



Final Presentation for AFN 124

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Introduction

Throughout the history of the United States, civil rights has been a big topic especially for residents of color. Black people in particular have faced a lot of injustice from the foundation of this country even until now, which has caused a lot of people to speak up and fight for their civil rights. These rights are essential to a democracy. Civil rights are a series of rights that protect people and their freedom. They ensure social opportunity and equal treatment regardless of race, religion or sex.

Introduction Part 2

From being treated as objects with inhuman conditions, to becoming a full legal part of the society Black people were faced with many hardships due to their race. This resulted in racial inequality.



Civil Rights Movement



One of the most predominant movements that stood for rights and justice is the Civil Rights movement which happened from 1954 to 1968. The purpose of this movement was to end industrialized racism and end segregation in the US. "Although tumultuous at times, the movement was mostly non-violent and resulted in laws to protect every American's constitutional rights, regardless of color, race, sex or national origin" (Civil Rights Movement Timeline, Histoy.com).



Key Figures

Among many important leaders throughout the Civil Rights movement, some of the most prominent ones are Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X who have both added their significant imprint on today's culture.



Who was Martin Luther King Jr.?

Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15th, 1929 and assassinated on April 4th, 1968. MLK has valued education, he got his doctorate in systematic theology at Boston University. During the Montgomery Bus Boycott MLK who at the time was a Baptist minister, was chosen as the protest' leader. As a result, segregated bus seats were ruled as unconstitutional. MLK's policy and beliefs were strictly non-violent as he believed in peace and equity.





Who was Malcolm X?

Malcolm X was born on May 19 of 1925 and assassinated on February 21 of 1965. Malcolm X was a Muslim minister and a human rights activist who's main policy was to get freedom and justice "by any means necessary". However, after traveling to MECCA he stated "The true brotherhood I had seen had influenced me to recognize that anger can blind human vision..." (Malcolm X, history.com). One of the biggest contributions that Malcolm X brought to the civil rights movement and his community was the development of a Black nationalist movement.



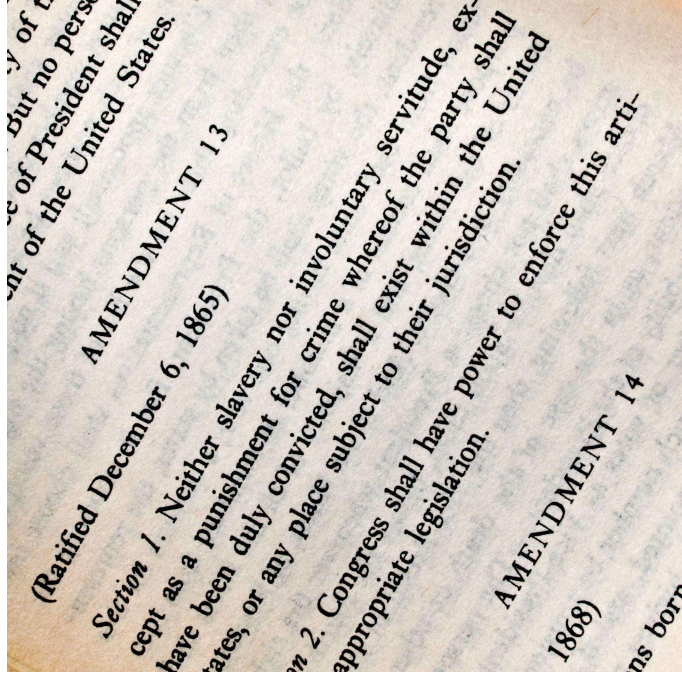
Civil War Amendments

“Most Northern states moved to end slavery by 1804.” (Slavery and Civil Rights, courseslummellearning.com). After the Civil War which lasted from Apr 12, 1861 – Apr 9, 1865, the government passed 3 constitutional amendments to ensure freedom for now freed slaves. The 13th, 14th and 15th amendments were created to get freed slaves legally into the society.



