The Civil Rights Act Of 1964

**Abstract**

The objective of this essay is to analyze the civil rights act of 1964 comprehensively. The paper begins by looking at the history of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to understand the duration of its existence and underlying historical factors that brewed its formation. Secondly, the paper unravels social, political, and relevant aspects that existed when the Act was formed (Skog, 2007). These aspects help in showing the initial factors that triggered the inception of the Act. Further, the paper looks at the development of the US constitution in the 1950s and 1960s to understand the demands that fostered the constitutional change. Lastly, the paper will highlight the impacts of the Act since it was incepted and the changes that emerged later.

**Introduction**

The civil rights act of 1964 is an Act that was created by legislatures with an aim of enforcing the constitutional right for every citizen to vote. It also aimed at eliminating discrimination in all public accommodations, review jurisdiction in district courts, sanction the Attorney General to establishment suits that protect constitutional rights in all public facilities among other vast reviews. The Act contains eleven segments also referred to as tittles, which are procedural in nature and offer judicial interpretations

**A discussion of the background of the Act**

The civil rights act 1964 was a constitutional change whose demands began brewing as early as in the reconstruction period. American society in the 1950s was highly isolated in revolutionary racial features as well as racial hazards (Skog, 2007). The segregation emerged after World War II since many middle-class Americans moved to suburbs. Such demographic shifts fostered an economic structure that administered the depletion of luxurious products. This left the larger poor population more destitute and deepened segregation in various sectors such as institutions, education, and transportation among various amenities. For this reason, racism began to chip in and evidently show. History portrays that since this period, the enslaved black people in America had been fighting against enslavement, and they demanded fundamental citizenship rights. Their demands led to the creation of various civil rights movements in the 1950s (Skog, 2007). By the end of the 1950s, the public opinion regarding the proportion of southern whites towards enslaved African Americans began to change. Their gradual acceptance of the blacks as part of the society quickly led to the passing of the civil rights act 1964.

More so, the black rights movement's force had vigorously intensified, especially under the leadership of the renowned Martin Luther king. During his speech delivery on August 28, 1963, more than 250,000 attended the Washington massive gathering (Hasday, 2007). Martin Luther King’s speech was crucial because it rejuvenated the civil rights movements that were wearing out. More so, his speech inspired the African American audience that one day their plight will come to a halt. The event also made pushed the Congress to act fast to pass the Civil Rights Act. Eventually, the civil rights were passed the next year, which was in 1964. From then on, African-Americans in the United States were relieved of racism, discriminatory and unbearable life because the law gave out rights to equal treatment with the whites in society (Hasday, 2007). It is also outlined that the peak of the amendment of the constitution to accommodate the civil rights act 1964 was elevated by the 1964 election, whereby Congress witnessed a democratic majority as well as a democratic president. Thus, the Democrats wanted to pass the civil rights act 1964 due to President Kennedy's assassination.

**The formation of the civil rights act of 1964**

Decades after the US emerged out of the reconstruction era, Congress never passed any civil rights act. However, in 1957, Congress introduced a civil rights unit of the justice department alongside the commission on civil rights with the aim of investigating discriminatory conditions. Three years after the establishment of the rights section, Congress offered court-appointed referees to aid the black people to register to vote (Bringle, 2015). Unfortunately, these bills were vehemently opposed by the southern members of Congress. However, the turn of events emerged in 1961 when president john Kennedy became the president. He was the first to propose the Act. He later relented supporting new anti-discrimination measures due to strong opposition from the southern members of the Congress. However, the surging protests from the south pushed Kennedy to act. Thus, in June 1963, he proposed it as the most exceptional civil rights legislation (Hasday, 2007). Though Kennedy anticipated to sign it into law, he did not live up to his promise because he was assassinated. Thus, his predecessor Lyndon Johnson since the Act into law.

**The impact of the civil rights act of 1964**

The civil rights act of 1964 was extremely beneficial since it fostered a platform towards the attainment of various transformational progress. First, the Act's passing led to equality among the white and the black people who never shared social amenities such as schools or buses (Bringle, 2015). However, the amendment and passing of the Act foresaw a transitioned society that allowed everyone to aces schools, transportation restaurants, and public facilities without constraints. Secondly, the Act became a major motivator to minorities such as women, black people, and other minorities who could not previously access work opportunities. Therefore the Act emerged as a significant platform that allowed the minority groups to acquire equal employment opportunities similar to their white counterparts. Thirdly, it allowed the black people from southern and northern America to aces equal education since immediately the Act was passed the African Americans began attending integrated schools (Hasday, 2007). Further, the Act enhanced the review of civil rights act of 1968, which amended housing and voting rights.

Additionally, the Act motivated other civil rights movements, mainly the women's right movements. The motivating clause is seen in Title 7 of the civil rights act of 1964, which barred prejudice based on sex, race, race, or nationality. The clause acted as a significant driver towards creating the national organization for women (NOW) in 1966. In this regard, the civil rights act of 1964 has been a pillar towards the US embracement of various equality platforms, especially when considered that the country is home to people of different nationalities. Thus, the Act enhanced legislative and social perspectives from racial discrimination towards equality and integration. This is the case because, after the passing of the civil rights Act in 1964, the country witnesses vigorous amendments of its laws over the years. These subsequent amendments incorporated the enhancement of women's rights and creating an equal ground for all citizens to explore various social, political, religious, and institutional endeavors.

**Conclusion**

The civil rights act of 1964 was among the most significant reviews of the US constitution because it acted as a bridge that introduced a subsequent review of the land laws. The formation of the Act is unique because it was highly advocated for by the minorities but opposed by the white supremacists in the south (Bringle, 2015). However, an aggressive push for its demand by the minority black people through various civil rights movements led to its approval. Its impact is evident because, unlike in the past, where the blacks and whites never shared any amenities, the Act eroded the prejudice and set the equal ground for all Americans irrespective of their races. Its impact is still evident today because it motivated feminists at the time to push for women's rights, and the struggle continues to date. Though American women are granted equal rights to their fellow men, they are still pushing for more recognition that extends to running the presidential office.

References

Bringle, J. (2015). The Civil Rights Act of 1964. New York, NY

Skog, J. (2007). The Civil Rights Act of 1964. Minneapolis, Minn: Compass Point Books

Hasday, J. (2007). The Civil Rights Act of 1964. New York, NY