



Civil Rights:
Then VS. Now
By Alexis Sanon

Introduction

Without the bravery of activists like Rosa Parks, Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., African Americans would not have the freedom we have today. Activists like Ruby Bridges who fought not only during the Civil rights movement in the 1960s but continue now make it possible for Black people to be reminded of our history and how far we have come. It is still not perfect now and we continue to listen to the voices of activists to fight against the ignorance of bigots that is unfortunately still prevalent.

What was the civil rights movement and why was it needed?

Civil Rights Movement

- The civil rights movement was a struggle for social justice that took place from 1954 to 1968 for Black Americans to gain equal rights under the law in the United States.
- The Civil War had officially abolished slavery (www.kut.org)

Why it was needed

- Widespread segregation, discrimination, and racially motivated violence
- Jim Crow laws prohibited Black People from schools, restaurants etc (www.adl.org)



An image of a segregated bathroom sign in the 1950s (www.adl.org)

The Civil War

- Was fought between the United States of America and the Confederate States of America
- From April 12, 1861 - April 9 1885
- The north wanted to end slavery while the south wanted to keep their slaves
- War ended in 1865 when Robert E. Lee surrendered the last major Confederate army to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse ([/www.youtube.com/watch?v=S64zRnnn4Po](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S64zRnnn4Po))

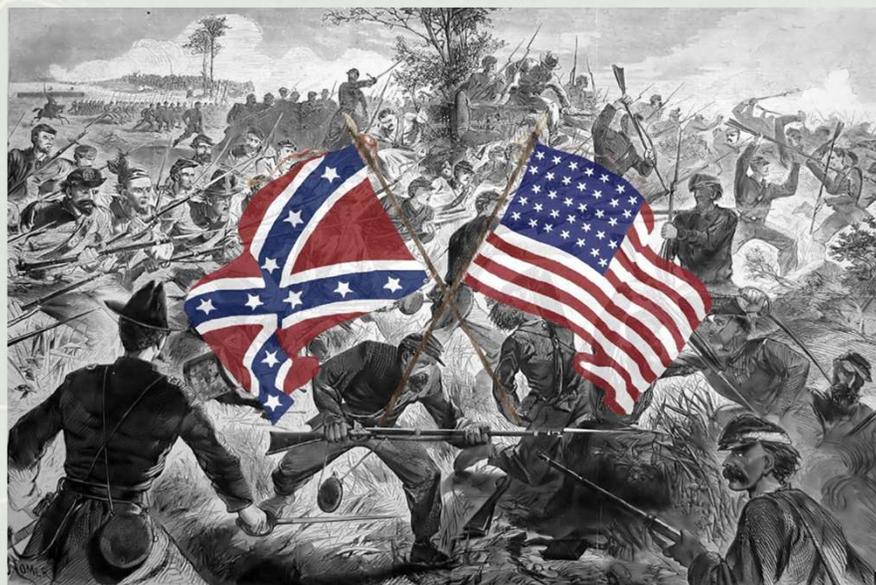


Image depicting the war between the Confederate and U.S, states(www.constitutioncenter.org)

13th Amendment

- Passed by Congress January 31, 1865. Ratified December 6, 1865. The 13th Amendment changed a portion of Article IV, Section 2
- Abolished slavery and involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime
- It was the first of the three Reconstruction Amendments adopted following the American Civil War
(<https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/common/generic/CivilWarAmendments.htm>)

13th Amendment

Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Image of 13th Amendment(www.senate.gov)

14th Amendment

- Was adopted on July 9, 1868, as one of the Reconstruction Amendments.
- Proposed in response to issues related to former slaves following the American Civil War
- Granted citizenship to all persons "born or naturalized in the United States," including formerly enslaved people, and provided all citizens with "equal protection under the laws," (<https://constitutioncenter.org>)

