

Voices of Social Movements



Name:

Date:

Definition of Social Movements

Social movements are organized efforts by groups of people to achieve social, political, or cultural goals, often through collective action and advocacy.

Example: The Civil Rights Movement in the United States during the 1950s and 1960s aimed to end racial segregation and discrimination against African Americans.

Report: Civil Rights Movement (1950s-1960s) in the United States

Introduction

The Civil Rights Movement in the United States from the 1950s to the 1960s aimed to abolish legalized racial segregation, discrimination, and disenfranchisement, especially of African Americans. This movement had its roots in the late 19th century and saw significant progress through the 1940s.

Political Situation

After the Civil War, African Americans were granted constitutional rights through the Reconstruction Amendments. However, by the 20th century, Southern states enacted Jim Crow laws, enforcing racial segregation and disenfranchising Black citizens. The federal government often failed to protect civil rights, and the Supreme Court's 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson decision upheld "separate but equal" segregation.

Social Situation

African Americans faced systemic discrimination and violence, particularly in the South. They were deprived of equal educational opportunities, subjected to racist violence, and restricted in public spaces under Jim Crow laws. Despite moving North during the Great Migration, African Americans encountered barriers in employment and housing, and faced racial violence and segregation.

Economic Situation

Economic opportunities for African Americans were limited due to discrimination in hiring practices, lower wages, and restricted access to business loans and property ownership. The economic disparity reinforced social inequalities and fueled the movement for civil rights.

Key Events and Actions

- **1955:** The lynching of Emmett Till highlighted the brutal reality of racial violence.
- **1955-1956:** The Montgomery Bus Boycott, sparked by Rosa Parks' arrest, led to a Supreme Court ruling that segregation on public buses was unconstitutional.
- **1960s:** Nonviolent protests, sit-ins, and marches, including the Birmingham campaign and the March on Washington in 1963, drew national attention to civil rights issues.
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1964: The Civil Rights Act banned discrimination in public accommodations, employment, and education.

- **1965:** The Voting Rights Act restored and protected voting rights for minorities.

Conclusion

The Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s was a pivotal period in U.S. history, marked by significant legislative achievements and increased public awareness of racial injustices. Despite progress, challenges remained, and the movement laid the groundwork for ongoing struggles for equality and justice.

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Voices of reform

Martin Luther King Jr.



Role: Leader in the Civil Rights Movement, advocate for nonviolent resistance, and proponent of racial equality.

Actions:

- Led the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott.
- Organized and led the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.
- Delivered the iconic 'I Have a Dream' speech.
- Instrumental in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Martin Luther King Jr. worked tirelessly for racial equality through nonviolent resistance.

Rosa Parks



Role: Activist in the Civil Rights Movement, known as 'the mother of the freedom movement.'

Actions:

- Refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in 1955, leading to her arrest.
- Sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott.
- Worked alongside civil rights leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. to fight racial segregation.
- Continued activism for racial equality and justice throughout her life.

Rosa Parks' courageous act of defiance became a pivotal moment in the Civil Rights Movement.

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After the movement



Audio Content

To listen to audio content just scan the QR code and listen to it on the digital worksheet.

Evaluate the progress made since the Civil Rights Movement in terms of political representation and voting rights for African Americans.

Debate the extent to which economic disparities between African Americans and other racial groups have been addressed since the Civil Rights Movement.
