



# Equal Protection of the Law

EXAMPLE STUDENT  
AP GOV



# African-Americans

- **Constitutional Amendment XIII**

- In effect freed remaining American slaves
- Outlawed involuntary servitude except in cases of criminal punishment

- **Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka**

- Reversed the ruling of Plessy v. Ferguson (separate but equal)
- Segregation in public education was declared a denial of equal protection of the law

- **Civil Rights Movement**

- Gained traction and accelerated in 1950s onwards
- Rosa Parks arrested in 1955, resulting in Montgomery Bus Boycott
- Martin Luther King Jr. was soon brought to forefront of movement
- Nonviolent Protests, the Birmingham Campaign, and the March and Washington followed



# African-Americans

- **Civil Rights Act of 1964**
  - July 2nd, 1964: President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act into law
  - Outlawed segregation and Jim Crow laws
  - Outlawed discrimination on basis of race, national background, and gender
  - Gave NAACP greater power to fight discrimination in court
- **Voting Rights Act of 1965**
  - August 6, 1965: Voting Rights Act signed into law
  - Citizens cannot be denied right to vote based on race
  - Outlawed literacy tests
  - Outlawed poll taxes



# Native Americans

- **Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968**
  - Makes many of the Bill of Rights guarantees applicable within the tribes
  - Applies to the Native American tribes of the USA
  - Title 25, Sections 1301 to 1303 of United States Code
- **American Indian Religious Freedom Act**
  - Federal Law
  - Joint Resolution of Congress
  - Protects and preserves traditional religious and cultural practices of Native Peoples
  - Applicable to American Indians, Aleuts, Native Hawaiians, and Inuit/Eskimo



# Women

- **Constitutional Amendment XIX**
  - Ratified August 18, 1920
  - Granted American women right to vote
  - Culmination of 70-year battle to change Constitution
- **Griswold v. Connecticut (1965)**
  - Established right to privacy within a marriage
  - Married women granted undeniable right to use contraceptives as part of right to privacy
  - Did not address use of contraception outside of marriage
  - Dealt with Connecticut state law banning contraceptive use

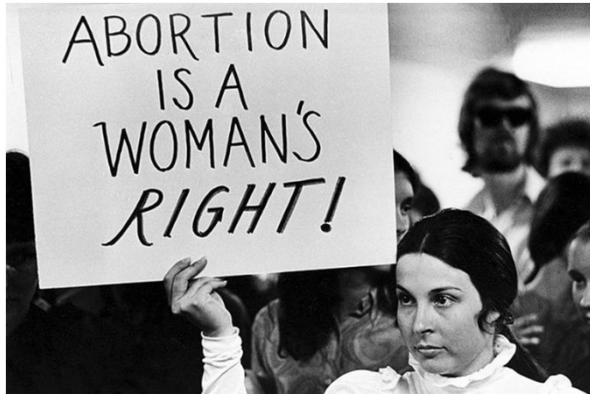


**Birth Control Law  
Of State Nullified**

**U.S. Supreme Court, in 7 to 2 Opinion, Holds  
Statute Passed in 1879 Is Unconstitutional**

By ROBERT D. BYRNES | cally in the Constitution, he  
WASHINGTON — The United said. Much of the Goldberg-  
States Supreme Court Monday Warren-Brennan opinion is an

# Women



- **Philips v. Martin Marietta Corp. (1971)**
  - Discrimination on basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or Sex is prohibited under Title VII.
  - First Supreme Court Case regarding Sex under Title VII
  - Unanimous ruling that employers' hiring practices could not discriminate against women with young children if men of the same age were hired
- **Roe v. Wade (1973)**
  - Struck down Texas law restricting abortion
  - Abortion had been considered a felony, ruled against law on basis of protecting women's right to privacy
  - Key case in continuing national debate on abortion



# Homosexuals

- **Lawrence v. Texas**
  - Overruled Bowers v. Hardwick
  - State cannot demean homosexuals by criminalizing private sexual conduct
  - Close decision, 5-4
- **Obergefell v. Hodges**
  - Effectively nullifies state laws prohibiting same-sex unions
  - Same-sex marriage deemed constitutional right
  - Close decision, 5-4



# Handicapped

- **Americans with Disabilities Act**
  - Passed July 26, 1990
  - Prohibits discrimination on basis of disability
  - Pertains to jobs, schools, transportation, etc.
  - Guarantees civil protections for the disabled similar to those provided to ethnic groups and on basis of sex





# Immigrants



"All persons born or naturalized in the United States...are citizens."

- **Constitutional Amendment XIV**
- **United States v. Wong Kim Ark**
  - 1898
  - Amendment XIV guarantees birthright citizenship to all persons born in United States regardless of race or nationality
- **Plyer v. Doe**
  - States cannot constitutionally deny student free public education on basis of immigration status

# Other Minority Groups

- **Constitutional Amendment XIV**
  - Citizen is any person born in or naturalized in USA
  - Overturned Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857)
  - Made coloured peoples eligible for citizenship
  - Guarantees of due process of law
  - No person may be denied equal protection of laws
- **Constitutional Amendment XV**
  - Citizens may not be denied the right to vote on basis of race, color, or history of servitude



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