

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/asian-americans-and-affirmative-action-addressing-the-color-of-privilege/>

This video discusses a lawsuit brought by the Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA) against Harvard University, aimed at prohibiting the consideration of race in college admissions. The SFFA argued that Harvard's practices were unfair and unconstitutional, particularly regarding the treatment of Asian American applicants, who reportedly needed significantly higher SAT scores than White applicants to gain admission. The case reached the U.S. Supreme Court, which sided with the SFFA, effectively eliminating affirmative action in higher education.

Historically, Asian Americans in elite institutions experienced rapid enrollment growth from 1976 to 1985, yet their admission rates began to decline, leading to complaints filed with the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) in the late 1980s. These complaints highlighted that Asian American applicants were admitted at lower rates than equally qualified White applicants.

In 2016, another complaint accused Ivy League colleges of unlawful discrimination against Asian American applicants, asserting that race-conscious admissions were at fault. However, the OCR found insufficient evidence for civil rights violations.

This video also reflects on the diverse experiences of Asian Americans, emphasizing differing perspectives on admissions practices and the belief in elite education as a pathway to upward mobility. It argues that the elimination of race-conscious admissions may not be in the best interest of many Asian Americans, especially given the low overall admission rates to elite institutions.

The author emphasizes the need for a collective civil rights movement that benefits all rather than a selective approach that primarily aids a few. They discuss the importance of building cross-racial coalitions and centering Asian American voices in advocacy efforts, particularly to address educational inequities and the broader social structure limiting opportunities for many in the community. The author expresses hope for a future where younger Asian Americans can redefine their narratives and collaborate more broadly on civil rights issues.