TEACHING TOLERANCE

A PROJECT OF THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
TOLERANCE.ORG

STUDENT HANDOUT

LESSON 3, 4 & 5

The Rebirth of Caste

Chapter 1 of *The New Jim Crow,* "The Rebirth of Caste," illustrates the persistence of racial hierarchy and the evolution of racial caste through U.S. history. After reading each excerpt from "The Rebirth of Caste," use the graph on page 2 to plot and sequence the topics and events below (more than one event may be assigned to a singe dot). The circled items have been plotted to get you started. Once you complete the graph, answer the analysis questions that follow.

demand for cheap labor

The War on Drugs

civil rights movement

The Civil War

NAACP

convict laws

vagrancy laws

black codes

The Poor People's Campaign

race-neutral rhetoric/ colorblindness

Reconstruction Era

racial bribe of white supremacy

Southern Redemption

racial bribe of segregation laws

Jim Crow

WWII

white panic and outrage

chattel slavery

civil rights activism

withdrawal of federal troops from the South

white resistance to civil rights reforms

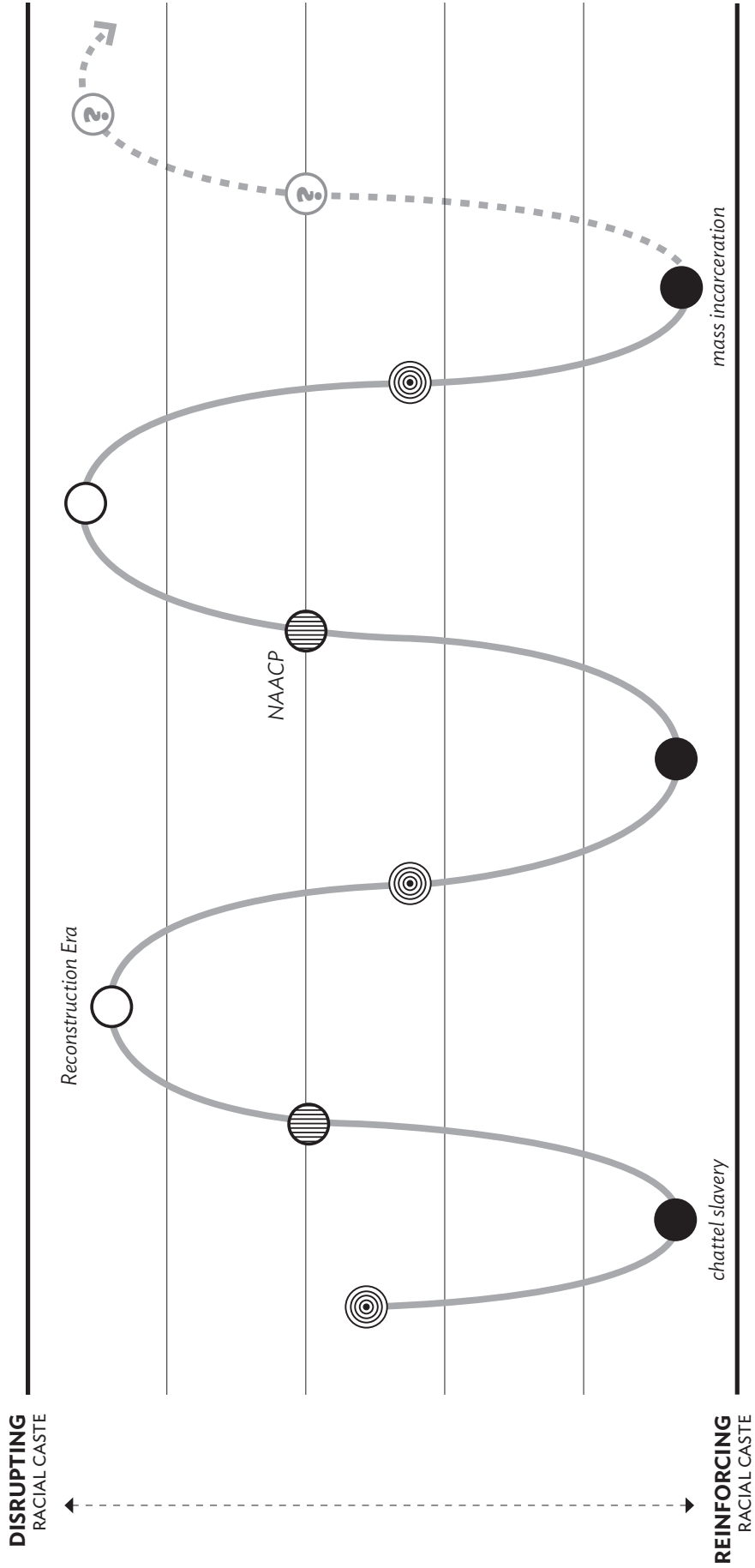racial bribe of "law and order" rhetoric

mass incarceration

Supreme Court rulings

Bacon's Rebellion

Emancipation

● = racial caste

○ = disrupting racial caste

◎ = quest for new racial hierarchy

▥ = resistance to racial hierarchy

● = racial caste
○ = disrupting racial caste
◎ = quest for new racial hierarchy
⊜ = resistance to racial hierarchy

DISRUPTING
RACIAL CASTE

REINFORCING
RACIAL CASTE

chattel slavery

Reconstruction Era

NAACP

mass incarceration

Analyze and interpret the information on your graph by answering the following questions.

What does each black dot signify? What similarities or patterns appear in those historical spaces?

_____

_____

_____

_____

What does each white dot signify? What similarities or patterns appear in those historical spaces?

_____

_____

_____

_____

What does each dot with concentric circles signify? What similarities or patterns appear in those historical spaces?

_____

_____

_____

_____

What does each striped dot signify? What similarities or patterns appear in those historical spaces?

_____

_____

_____

_____

How does Alexander describe what has happened historically in between the bold lines?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Complete the unfinished graph. What are your predictions? What are your hopes?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____