
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

speaking migration moving southward along the Atlantic into the western highlands. By the 11th century A.D., this westward stream gave rise to a major Bantu center in southeastern Zaire (D), from which evolved the modern dialects spread widely through the eastern highlands.

Phillipson finds circumstantial but persuasive evidence that this linguistic dispersion correlates with the existing archeological record of the spread of Iron Age culture. The Sudanic belt is the probable homeland for both the ancestral Bantu language and early metal-working cultures. (The best-known iron-working centers were adjacent to the Sudanic belt, at Nok in Nigeria and Meroë in Nubia.) Today's known Bantu-speaking areas correspond broadly to evidence of Early Iron Age culture found in pottery at 350 different archeological sites.

SOCIETY

*The Persistence
of Segregation*

"Trends in Residential Segregation: 1960-1970" by Thomas L. Van Valey, Wade Clark Roof, and Jerome E. Wilcox, in *American Journal of Sociology* (Jan. 1977), University of Chicago Press, 5801 Ellis Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60637.

According to many recent studies, the social legislation of the 1960s has led to both absolute and relative improvements in the status of U.S. minorities. Increases in income between 1960 and 1970 were proportionately greater for nonwhites than whites (60 vs. 39 percent). In several key socioeconomic categories—occupation, political participation, education—blacks show significant upward shifts.

Nevertheless, according to the writers, who are researchers at the Universities of Massachusetts and Virginia, a "pervasive web of discrimination" apparently continues to bar blacks from housing in many communities.

Comparing mean "segregation indexes" for all 237 "standard metropolitan statistical areas" (SMSAs) existing in 1970 with those for the 137 areas so designated in 1960, the authors confirmed a *decline* in residential segregation of 8 percent for SMSAs generally, and of 9 percent for central cities. However, this decline has apparently resulted from the designation by the Census Bureau of 100 "new" SMSAs (cities which became SMSAs since 1960) with already low segregation indexes.

Among the "original" 137 SMSAs there was virtually no change between 1960 and 1970 in the level of residential segregation. In fact, 7 of the 10 most segregated cities in 1960 (Chicago, Cleveland, Milwaukee, Los Angeles, Gary, Dayton, Oklahoma City) remained among the most segregated in 1970.