

Family Values: Some Context

- 1965** Moynihan Report released
characterizes Black families as "tangle of pathology"
- 1991** Anita Hill/Clarence Thomas Controversy
During Senate Confirmation Hearing of Supreme Court nominee Thomas Hill testifies that she was sexually harassed by Thomas
Nationally televised; mobilizes feminists and anti-feminists
National discussions about sexism, racism, discrimination in workplace
Thomas is confirmed
- 1992** Rodney King (who is black) is beaten by police (who are all white)
Jury (which is all white) acquits the officers
Result: LA Riots last for 6 days
- 1992** Dan Quayle criticizes Murphy Brown for her lack of family values
As part of larger speech, blames LA Riots on crisis in families
- 1992** Year of the Woman
4 Woman Senators are elected in the same year
Barbara Boxer, Dianne Feinstein, Carol Mosley Braun, Patty Murray
- 1995** Personal Responsibility Act is introduced
- 1995** Losing Isaiah is released
- 1996** Bill Clinton is elected to his second term
Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act becomes law.
Welfare reform: 5 Year limit on benefits, Requires "able-bodied" adults to work after 2 years, unwed mothers to cooperate in identifying paternity. No benefits for those convicted of a felony drug charge, Substantial tax deduction to couple who adopt and bars adoption agencies from considering race in adoption
- 1998** Drucilla Cornell writes "Adoption and its Progeny"
- 2008** Sarah Palin runs for Vice President
Palin's daughter Bristol is a pregnant teenager
Palin is glorified by some as good mother
- 2009** Nadya Suleman gives birth to 8 children
Vilified in the media as the ultimate "unfit" mother