

AP United States History

Civil Rights in the 1950s

- All Three Branches of Government Working for Civil Rights
 - Decision makers in each branch of the federal government are making efforts to combat racial discrimination
 - Including desegregation of the armed services Truman
 - Brown v. Board of Education
 - Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voter Rights Act of 1965
 - Different from reconstruction of post-civil-war era where branches fought each other
- John F. Kennedy and Johnson on Civil Rights
 - Gave a famous speech on Civil Rights in 1963 promising to take up the cause as part of his agenda
 - Assassinated in 1963
 - Johnson took over and continued pushing for Civil Rights and led to the passage of the CRA and VRA
- Civil Rights Act — 1964
 - Prohibited discrimination against any person on grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, or physical disability in federally funded programs
 - Forbid employers to discriminate on these grounds as well
 - Ends discrimination in public accommodations, essentially ending Jim Crow
- Voting Rights Act — 1965
 - Legislation designed to help end formal + informal barriers to African American Suffrage
 - Prohibits literacy tests, grandfather clauses, and encourage registration where <50% eligible are registered
 - As a result, hundreds of thousands of African Americans were registered and the number of African American elected officials increased dramatically
- Freedom Now to Black Power
 - Groups on left also assailed liberals and CR Group that favored non-violence

- Claiming they did too little to transform the racial and economic status quo at home and pursued immoral policies abroad
- Malcolm X and Nation of Islam
 - More militant activism
 - Between 1952 and 1964 he was member of Nation of Islam
 - African American group shares certain practices w/ mainstream Islam but different too
 - Feels that African Americans should organized separately from Whites
 - Made Pilgrimage to Mecca in 1964 and saw Muslims of different races
 - Killed by Nation of Islam assassins in 1965
- Black Panther Party
 - US African American Militant group found in 1966 Oakland, CA
 - Led by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Scale
 - Believed in violent revolution being the only way to receive freedom and urges African Americans to arm themselves
- Rise of Liberalism
 - Liberalism firm belief in the efficacy of governmental and especially federal power to achieve social goals at home
 - Reaches apex in mid-60s and generated political + cultural responses
- "New Frontier" Goals
 - Increase aid to education, healthcare to elderly, Department of Urban Affairs to help migrant workers