

HIST 108 - Final Exam

The Civil Rights Movement

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History 108

Fall 2019, York College

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QUESTION

Explain the significance of major resistance movements that have shaped the world's societies based on the specific geographical location, region, community, country that you have selected.



The Civil Rights Movement

The civil rights movement was an effort by a collective of African Americans who fought to bring the end to racial discrimination and gain equal rights as a result.

Many southern US states were flooded with discriminatory laws in the 1950s. It was a time when black Americans couldn't exercise their rights such as voting, using public transportation, or attending school (Parker, 350.)

What led to this movement?

Reconstruction allowed blacks to take on roles in leadership which prompted them to regulate equality laws and the right to vote. The **14th Amendment** granted blacks equal protection while the **15th Amendment** granted them the right to vote.

The "**Jim Crow**" laws were established to keep blacks separated. Many luxuries such as interracial marriage, using public facilities, and education were stripped from them.

Limited Freedom

Jim Crow laws didn't reach the North, but blacks were still being discriminated at their jobs while also being limited financially. They were not able to purchase homes or businesses. Completely shut out from the working class of society.

The South was hammered down again in 1896 when the Supreme Court declared in **Plessy v. Ferguson** which allowed for blacks to use the same facilities as whites thus starting the saying "separate but equal".

Sacrifice

The Civil Rights movement tested the resilience of the oppressed and the weary. It was a time for blacks to come together and voice issues of inequality and injustice so that their children and their grandchildren did not have to suffer from the same conditions. The purpose of the movement wasn't only to change society, but educate as well. **Martin Luther King**, one of the prominent figures behind the movement, made an incredible effort to change the world for the better, for the sake of his people, and for the culture of black America.

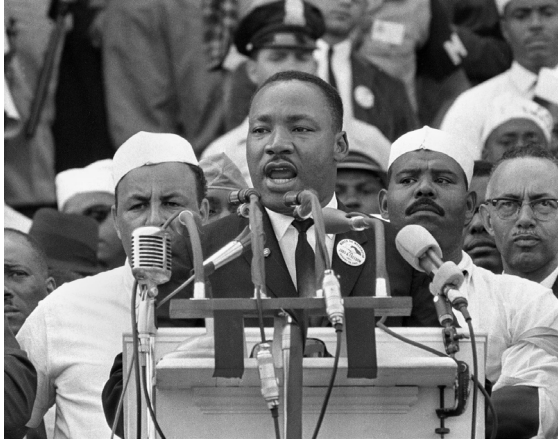
The Montgomery Bus Boycott

In December 1955, a young woman named **Rosa Parks** refused to give up her seat to a white man on a segregated bus in Montgomery Alabama (Parker, 350). It was her arrest that sparked the civil rights movement.



A Call For Change

The late 1950s and 60s saw a series of protests and "sit-ins". Black Americans staged these sit-ins at white owned restaurants as a way to demonstrate basic rights and expose how these rights were being denied to black Americans. It was their actions that were slowly changing the world little by little and yet they didn't even know it at the time. This was only a precursor to the address that would forever be etched in history...





Life and Legacy

Martin Luther King's life was cut short on April 4, 1968 when he was shot and killed in Memphis, Tennessee. Many mourned his death and the black community was shattered, yet his legacy remains forever.



The Impact of the Civil Rights Movement

The movement continues to serve as a milestone in American history today with new up and coming leaders taking the mantle, but it's because of individuals such as Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, Nelson Mandela, and so many others who devoted their lives in an effort to make a change for the injustices done by white supremacists and the unjustly. Legends that have inspired many to follow in their footsteps to make sure that inequality is never an issue and that all races are treated equally and respectfully.

The Story Continues

While racism and inequality hasn't totally been phased out, many believe that we can better relations with one another if we open ourselves to change. African Americans continue to face discrimination in contemporary forms such as education, police brutality, and so much more. The civil rights era was only a stepping stone into a larger structure that's been in the works for a long time now. As new civil rights leaders start to emerge, then I have no doubt this generation will continue to be inspired and motivated to work just like Dr. King, Rosa Parks, and Malcolm X did for their generation.

References

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