

# Peru: Urban Segregation History and Today

Angie Quilla  
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Carl Nightingale, PhD.  
Department of Transnational Studies, State University of New York at Buffalo

University at Buffalo  
College of Arts and Sciences

The Academies

## Abstract:

Urban segregation is not a phenomenon, but rather a system created and kept by society's benefactors. Dr. Nightingale's 2012 book *Segregation: A Global History of Divided Cities* goes into the history of segregation from around the world, as well as its functions and the role it plays in society today. This presentation is derived from Nightingale's work, and expanded on by Angie Quilla. *Peru: Urban Segregation History and Today* goes into why segregation started, and its role today in the country of Peru. Peru's segregation started during its early colonization, when sectors of the city were divided for people of each color. Although these acts were done hundreds of years ago, Peru today still has visible separations of its people. This presentation hopes to show the acts of segregations that are taking place today, and the high price we pay for it.

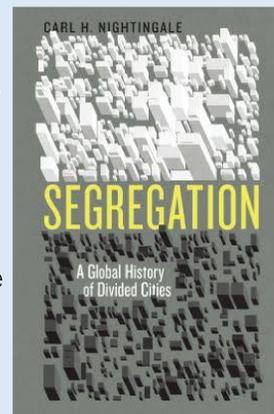
## Segregation: A Global History of Divided Cities:

Dr. Carl Nightingale's book *Segregation: A Global History of Divided Cities*, discloses that segregation is not only found in South Africa or the American South in the ages of Jim Crow, but everywhere. Shortly after the emancipation of black slaves, white people were looking for new ways of still separating themselves, this was the beginning of segregation. Whites implemented stronger ideals and laws that gave blacks a worse school, and transportation then before Jim Crow laws. But this is not to indicate that segregation was constructed and only found in the United States, but rather a collected idea from past civilizations. Before the act was called segregation, people were separating themselves from the base of color, or religion, much before the Americans started to. In 1700 British officials decided on colored town, "black towns" and "white towns" as a way for better governing in the city of Madras which is today's Chennai. These past actions taken affect the cities and countries now, for the segregationist actions taken were carried down and are seen in today's world.

Cities such as Cape Town, Durban, and Johannesburg are examples of how their past white settlement has shaped the city's racial settlement now.

Dr. Carl Nightingale's book reaches deeper into specifically urban segregation with three main points for its racial being and critical points to the West's rise to global dominance in the modern era:

- Government
- Networks of intellectual exchange
- Institutions associated with the modern capitalist real estate industry.



## Introduction:

The segregation seen in the country of Peru is very similar to the one that is seen in most of the southern and central American countries. The faces that are seen in slums share similar characteristics, indigenous people of the home country or anyone of a darker complexion. The caste system that is seen in India appears in a different way in these countries. The history of colonization is its influence to why today's Peru looks the way it does, and separates its people.

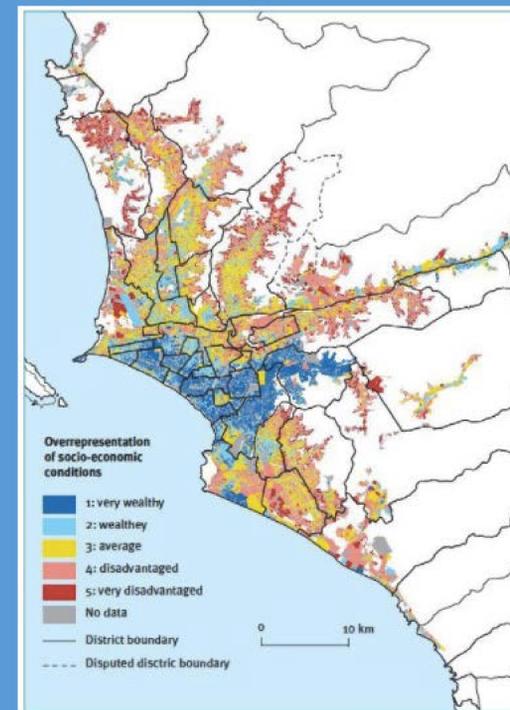


## History of Peru's Urban Segregation:

Colonization of Peru began in 1520 by the Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro Pizarro, all Incan territories were conquered and claimed by Spain. Throughout this time indigenous were taken away recognition in social status therefore denying them ownership of land and losing what was at first theirs. Segregation between the Mestizo/a (mix of Spaniard) and Andino/a (indigenous of the Andes) became a norm in the Peruvian society, and was continued on to Peru today.

## Peru's Segregation Today:

Typology of blocks in the Lima urban area according to the social conditions of households\*



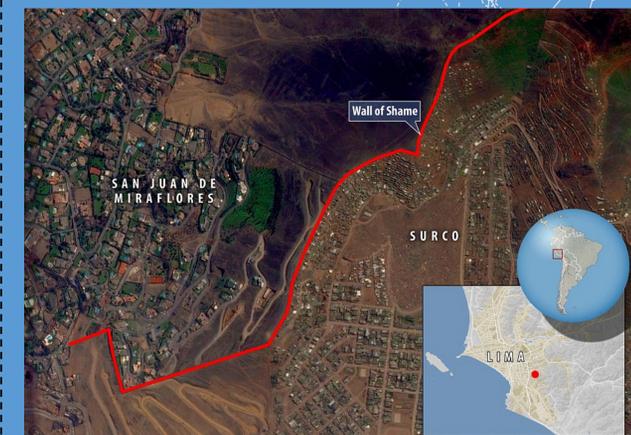
As seen in the top image, the inner sections of urban cities are where the wealthier section of the population are found. The people in these parts are lighter skinned, and are what the locals would call "blancos". In these parts of the cities the westernization is at its prime. Shopping malls from the states are found there, with very similar stores as the ones here. Dining areas with western foods are also found in the inner cities, and are treated as luxurious dinner restaurants.

\*L'Espace géographique 3/2015, p. 273-288

## The Wall of Shame:



The wall started being built in 1985 and now separates one of the wealthiest neighborhoods in the country, Casuarinas (district of San Juan de Miraflores) from one of the poorest, Pamplona Alta (district of Surco). A majority of the residents of Surco lack accessibility of clean water, sewage, electricity, paved roads and public lighting. The wall was started by the wealthy educated Jesuits who wanted to keep their schools, and real estates at its value and not have decreased by invasions. The wall now causes difficulty for the gardeners, cooks, cleaners, nannies, and guards who live on the side of Surco and work on the side of San Juan De Miraflores.



## References

1. Nightingale, Carl H. *Segregation: A Global History of Divided Cities*. Chicago: U of Chicago, 2015. Print.
2. Évelyne Mesclier, Marie Piron, Pauline Gluski, "Territoires et inclusion dans les périphéries de Lima (Pérou) : une démarche exploratoire à partir de données sur le raccordement à l'eau et au tout-à-l'égout", *L'Espace géographique* 3/2015 (Tome 44), p. 273-288