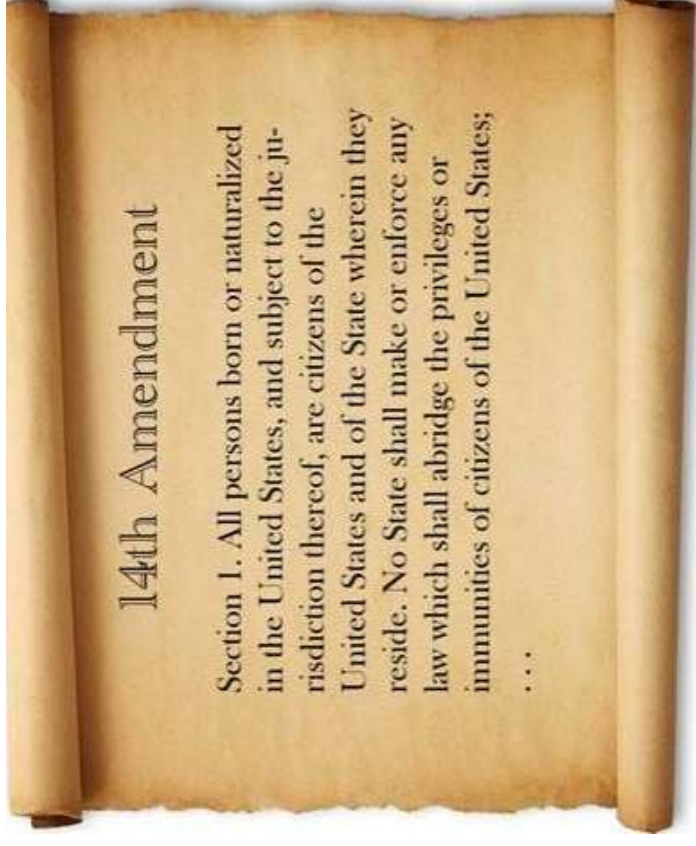
13th Amendment

“The 13th Amendment banned slavery and all involuntary servitude, except in the case of punishment for a crime.” (Slavery and Civil Rights, courseslummlearning.com). The amendment was passed by congress on January 31st of 1865 and proclaimed by all states on December 6th, 1865. This amendment is one of the most important ones as it guarantees freedom to residents. It shifted the way that the US would live in and evolve. People of both Black and white races were legally free which meant that from now on Black people would have to enter the society.



14th Amendment

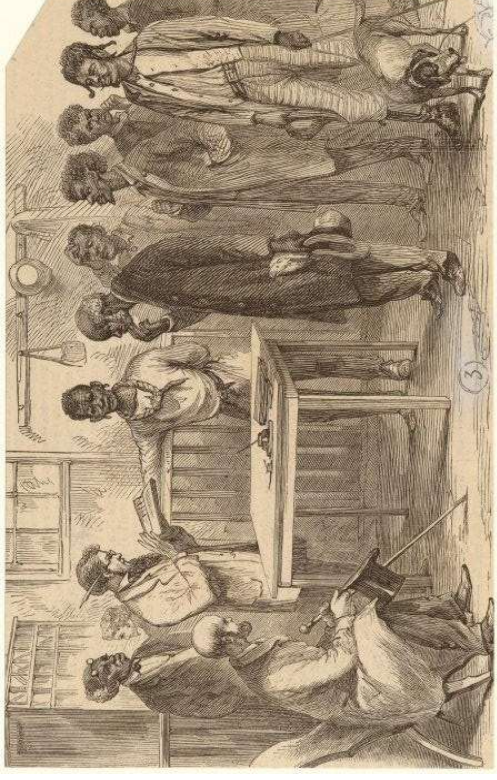
The 14th Amendment made every person who is born in US a citizen and grants everyone equal protection under the law no matter people's race or sex, including former slaves. This is also one of the turning points in US history as it grants citizenship and protection under the law for all people that have been born in the US. Today, this is one of the most important amendments as it defines who is a born-citizen. Black people benefit from this as they are now also identified as citizens. This amendment was proclaimed on July 9th of 1868.



15th Amendment

“In 1870, the Fifteenth Amendment affirmed that the right to vote “shall not be denied...on account of race.”” (The 14th and 15th Amendments, womenshistory.org) This is another foundational amendment which allows everyone to vote under the law. Black people benefited from this as their voices were now being recognized as they began participating in the government system. However, segregation rules that were passed later on made it difficult for Black people to actually get their vote counted.

The 15th amendment was ratified on February 3rd, 1870. Today this amendment secures the right of vote for all citizens.



Civil Rights relation to now

After the amendments gave freedom and protection “under the law” for Black people, they were still not accepted into the society by white people. Stereotypes, fear and ignorance formed a divisible society throughout the country. Segregation laws were created as loopholes in the previously mentioned amendments in order to keep Black people as far away from power as possible. As a result, the Civil Rights movement came about in order to give people of all races equal opportunity and treatment. The Civil Rights movement broke down segregation laws as well as educated people on who Black folks are, breaking racial stereotypes.

Civil Rights relation to Black Lives Matter

Although the Civil Rights era had (officially) come to an end, we can still notice similar situations in today's society. We still see Black people get mistreated in certain areas, we still see injustice towards Black communities and we still see people fighting against racism. The Civil Rights movement has brought great success to our society, however that is not enough as we still witness inequality to this day. Similar to the Civil Rights era we still see anti-racist movements that demand justice for the people who have been abused. An example would be the Black Lives Matter movement which was started by 3 ladies bringing up awareness to police brutality towards Black people.



Conclusion

Overall, Black people have been fighting for their civil rights ever since they appeared on this continent. 13th, 14th and 15th Amendment were created to solidify Black people and other races as citizens with equal rights, however many loopholes were created to keep Black people away from power. Throughout the years of 1954 to 1968, the Civil Rights movement focused on delivering basic human rights to all people of the United States. With the help of people like Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, Black people were motivated and inspired to speak up for themselves and demand equity and justice. Today, we still see the effects of the civil rights movement, what it did and didn't achieve. People still get mistreated and racism is still very much alive. Organizations such as Black Lives Matter have been formed in order to demand equal treatment and opportunity for Black people. One of the ways to bring equity and equality into this society is by investing into lower income neighborhoods where people do not have as many opportunities as others, which will generate money and jobs to the people.



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