

Lily Geismer (*Don't Blame Us; Suburban Liberals and the Transformation of the Democratic Party*, 2015) described how this process unfolded in Greater Boston. There, following WWII, a massive exodus of relatively wealthy whites to the suburbs, changed the politics of the city and its surroundings. Boston filled up with new Black and brown residents from the south. The Massachusetts Democratic Party shifted its electoral base from the working-class residents of the major cities to the affluent suburbs.

An example of the consequences of this was the Democratic response to Boston's failing segregated school system. The Party refused to support a greater Boston School District, which would have used busing to integrate the students in the region. Instead, it limited busing to the working-class students of Boston and prevented the integration of suburban students. The Democratic Brahmins of the suburbs created a tiny voluntary busing system called METCO and admonished the white working-class of Boston as racist. Similarly, faced with a growing housing crisis and the limits of zoning, the suburbs created nature preserves – preventing affordable housing – and congratulated themselves as saviors of the planet.

Nationally, the Party, led by President Jimmy Carter tempered its enthusiasm for the pro-labor policies of FDR's New Deal. It gave up on the old plan for a guaranteed annual wage, job creation programs, and pro-union policies. It focused on social policy changes. He even broke a mine workers' strike. Clinton and Obama kept this new orientation, supporting Fair Trade and globalization.

Unless the national and state parties shift to become a new party of labor, with Brahmin allies, the working class will stick with Trump.

