

Civil Rights

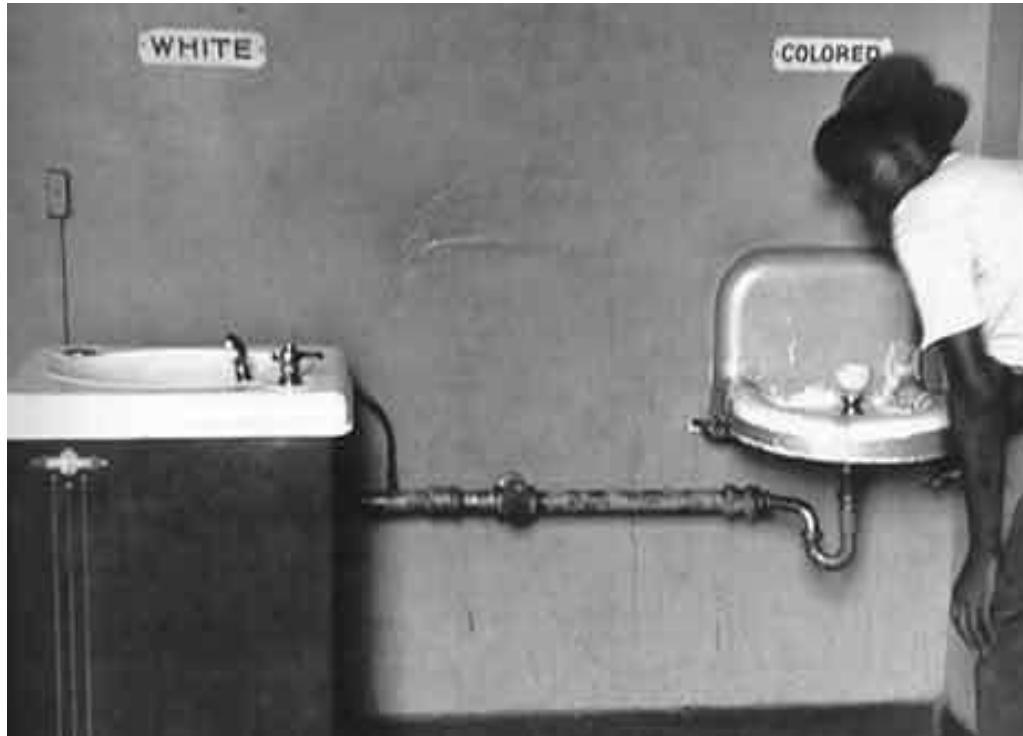


The Modern Civil Rights Movement (1954-1965)

By 1950, the United States was a segregated society:

Jim Crow laws throughout the South created a segregated society (de jure segregation – by law)

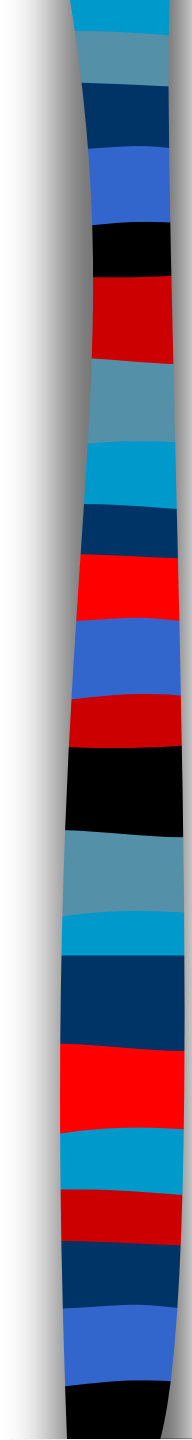
White flight to the suburbs left African Americans in poor inner cities (de facto segregation – in fact)





Examples of Jim Crow De Jure Segregation

- **Nurses:** No person or corporation shall require any white female nurse to nurse in wards or rooms in hospitals, either public or private, in which negro men are placed. Alabama
- **Railroads:** The conductor of each passenger train is authorized and required to assign each passenger to the car or the division of the car, when it is divided by a partition, designated for the race to which such passenger belongs. Alabama
- **Toilet Facilities, Male:** Every employer of white or negro males shall provide for such white or negro males reasonably accessible and separate toilet facilities. Alabama
- **Intermarriage:** All marriages between a white person and a negro, or between a white person and a person of negro descent to the fourth generation inclusive, are hereby forever prohibited. Florida
- **Education:** The schools for white children and the schools for negro children shall be conducted separately. Florida
- **Barbers:** No colored barber shall serve as a barber [to] white women or girls. Georgia
- **Burial:** The officer in charge shall not bury, or allow to be buried, any colored persons upon ground set apart or used for the burial of white persons. Georgia
- **Wine and Beer:** All persons licensed to conduct the business of selling beer or wine...shall serve either white people exclusively or colored people exclusively and shall not sell to the two races within the same room at any time. Georgia



