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**What happened to Black people after the Civil War**

-- After the Civil War (1861-1865), the federal government took an affirmative and aggressive stance in enacting new federal laws that provided civil rights protection for African-Americans who had formerly been slaves.

-- Among these new laws were:

- 14th Amendment – Guaranteed citizenship(1868).

- 15th Amendment – Guaranteed right to vote regardless of

race or religion(1870).

- ……

-- However, in "Plessy v. Ferguson" (1896) the Supreme Court held that Jim Crow type laws were constitutional as long as they allowed "separate but equal" facilities. The “separate but equal" requirement eventually led to widespread racial discrimination.

-- Jim Crow laws were state and local laws enacted in the Southern and Border States of the United States after 1876 requiring the separation of African-Americans from white Americans in public facilities, such as public schools, hotels, water fountains, restaurants, libraries, buses, and trains, as well as the legal restrictions placed on blacks from exercising their right to vote.

-- Segregation was an attempt by many white Southerners to separate the races in every aspect of daily life.

-- Segregation became common in Southern states following the end of Reconstruction in 1877. These states began to pass local and state laws that specified certain places “For Whites Only” and others for “Colored.”

-- African Americans had separate schools, transportation, restaurants, and parks, many of which were poorly funded and inferior to those of whites.

-- Over the next 75 years, Jim Crow signs to separate the races went up in every possible place.

-- The system of segregation also included the denial of voting rights, known as disenfranchisement.

-- Between 1890 and 1910, all Southern states passed laws imposing requirements for voting. These were used to prevent African Americans from voting, in spite of the 15th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which had been designed to protect African American voting rights.

-- The voting requirements included the ability to read and write, which disqualified many African Americans who had not had access to education; property ownership, which excluded most African Americans, and paying a poll tax, which prevented most Southern African Americans from voting because they could not afford it.

-- Conditions for African Americans in the Northern states were somewhat better, though up to 1910 only ten percent of African Americans lived in the North.

-- Segregated facilities were not as common in the North, but African Americans were usually denied entrance to the best hotels and restaurants.

-- African Americans were usually free to vote in the North.

-- Perhaps the most difficult part of Northern life was the economic discrimination against African Americans. They had to compete with large numbers of recent European immigrants for job opportunities, and they almost always lost because of their race.

**How were schools segregated and what was done about it**

-- In order to protest segregation, African Americans created national organizations.

-- The National Afro-American League was formed in 1890; W.E.B. Du Bois helped create the Niagara Movement in 1905 and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1909.

-- Historian and sociologist W.E.B. Du Bois was a founder and leader of the NAACP. Starting in 1910, he made powerful arguments protesting segregation as editor of the NAACP magazine The Crisis.

**School Desegregation**

-- After World War II, the NAACP’s campaign for civil rights continued to proceed.

-- Led by Thurgood Marshall, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund challenged and overturned many

forms of discrimination.

-- The main focus of the NAACP turned to equal educational opportunities.

-- Marshall and the Defense Fund worked with Southern plaintiffs to challenge the Plessy decision, arguing that separate was inherently unequal.

-- The Supreme Court of the United States heard arguments on five cases that challenged elementary and secondary school segregation.

-- In May 1954, the Court issued its landmark ruling in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka，stating racially segregated education was unconstitutional and overturning the Plessy decision.

-- White Southerners were shocked by the Brown decision.

-- By 1955, white opposition in the South had grown into massive resistance, using a strategy to persuade all whites to resist compliance with the desegregation orders.

-- Tactics included firing school employees who showed willingness to seek integration, closing public schools rather than desegregating, and boycotting all public education that was integrated.

Virtually no schools in the South desegregated their schools

-- in the first years following the Brown decision.In Virginia, one county actually closed its public schools.In 1957, Governor Orval Faubus defied a federal court order to admit nine African American students to Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

-- President Dwight Eisenhower sent federal troops to enforce desegregation.

-- The event was covered by the national media, and the fate of the nine students attempting to integrate the school gripped the nation.

