Civil rights Movement

American Visions Chapter 29

1954-1968



On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks left her job as a seamstress in Montgomery, Alabama, and boarded a bus to go home. In 1955 buses in Montgomery reserved seats in the front for whites and seats in the rear for African Americans. Seats in the middle were open to African Americans, but only if there were few whites on the bus.

Rosa Parks took a seat just behind the white section. Soon all of the seats on the bus were filled. When the bus driver noticed a white man standing at the front of the bus, he told Parks and three other African Americans in her row to get up and let the white man sit down. Nobody moved. The driver cautioned, "You better make it light on yourselves and let me have those seats." The other three African Americans rose, but Rosa Parks did not. The driver then called the Montgomery police, who took Parks into custody.

News of the arrest soon reached E.D. Nixon, a former president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Nixon wanted to challenge bus segregation in court, and he told Parks, "With your permission we can break down segregation on the bus with your case." Parks told Nixon, "If you think it will mean something to Montgomery and do some good, I'll be happy to go along with it."

The Beginnings

- Plessy case 1896
 - Legal segregation
- Segregation
 - De facto by custom
 - De Jure by law
- NAACP 1909
 - Lawsuits challenging segregation
 - Thurgood Marshall
- Brown case 1954
 - Illegalized segregation
- Voting Rights Act of 1957
 - African American Voting
- Desegregation
 - Massive resistance

In an Oklahoma City Streetcar station in 1939, a man takes a drink from a water cooler labeled COLORED. Racially segregated facilities such as waiting rooms, railroad cars, lavatories, and drinking fountains were prevalent all across the South. Under the so-called Jim Crow system, African Americans were legally entitled to "separate-but-equal" education, housing, and social services. In practice, however, only a small percentage of public funds earmarked for schools, streets, police, and other expenses found its way to African Americans neighborhoods.

- 1. What laws are indicated in this quote?
- 2. What supreme court case allowed these laws?
- 3. What is segregation?

We conclude that, in the field of public education, the doctrine of "separate but equal" has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal. Therefore, we hold that the plaintiffs . . . are, by reason of the segregation complained of, deprived of the equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment.

To separate the African American students from others of similar age and qualifications solely because of their race generates a feeling of inferiority as to their status in the community that may affect their hearts and minds in a way unlikely ever to be undone.

-Brown v. Board of Education

- 1. Where does the effects of this court case most apparent?
- 2. Why would there be a great amount of resistance to this ruling?
- 3. How can this ruling be applied or not applied in today's issues with civil rights





When we would go to white schools, we would see these lovely classrooms with a small number of children in each class. The teachers were permanent. We would see wonderful materials. When we would go to the colored schools, we would see overcrowded classrooms, children witting out in the corridors. And so then we decided that where there were a large number of white students, that is where the care went. That I where the books went. That is where the money went.

- 1. Compare the white schools and the colored schools.
- 2. What supreme court case was supposed to eliminate these differences?

Massive Resistance to new Civil Rights



This court decision is destroying the amicable relations between the white and Negro races that have been created through ninety years of patient effort by the good people of both races. It has planted hatred and suspicion where there has been heretofore friendship and understanding. -Southern Manifesto I must state here, in all sincerity, it is my firm conviction that it will not be possible to restore or to maintain order and protect the lives and property of the citizens, if forcible integration is carried out tomorrow in the schools of this community.

–Orval Faubus

 What does Orval Faubus predict will happen if the Little Rock Nine students are admitted to Little Rock High School?

2. What court decision is discussed?

No Legislation Optional / limited Forbidden

Required

Brown Vs. Board

ended legal school segregation

egregation in the US Prior to V Board of Education

Educ

•Analyze school segregation 1. Subcaption this cartoon explaining its applicatio n to civil rights



- Parks
 - Busses Montgomery
- •King & SCLC
 - Voting rights
 - Gandhian Nonviolence
 - End segregation
- Eckford in Little Rock High School
 - Defying Fed. Law.
 - Gov. uses
 National Guard troops
 - Ike uses US Army Paratroopers



Review, Equal Rights

- 1. The supreme court established the doctrine of _____ in the Plessy decision.
- 2. _____ segregation is similar to certain churches which are predominately white or black.
- 3. _____ is the term associated with many people refusing to follow the outcome of the Brown Decision.
- 4. _____ was the leading lawyer in the Brown Decision.
- 5. In the 1950s, the leading efforts of African Americans was getting equal _____ rights.
- 6. In which portion of the United States required school segregation in the early 1900s?
- 7. On the topic of _____ is what caused the greatest conflict between states' rights and federal power.
- 8. _____ used with limited success, Gandhian non-violent civil disobedience to address inequality.

In the fall of 1959, four young African Americans—Joseph McNeil, Ezell Blair, Jr., David Richmond, and Franklin McCain—enrolled at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College in Greensboro. The four freshmen became close friends and spent evenings talking about the civil rights movement. In January 1960, McNeil told his friends that he thought the time had come to take action, and he suggested a sit-in at the whites-only lunch counter in the nearby Woolworth's department store.

