



120 YEARS OF AMERICAN PROGRESS

FINAL CHAPTER PROJECT

JOHN DEGREY | AUGUST 8, 2020 | CASSANDRA CLARK

SALT LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

INTRODUCTION AND THESIS

America today is vastly different than what it was in the year 1900. Within 120 years, we have seen numerous wars, economic collapses, reforms, scandals, political shifts, cultural changes, and so much more. With all these changes America went through, it is difficult to pinpoint one single series of events that influenced how we live today.

However, when comparing and contrasting now vs. then, one significant series stands out more than the rest- The American Civil Rights Movement. It has influenced American policies and culture so vastly that the past would be unrecognizable to an American today. This of course is given that the American in question is unfamiliar with the Civil Rights Movement.

The following slides present a timeline of 7 events that prove evident of this claim.

MAY 17, 1954

BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

- This event kickstarted a series of events related to civil rights.
- This event was major as it made the doctrine of "separate but equal" from a previous Supreme Court case unconstitutional (Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (1954), 1954).
- It also started to desegregate schools (Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (1954), 1954).



(Corbis Images, 1954)



(Getty Images, 1956)

DECEMBER 1, 1955

ROSA PARKS REFUSES TO GIVE UP HER SEAT

- Rosa Parks explains the reason she refused to give up her seat in a correspondence she wrote.
- She explained that she was fed up with all the Jim Crow laws (Parks, 1958).
- She also recounted how hard it was to even get on the bus in the first place (Parks, 1958).

AUGUST 28, 1963

MARCH ON WASHINGTON

- This is where Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech (Abramson, et al., 2018).
- This march demanded numerous civil rights legislation be enacted (Abramson, et al., 2018).
- This helped push for the passing of the 1964 Civil Rights Act (Abramson, et al., 2018).



(NAACP, 1963)

JULY 2, 1964

THE 1964 CIVIL RIGHTS ACT ENACTED

- Considered to be one of the most important pieces of legislation enacted when it came to civil rights (Abramson, et al., 2018).
- It prohibited discrimination on the basis of color, race, religion or sexual orientation (Legal Highlight: The Civil Rights Act of 1964, n.d.).
- It essentially outlawed Jim Crow laws (Legal Highlight: The Civil Rights Act of 1964, n.d.).



(Abramson, et al., 2018).

APRIL 11, 1968

CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1968 PASSES

- One of many civil rights acts passed by LBJ.
- Made it unlawful to discriminate against when it came to the purchase, or lease/rent of housing (Civil Rights Acts (1964, 1968), 2020).
- Even though this was enacted, there is still housing discrimination today (Civil Rights Acts (1964, 1968), 2020).



(Civil Rights Acts (1964, 1968), 2020)



(Civil-Rights-Act-of-1991-300x234, 1991)

NOVEMBER 22, 1991

CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1991 PASSES

- Amended the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Civil Rights Act of 1991, 2020).
- Provided more employment protections by making it unlawful to discriminate when hiring someone or continuing employment (Civil Rights Act of 1991, 2020).
- It also provided protections to those who were discriminated against (Civil Rights Act of 1991, 2020).

MAY 25, 2020

MURDER OF GEORGE FLOYD

- Floyd was a victim of Police brutality (Hill, Tiefenthäler, Jordan, Willis, & Stein, 2020).
- Caused massive protests in 140 cities nationwide (Taylor, 2020).
- It also led to massive protests based on other police brutality events such as Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and others (Taylor, 2020).



(Mang, 2020)

CONCLUSION

These are only a fraction of the many events that changed America into what it is today. The Civil Rights Movement has influenced America today more than any other series of events within the last 120 years. While much progress has been made during the 60's, it should be clear that there is still much progress left to be made. These few events have set expectations on America's behavior when it comes to civil rights reforms and proves that the Civil Rights Movement is far from over.

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