

Race relations in the years leading up to *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954)

Instructions: For homework, dig into the recesses of your memory and try to see what you remember about the laws, movements and social changes that hurt/helped African-American rights in the decades we've studied thusfar. We'll fill in the pieces in class so do what you're able to and we'll review the rest together.

Background on race relations prior to 1950s – a brief refresher...

- a. **Constitution:** barely addresses the issue of slavery. Only mentions are the 3/5 Compromise (counted slaves for representation purposes only when calculating the # of people in a state) and a clause which allows runaway slaves to be returned to their owners (no recognition of blacks as citizens only as property)
- b. **1865-1877:** Civil War ends in 1865 – North is victorious, enter the period known as the _____ Era – a decade of promises:
 - i. 13-15th amendments
 1. 13th: _____
 2. 14th: _____
 3. 15th: _____
 - ii. Education
 - iii. Voting and participation in politics

Negative developments towards the end of the 1870s (LIST 2-3 examples):

2. **1877-early 1900s:**
 - i. _____ signals a loss of rights (in order to maintain national political power, Republican presidential nominee Rutherford B. Hayes promises to withdraw northern troops from the South...no longer there to enforce the Reconstruction laws)
 - ii. rise of _____ laws (name for segregation laws), lynching
 - iii. emergence of two national black spokesmen: Booker T. Washington vs. W.E.B. Du Bois
 1. DuBois:
 2. Washington:
 - iv. in 1896 Homer Plessy challenges segregation laws in *Plessy v. Ferguson* & loses (case establishes doctrine of “_____”)
3. **1910s:** WWI, fight to prove selves but segregated in military, not allowed to serve on front lines, trained in South – problem for northern blacks to adjust to segregation laws, Great Migration to the North for jobs and other opportunities accelerates (continues through 1920s)
4. **1920s:** still waiting for equality...

- i. The _____ Renaissance led to the recognition and connections to African heritage, cultural boom, embracing black heritage, some crossover into white mainstream with jazz
 - ii. also saw the rebirth of the _____ (group), which had been deemed a terrorist organization by Congress years before and banned, as a response to increased migration of blacks to the North and continued foreign immigration, lynching rates also rose (return to normalcy)
5. **1930s:** Depression hit blacks hardest, already poor, first to lose jobs
- a. New Deal (hurt/helped - how so?):
 - b. some minor improvements thanks to Eleanor Roosevelt and the Black Cabinet but not as significant as desired
6. **1940s:** yet again – democratic rhetoric and seeming hypocrisy at home.
- a. Fight in WWII, segregated
 - b. fight for democracy abroad and in the world but segregated at home (hypocrisy), beginning of the _____ campaign (fought for victory abroad first with the hope of achieving victory at home after the war)
 - c. A. Philip Randolph threatened to lead a march on Washington against discrimination in war industries and segregation in the military, led FDR to pass Executive Order 8802 which banned discrimination in wartime industries.
 - d. Armed forces were ultimately not desegregated until 1948 (after the Korean War.)
7. **1950s:**
- a. returning veterans were given benefits through the _____ (federal law) - allow to get education but schools segregated, stuck in cities with poor housing and schooling opportunities, restrictive covenants prevent blacks from moving to suburbs
 - b. rigid segregation in all areas of life
 - c. beginnings of a noticeable Civil Rights Movement (there before the 1950s but organized movement on a national level begins in the 1950s.)
 - d. Civil rights quieted by the fear of _____ (dissent in any form = communism, liberal = bad)
 - e. rhetoric of American democracy/freedom fueled the black struggle – need to prove to the world that we are democratic in both words and actions.

Using the above (or whatever portion you were able to piece together,) what can you say about the state of African-American rights in the U.S. from the Constitution to the post-WWII period?

LIST 2 specific ways that African-Americans were still being held back from achieving true equality in the post-war era.