

CONVERSATIONS ON SC with Dr. Walter Edgar

Lesson 21: South Carolina Today

Focus Points:

- Changed Politically, Socially, and Educationally
 - Spread of University of South Carolina campuses; Clemson University – coed
 - SC State University – integrated student body
 - Desegregation of all schools and institutions
 - Jim Crow Laws – illegal
 - Republican Party – control of SC and delegation
- Economic Development
 - Began when Strom Thurmond was Governor
 - International industrial recruitment
 - Recruited foreign business – Spartanburg
 - Return to major port city – Charleston
 - Leading container ship port
- Demographic Diversity
 - Native born population – down to 64% in 2000 census
 - Population shift to “outsiders”
 - Horry, Beaufort, and Aiken Counties
 - UN type population base
 - Asian Americans
 - High Tech industries
 - Hispanic Americans
- Economic Changes
 - Agricultural – Soy Beans in 1990’s vs. Cotton in 1890’s
 - Tourism – new industry after WWII
 - Grand Strand, Horry County to Beaufort County
 - Increase of golf courses
 - Hilton Head – first modern planned development by Charles Frazier
 - Coastal Counties – fastest growing counties in state and nation
 - Low Country
 - Retirement communities
 - Younger adults – location and climate
 - Impact on infrastructure – highways, water supply
 - Poverty Pockets
 - Rural counties
 - Primarily agricultural and African Americans
 - Textile Mill closing
 - Educational improvement – continued need

Discussion:

What were the major changes in South Carolina from the 1890’s to the 1990’s?
Discuss the significant changes that you have noticed in your life time.

Readings:

Edgar, South Carolina, A History. pp. 553-585.

Paul Horne & Patricia Klien, South Carolina, The History of an American State. pp. 486-507.

South Carolina Social Studies Standards:

Standard 8-7: The student will demonstrate an understanding of South Carolina's economic revitalization during World War II and the latter twentieth century.

Indicator 8-7.1: Summarize the significant aspects of the economic growth experienced by South Carolina during and following World War II, including the contributions of Governor Strom Thurmond in promoting economic growth; the creation of the State Development Board and the technical education system; the benefits of good road systems, a sea port, and the Savannah River site; and the scarcity of labor unions. (H, E, G, P)

Indicator 8-7.2: Provide examples of the expanding role of tourism in South Carolina's economy, including the growth of resorts and development along the coast and the expanding transportation systems that allowed greater access to recreational sites. (H, G, E)

Indicator 8-7.3: Explain how the increased industrialization and mechanization, the reduction in cotton production, and the emigration of African Americans both resulted from and contributed to agricultural decline in South Carolina. (H, E)

Indicator 8-7.4: Explain the factors that influenced the economic opportunities of African American South Carolinians during the latter twentieth century, including racial discrimination, the Briggs v. Elliott case, the integration of public facilities and the civil rights movement, agricultural decline, and statewide educational improvement. (H, P, E)

Indicator 8-7.5: Explain the economic impact of twentieth century events on South Carolina, including the opening and closing of military bases, the development of industries, the influx of new citizens, and the expansion of port facilities. (E, H, P, G)

Literacy Elements:

E. Explain change and continuity over time

J. Demonstrate responsible citizenship within the school community and the local and national communities