5 Ways People Were Kept From Voting

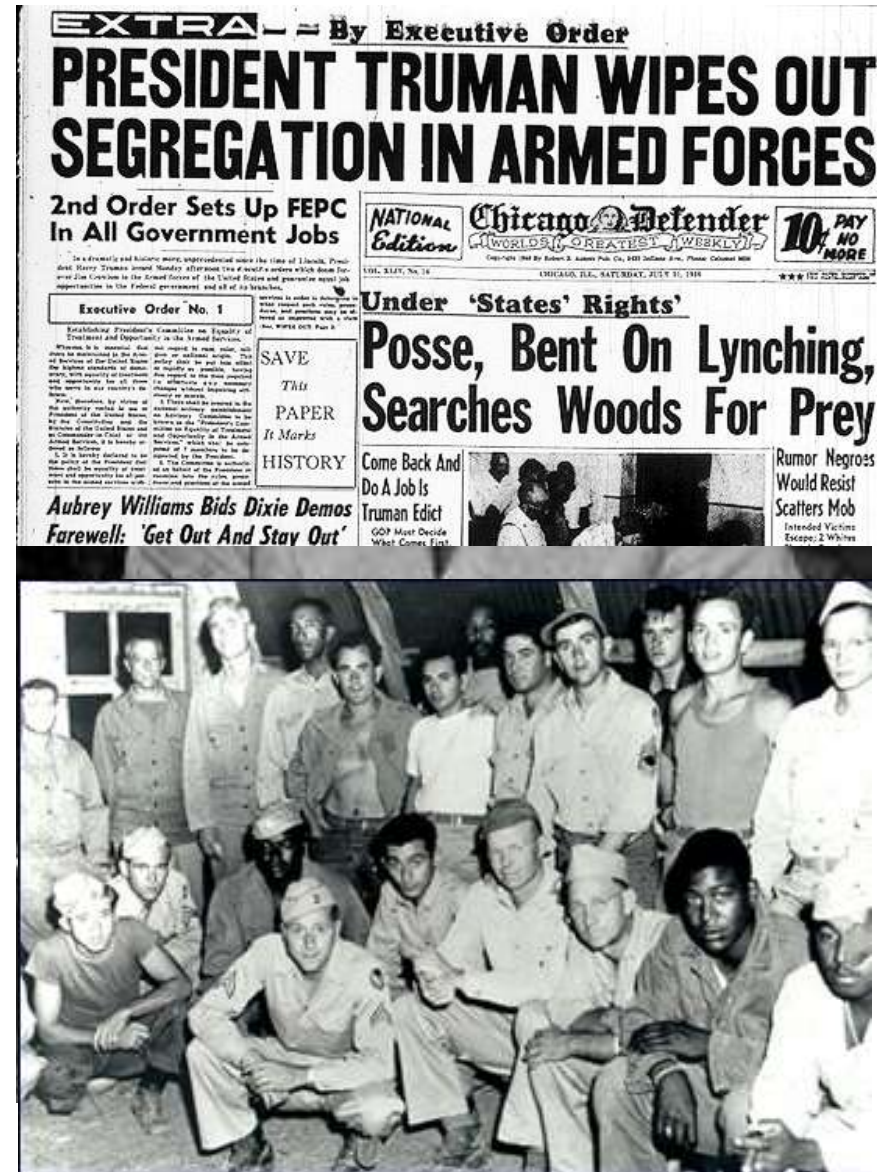
- **1) Violence:** Blacks who tried to vote were threatened, beaten, and killed. Their families were also harmed. Sometimes their homes were burned down. Often, they lost their jobs or were thrown off their farms.
- **2) Literacy tests:** Today almost all adults can read. One hundred years ago, however, many people – black and white – were illiterate. Most illiterate people were not allowed to vote. A few were allowed if they could understand what was read to them.
- **3) Purges:** From time to time, white officials purged the voting rolls. That means they took people's names off the official lists of voters. Some voters would arrive at the polls and find that they were not registered to vote. Often they could not register to vote again until after the election. Purges more often affected blacks than whites.
- **4) Former prisoners:** People who had gone to prison were often not allowed to vote. Blacks were very often arrested on trumped-up charges or for minor offenses. Sometimes, white owners of mines, farms, and factories simply needed cheap labor, and prisons provided it. This law kept many more blacks from voting than whites.
- **5) Poll taxes:** In Southern states, people had to pay a tax to vote. The taxes were about \$25 to \$50 dollars in today's money. Many people had extremely low incomes and could not afford this tax.

