

Study Guide: The Civil Rights Movement (WWII-1978)

THE ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- To what extent was the 1950s an age of conformity in regard to politics, society, and culture?
- To what extent did the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s successfully address the failures of Reconstruction?
- To what extent did the 1960s mark a turning point in U.S. History?
- What is the relationship between the Black Civil Rights Movement and the rights movements of Hispanics, women, and gays and lesbians?

IN A NUTSHELL:

- In the 1950s, the Supreme Court ruled against racial segregation and put the weight of constitutional law behind the demand for civil rights.
- From the mid-1950s to the mid-1960s, the fight for civil rights was led primarily by leaders advocating nonviolence and civil disobedience.
- In the mid-1960s, Congress passed laws promoting civil rights and voting rights. These laws strengthened the federal government's power to regulate state government's denial of civil rights.
- In the late 1960s, the United States experienced many violent protests and race riots.
- In the 1970s, debates over civil rights centered around busing and affirmative action.

KEY TERMS

EVENTS

Plessy v. Ferguson, 1896
Truman banned racial segregation from armed forces, 1948
Sweatt v. Painter, 1950
Brown v. Board of Education, Topeka, KS, 1954
Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1955
U.S. troops sent to Little Rock, 1957
Civil Rights Act of 1957
Greensboro sit-ins, 1960
Freedom Riders, 1961
United Farm Workers (UFW) founded, 1962
"Letter from a Birmingham Jail," 1963
The Feminine Mystique published, 1963
March on Washington, 1963
John F. Kennedy assassinated, November 22, 1963
Mississippi Summer Project, 1964
Civil Rights Act of 1964
Watts Riots, 1965
Malcolm X assassinated, 1965
March from Selma to Montgomery, 1965
Voting Rights Act of 1965
Grape workers' strike begins, 1965
Riots in Watts, California, 1965
Civil Rights Act of 1968
Martin Luther King, Jr., assassinated, 1968
Robert F. Kennedy assassinated, 1968
Stonewall Riots, 1969
Title IX, 1972
Roe v. Wade, 1973

PEOPLE

Jackie Robinson
Rosa Parks
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Elijah Muhammad
Malcolm X
James Meredith
Stokely Carmichael
George Wallace
Thurgood Marshall
Betty Friedan
Cesar Chavez

OTHER TERMS

Jim Crow Laws
"separate but equal"
de jure segregation
de facto segregation
SCLC
CORE
SNCC
sit-in
Nation of Islam (Black Muslims)
Black Panthers
"black power"
busing
affirmative action
NOW
ERA
"the pill"
Chicano
AIM