-- Not all school desegregation was as dramatic as Little Rock schools.

-- Often, schools were desegregated only in theory because racially segregated neighborhoods led to segregated schools.

-- To overcome the problem, some school districts began busing students to schools outside their neighborhoods in the 1970s.

**Ku Klux Klan**

-- As desegregation continued, the membership of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) grew.

-- The KKK used violence or threats against anyone who was suspected of favoring desegregation or African American civil rights.

-- Ku Klux Klan terror, including intimidation and murder, was widespread in the South during the 1950s and 1960s, though Klan activities were not always reported in the media.

**The Montgomery Bus Boycott**

-- Despite threats and violence, the civil rights movement quickly moved beyond school desegregation to challenge segregation in other areas.

-- In December 1955, Rosa Parks, a member of the Montgomery, Alabama, branch of the NAACP, was told to give up her seat on a city bus to a white man.

-- When Parks refused to move, she was arrested.

-- The local NAACP, led by Edgar D. Nixon,recognized that the arrest of Parks right rally local African Americans to protest segregated buses.

-- Montgomery’s African American community had long been angry about their mistreatment on city buses where white drivers were rude and abusive.

-- The community had previously considered a boycott of the buses and overnight one was organized.

-- The bus boycott was an immediate success, with almost unanimous support from the African Americans in Montgomery.

-- The boycott lasted for more than a year, expressing to the nation the determination of African Americans in the South to end segregation.

-- In November 1956, a federal court ordered Montgomery’s buses desegregated and the boycott ended in victory.

-- A Baptist minister named Martin Luther King, Jr., was president of the Montgomery Improvement Association, the organization that directed the boycott.

-- His involvement in the protest made him a national figure. Through his eloquent appeals to Christian brotherhood and American idealism he attracted people both inside and outside the South.

-- King became the president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) when it was founded in 1957.

-- The SCLC complemented the NAACP’s legal strategy by encouraging the use of nonviolent, direct action to protest segregation. These activities included marches, demonstrations, and boycotts.

-- The harsh white response to African Americans’ direct action eventually forced the federal government to confront the issue of racism in the South.

**Greensboro “Sit-in” (格林斯博罗静坐)**

-- On February 1, 1960, 4 freshmen from a black college in Greensboro, North Carolina, went to a store and sat down at a lunch counter.

-- When they asked for coffee, the waitress said she could not serve people like them. The students, believing the segregation law which kept black and white people from eating together was wrong, did not move.

-- The manager came and talked to the students. A policeman walked up and down behind them, holding his stick. The students continued to sit at the counter. People crowded into the store to watch what might happen, until the store closed. The next day, a greater number of students came to the store and sat down at the lunch counter. Day after day, additional students came.

-- This quiet "Sit-in" by black students in Greensboro began the civil rights movement in the 1960s, the first of several social movements during that decade.

**Freedom Rides (自由乘车运动)**

-- Riding in interstate buses into the segregated southern states to challenge segregation laws. May 4, 1961, the first Freedom Ride led by CORE Director James Farmer, left Washington DC. rid through Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama, into Mississippi, confront horrible Mob Violence (KKK) on the way.

-- In September 1961, federal government declared segregation illegal in all interstate bus stations.

**Voter Registration (选民登记)**

-- The black voter registration campaign started from the fall of 1961, continued in 1962 and 1963 and 1964, civil rights workers were beaten, jailed and murdered in Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia. It resulted in passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (outlawed discriminatory voting practices for African Americans such as Literacy Tests).

**Washington March (华盛顿进军)**

-- August 28, 1963, marching from the Washington Monument to the Lincoln Memorial. After the march, King and other civil rights leaders met with President Kennedy at the White House. November 22, 1963, Kennedy was assassinated. Later, the man charged with Kennedy’assassination was murdered in front of TV cameras.

-- The new President Lyndon B. Johnson met with Martin Luther King and other Civil Rights leaders. In 1964, Civil Rights Act was passed and signed into law.

**Are Black people still being discriminated against in America**

**What role did Martin Luther King, Jr.play in American history**