But after WWII, African Americans gained success in civil rights

In 1948, Truman became the 1st president to attack segregation

Truman issued an executive order to integrate the military

He outlawed discrimination in the hiring of government employees



In 1947, Jackie Robinson was the 1st black major league baseball player



Jackie Robinson signing his professional contract with Brooklyn Dodgers owner Branch Rickey in 1945



Robinson made history as the first black player in Major League Baseball in 1947

Mendez vs Westminster



The modern Civil Rights movement began in 1954 with the Supreme Court decision *Brown v Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*

The NAACP took the lead in civil rights; Segregated schools became their primary target

Their strategy was to use lawsuits to challenge that segregation violated the 14th Amendment



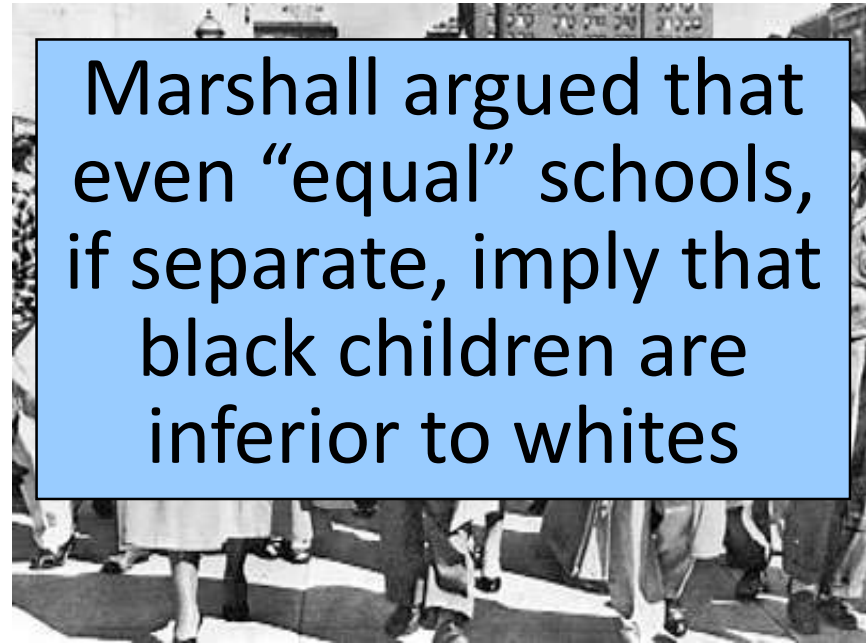
Brown v Board of Education in 1954

The Topeka school district denied Linda Brown from attending a white school 4 blocks from her house



NAACP lawyer Thurgood Marshall used the 14th Amendment to attack public school segregation

Marshall argued that even “equal” schools, if separate, imply that black children are inferior to whites



The Supreme Court's unanimous decision in Brown v Board of Education (1954) ruled "separate facilities are inherently unequal"



Chief Justice Earl Warren stated that segregation violated the "equal protection clause" of the 14th Amendment



The decision overturned the Plessy v Ferguson (1896) “separate but equal” precedent



The Brown decision was divisive:


Schools integrated in
Baltimore, St Louis, &
Washington DC

But Southern state leaders
vowed to resist integration
& the KKK returned to block
integration



At first, President Eisenhower left enforcement of Brown up to states & did not enforce the decision

Resistance to Brown



“The people of Georgia will not comply with the decision of the court... We're going to do whatever is necessary in Georgia to keep white children in white schools and colored children in colored schools.”

Herman Talmadge, governor of Georgia: “Non-segregation in our schools will never work as long as red blood runs in white men’s veins.”



What were the Jim Crow Laws?

Name three ways in which Black votes in the south were suppressed in southern states.

What is the difference between de facto and de jure segregation?

What did the Supreme Court ruling in Plessy vs Ferguson determine?

How did Mendez vs Westminster in California help bring about Brown Vs Board of Education federally?

How did southern leaders react to Brown vs Board of Education?

In 1957, President Eisenhower was forced to support integration

Arkansas governor Orval Faubus called the National Guard to keep black students from enrolling in Little Rock's Central High School



Arkansas
Governor
Orval Faubus

Eisenhower sent the Army to force integration for the black students (the “Little Rock Nine”)





Discrimination

- the unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people or things, especially on the grounds of race, age, or sex.

Prejudice

- preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience.



Oppression

- A situation in which people are governed in an unfair and cruel way and prevented from having opportunities and freedom



Murder of Emmett Till

- What happened to Emmett Till? How did people respond? How do people respond to violence and injustice today?
- How was the murder of Emmett Till a pivotal moment in the civil rights movement?
- What does it mean for an event to be pivotal in history? In your own life?

Conclusions

- The Brown v BOE decision was the first major step towards ending Jim Crow segregation in America
 - The NAACP provided a model for other civil rights leaders to follow by using the 14th Amendment
 - Resistance to Brown revealed that civil rights leaders could not rely on the gov't to protect rights
- New leaders would soon emerge to take charge of the movement

Crash Course 39

