

RECORD B

Excerpt from "The Latin Kings Speak - Talk by a Latin King Leader Mar. 28, 2002" to a group of college students studying gangs (www.gangresearch.net/ChicagoGangs/latinkings/Reyx.html)

How the Latin Kings Started

The Latin Kings were a small organization when they first started and there were nothing but street gangs in the city of Chicago in the 1950's but people only concentrate about the blacks and the Latinos because it was during the civil rights movement and that's the focus. But at the same time there were a lot of Polish gangs, and Jewish gangs. A variety, a variety of gangs all over the city. The difference is that the Caucasian groups of the gangs were already set on the track of being politicians, commissioners, police officers and everything. We were set on a track of poverty.

Gangs, Racism, and Survival

And the basis of gangs is the basis of poverty and racism. When you have poverty and racism, inequality, lack of a stable economic base in the community, you're gonna have gangs whether you like it or not. Nowadays they just so happen to be black and latinos. Why? Because we're the ones that have the lack of economics in our community. Some people say you know pull yourself up by your own bootstraps right and we always say, well what if we don't got boots. Then what? You know. And there's never a response to that. I'm not here to justify anything that has happened because yeah there are bad people in these gangs.