

AP United States History

Finish 1950s Culture and Early Civil Rights

- Religious Revival
 - Church membership increases by 50 million over 20 years
 - Many movies are religious, like The 10 Commandments
- Well-Defined Gender Roles
 - Women were the head of the household and provided for children
 - They were encouraged to get married and have children and raise a family
 - Men were the provider for the family and were encouraged to earn money
- Truman and Civil Rights
 - Early supporter of Civil Rights
 - Created Committee on Civil Rights in 1946
 - Executive order that ended segregation in the military and in the armed forces
 - But this was not implemented until the Korean War in 1946 (when soldiers were most needed)
 - Did not all-out provide civil rights because of Solid South
- Early Civil Rights Movement — 1950s
 - Seeking to fulfill Reconstruction-Era promises, civil rights activists and political leaders achieved some legal and political success in ending segregation
 - Progress toward equality was slow and halting
 - Brown v. Board, Rosa Parks, Montgomery Bus Boycott, Little Rock 9
- Brown v. Board of Education — 1954
 - Brown I: 14th Amendment Equal Protections Clause rules segregation must end since schools were not equal
 - Brown II: Segregation will end with "all deliberate speed" (Southern states: slow)
- Montgomery Bus Boycott — 1955
 - African Americans vote with their money by boycotting busses
 - 40,000 black commuters elect to walk as much as 20 miles to work
 - Lasts 382 days, but segregation was finally lifted

- Little Rock Arkansas
 - Backlash against Brown decision leads to State vs Federal standoff in 1957
 - Governor of Arkansas attempts to prevent African American students from attending school in Little Rock following massive local resistance
 - Eisenhower sends in National Guard to enforce the ruling and make sure they attend school
 - Demonstrates how Federal Government supports civil rights against (Southern) States
- Civil Rights of the 1960s
 - Younger Movement than in the 50s
 - Leads to rifts between older, church-based groups
 - Younger movement advocated for much faster and sometimes more radical change
 - Latter part of the decade sees some violence
- Civil Disobedience
 - To deliberately, yet peacefully, violating laws that an individual believes are unjust
 - Sit-ins and protests were a popular vehicle of civil disobedience during civil rights movement
- SCLC & MLK's Involvement in Birmingham in 1963
 - Southern Christian Leadership Conference, led by MLK, was the religious-led aspect of the Civil Rights Movement
 - Violence in Birmingham was televised to the rest of the country
 - Used police dogs, water spray to attack protesters