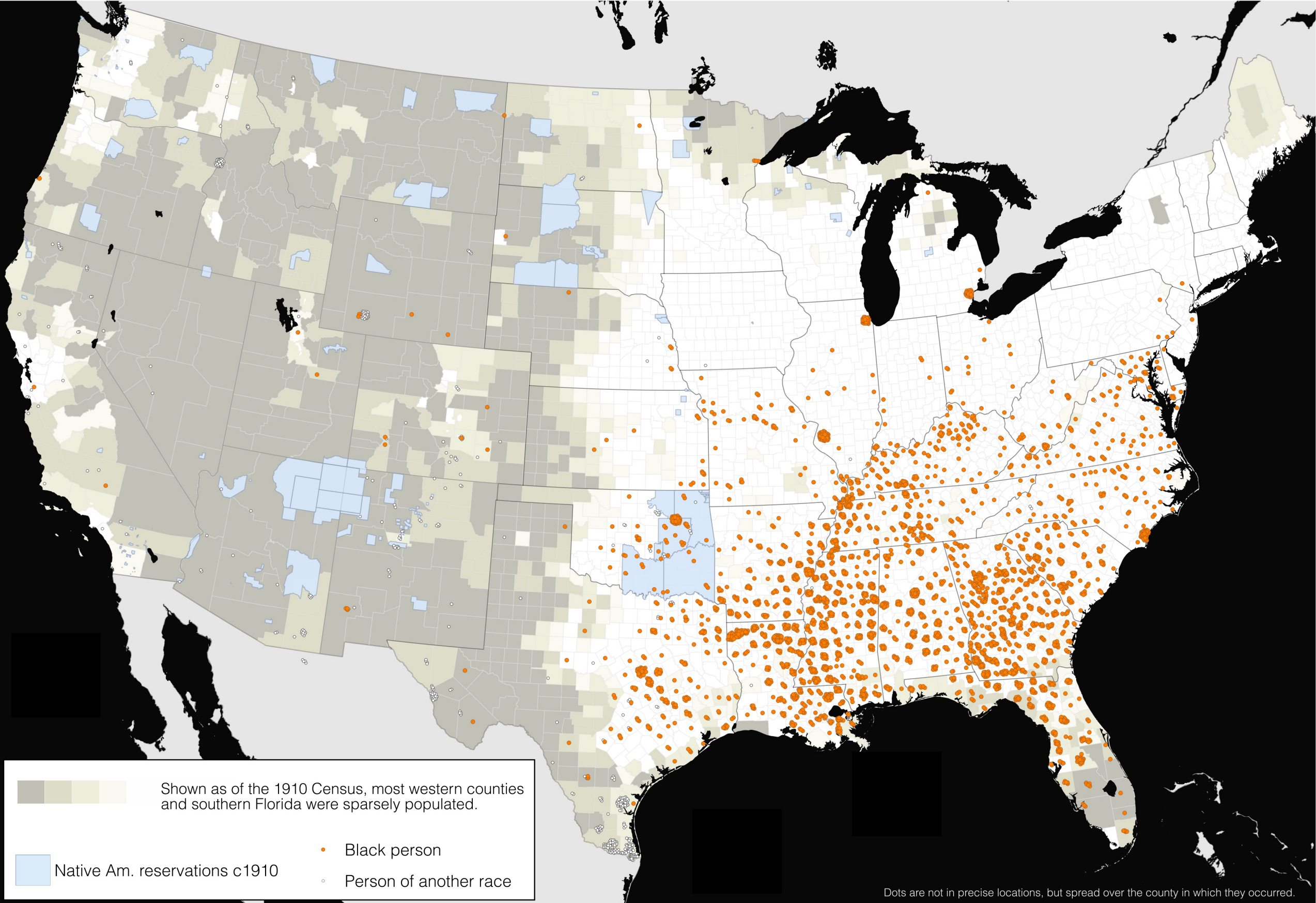# Lynchings & mob violence to enforce white supremacy:
highlighting Black victims from 1877-1964

Lynching means more than homicide: it is condemning someone to death by the whims of a mob or an entire community — no judge. Over time, it became racist, common, and brutal.

In the mid-1800s, lynching arose as a crude form of frontier violence done by vigilantes "keeping the peace"— about 40% of all the recorded lynchings by this time were done to white men accused of some crime. But studies have discovered lynching was used more often in towns that had a functioning courthouse. This seems to contradict the idea that it was just a time of lawlessness.

As time went on, lynching became a tool that people engaged in hatred: it was applied viciously as Anglos clashed in tensions with Mexican-Americans on the southwest border. It was an ultimatum leveled against Chinese families who were living alongside white settlers in the middle of California, Oregon, and Washington. Then by the 1880s as Black Americans were becoming successful businessmen, property owners, and elected officials, the defenders of white supremacy in the South escalated lynching to a scale it had never been used before.

Visit MonroeWorkToday.org to learn the names of people on this map, and explore the history of lynching as it was used to enforce white supremacy across the entire United States.

This map focuses only on years after 1877. Hundreds more lynchings of Black people occurred before 1877, but this research was not available when making this map.

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Legend

Shown as of the 1910 Census, most western counties and southern Florida were sparsely populated.

Native Am. reservations c1910

• Black person

○ Person of another race

Dots are not in precise locations, but spread over the county in which they occurred.

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