhabited hills.
- "Therefore, this policy acted as sort of an official incentive for the poor to migrate to hillsides of the city."

Data

2005 Population and Poverty rate in Brazil

2011 'High Poverty Neighborhood Residents' in America

Conclusion

In researching this question, it was found that the Federal Housing Administration's (FHA) redlining policy (1934-1968) influenced the making of ghettos and a Brazilian state policy (during the early 1900's) which made it harder for people to settle in the city of Rio De Janeiro, led to the creation of a favela in Rio. Redlining intentionally discriminated against one's race or ethnicity, whereas, the Brazilian policy intentionally or unintentionally discriminated against one who was poor. Most of the people who are living in ghettos are black and the majority of people living in favelas are Afro-Brazilian. In addition, most Brazilians living in poverty are Afro-Brazilians. It was also found that racism in Brazil is seen more differently than in the United States. An area of future research is on the average income of Brazilians living in favelas. This research project has been a great experience. More appropriate strategies of research were acquired such as gathering and citing research from scholarly sources. Lastly, it was realized that research does not just provide one answer for the cause of something, there are many different things intertwined.

Methodology

There are a total of seven sources for this research on ghettos and favelas. The articles, 'Favelas and Ghettos Race and Class in Rio de Janeiro and New York City' by Ney dos Santos Oliveira, 'The Rise and Decline of the American Ghetto,' 'Historical shift from explicit to implicit policies affecting housing segregation in Eastern Massachusetts,' were used to gather research on the background on ghettos. The article, 'Public policy for the favelas in Rio de Janeiro: the problem (in) framing' by Nicole Maria Turcheti e Melo was used to gather research on the background of favelas. The article 'Concentration Of Poverty In The New Millennium' by Paul A. Jargowsky was used to gather data on the racial makeup of Americans living in ghettos. The article 'Why Is Poverty So High Among Afro-Brazilians? A Decomposition Analysis of the Racial Poverty Gap' by Carlos Gradín was used to gather data for graphing the racial makeup of Brazilians living in poverty. The two images are derived from Encyclopedia Britannica ImageQuest (The image of the ghetto is located in New Orleans, Louisiana and the image of the favela is located in Rio De Janeiro.)