"All of us were afraid," Richmond later recalled, "but we went and did it." On February 1, 1960, the four friends entered the Woolworth's. They purchased school supplies and then sat at the lunch counter and ordered coffee. When they were refused service, Blair said, "I beg your pardon, but you just served us at [the checkout] counter. Why can't we be served at the counter here?" The students stayed at the counter until it closed, then announced that they would sit at the counter every day until they were given the same service as white customers. As they left the store, the four were excited. McNeil recalled, "I just felt I had powers within me, a superhuman strength that would come forward." McCain was also energized, saying, "I probably felt better that day than I've ever felt in my life."

Challenging Segregation

- •Sit-ins
 - Greensboro NC
 - Woolworth counter
 - CORE
 - James Farmer
- •SNCC
 - Voter Registration
- Freedom Riders
 equal access to buses
- Meredith
 - Univ. of Miss.









James Meredith escorted to Univ. of Miss by Federal marshals

Thursday, July 12, 1965, was hot and humid in Chicago. That evening Dessie Mae Williams, a 23-year-old African American woman, stood on the corner near the firehouse at 4000 West Wilcox Street. A firetruck sped out of the firehouse, and the driver lost control. The truck smashed into a stop sign near Williams, and the sign struck and killed her.

African Americans had already picketed this firehouse because it was not integrated. Hearing of Williams's death, 200 neighborhood young people streamed into the street, surrounding the firehouse. For two nights, rioting and disorder reigned. Angry youths threw bricks and bottles at the firehouse and nearby windows. Shouting gangs pelted police with rocks and accosted whites and beat them. Approximately 75 people were injured. African American detectives, clergy, and National Guard members eventually restored order. Mayor Richard Daley then summoned both white and black leaders to discuss the area's problems. An 18-year-old man who had been in the riot admitted that he had lost his head. "We're sorry about the bricks and bottles," he said, "but when you get pushed, you shove back. Man, you don't like to stand on a corner and be told to get off it when you got nowhere else to go."

Birmingham

- King vs. Connor
- On TV
- Washington
 - King's speech
 - Jobs & Freedom
 - I Have a Dream...
- •Selma
 - Pettus Bridge
 - State Troopers vs. peaceful marchers

Bull Connor, Birmingham



Pettus Bridge, Selma Ala., "Bloody Sunday



Review, protests

- 1. The first publicized sit-in occurred in the Woolworth department store in _____.
- <u>required federal marshal escorts while</u> registering for classes at the University of Mississippi.
- 3. _____ was the protest movement to desegregate bus lines in the south.
- What were the two reasons for Dr. King's *I have a dream* speech in Washington in 1963?
- 5. Pettus bridge located on the outskirts of _ resulted in violence in 1965.

Political Action

John Kennedy

- Equal Employment
- Little done
 - Concern over Southern Dem. Support
- Robert Kennedy
 - Voting lawsuits
- Lyndon Johnson
 - Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - Ends legal segregation
 - Voting Rights Act
- Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP)
 - Mary Lou Hamer
 - All races allowed to participate at convention



 Analyze and create a news magazine article using the facts in this chart and your knowledge of US History.

> How successfully have African Americans improved their position in regards to voting rights since 1965?

Success or Failure: Voting Rights

NTAL PARTY		March 1965		November 2010	
		African American	White	African American	White
	Alabama	19.3	69.2	69.0	61.7
Contra Marine	Georgia	27.4	62.6	63.5	62.1
	Louisiana	31.6	80.5	75.8	74.9
	Mississippi	6.7	69.9	74.1	74.1
	South Carolina	37.3	75.7	68.6	69.7

After 1965 •New Issues •Poverty •Racism •Riots

Black Families w/children living in Poverty



•New Answers

- Black Power
- Nation of Islam
 - Black Muslims
 - Malcolm X
- Black Panthers
 - Stokey
 Carmichael

The concept of Black Power . . . is a call for black people in this country to unite, to recognize their heritage, to build a sense of community. It is a call for black people to begin to define their own goals, to lead their own organizations and to support those organizations. –Black Power: The Politics of Liberation of America, 1967

1. List six concepts of the Black Power Movement.





Lost Leaders and **New Hopes** • King Killed in Memphis Malcom X Killed Robert Kennedy Killed •1968 and New Liberalism



Dr. King



By Bruce Hornsby

Standing in line marking time--Waiting for the welfare dime 'Cause they can't buy a job The man in the silk suit hurries by As he catches the poor old ladies' eyes Just for fun he says "Get a job"

That's just the way it is Some things will never change That's just the way it is But don't you believe them

They say hey little boy you can't go Where the others go 'Cause you don't look like they do Said hey old man how can you stand To think that way Did you really think about it Before you made the rules He said, Son That's just the way it is Some things will never change That's just the way it is But don't you believe them

Well they passed a law in '64 To give those who ain't got a little more But it only goes so far Because the law won't change another's mind When all it sees at the hiring time Is the line on the color bar

That's just the way it is Some things will never change That's just the way it is But don't you believe them

Review-Civil Rights Politics

- 1. _____ was an influential leader of the Nation of Islam during the 1960s.
- 2. The _____ was a radical faction that called for radical violent pursuits of racial equality.
- After the Civil Rights Act, Dr. King focused on issues of _____ in the African American community.
- 4. _____ was hesitant to support the Freedom Riders because he was concerned about the Democratic Party's position in the south.
- 5. _____ prevents racial segregation in the United States.