We the People

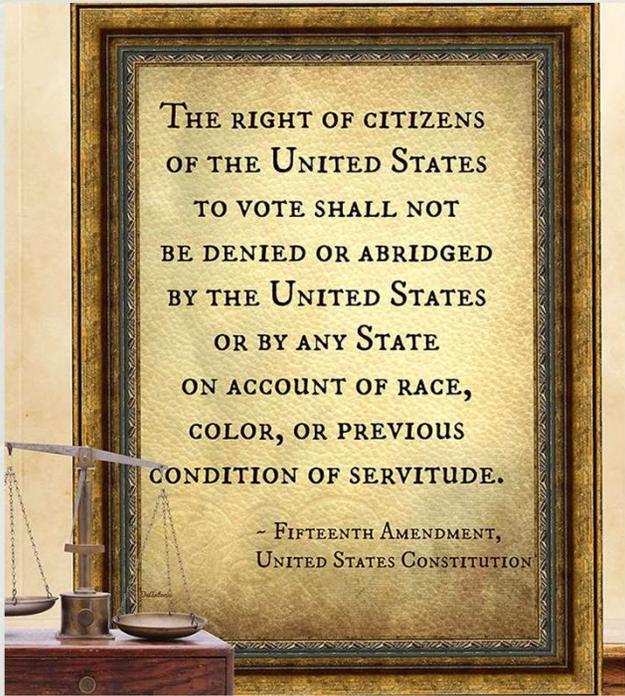
14th Amendment

...nor shall any state deprive any person of life,
liberty, or property, without due process of law;
nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction
the equal protection of the laws.

Image of 14th Amendment(www.senate.gov)

15th Amendment

- Prohibits the federal government and each state from denying a citizen the right to vote based on that citizen's "race, color, or previous condition of servitude."
- Would guarantee protection against racial discrimination in voting
- Was ratified on February 3, 1870 as the third and last of the Reconstruction Amendments (<https://www.nps.gov>)

A framed document with a gold border is centered on a light blue background. To the left of the frame is a wooden scale of justice. The text on the document is in a serif font, all caps, and reads: "THE RIGHT OF CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES TO VOTE SHALL NOT BE DENIED OR ABRIDGED BY THE UNITED STATES OR BY ANY STATE ON ACCOUNT OF RACE, COLOR, OR PREVIOUS CONDITION OF SERVITUDE." Below the main text, it says "~ FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT, UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION".

THE RIGHT OF CITIZENS
OF THE UNITED STATES
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~ FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT,
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Image of 15th Amendment(www.senate.gov)

Key People



Malcolm X



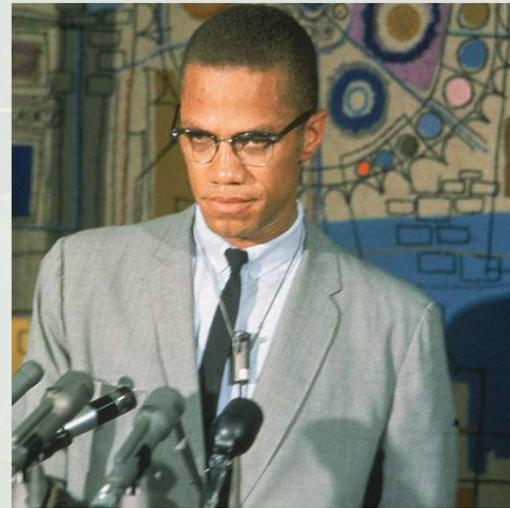
Rosa Parks



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Malcolm X

- Born on May 19, 1925
- An African American leader in the civil rights movement, minister and supporter of Black nationalism
- Founded the Organization of Afro-American Unity, which identified racism as the enemy of justice (<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/malcolm-x>)



Rosa Parks

- Born on February 4th, 1913
- A civil rights activist and secretary of Montgomery NAACP chapter
- She became an international icon of resistance to racial segregation, and organized and collaborated with civil rights leaders

(<https://www.biography.com/activist/rosa-parks>)

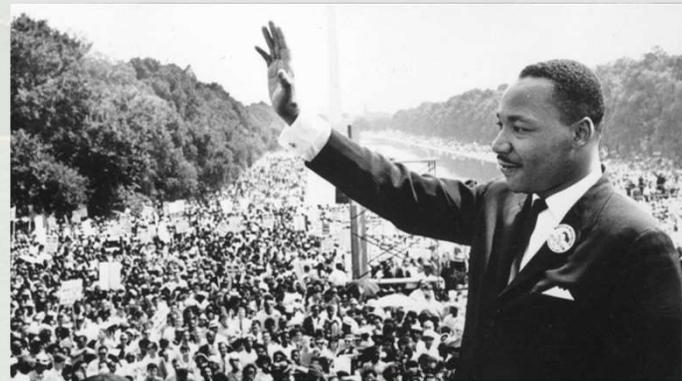


Rosa Parks refused to give up seat to a white man on a segregated bus (1955)

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

- Born on January 15, 1929
- Sought equality and human rights for African Americans and all victims of injustice through peaceful protest
- Was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964

(<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/martin-luther-king-jr.>)



King at the March On Washington Rally (1963)

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

- Nonviolent teachings and did not have his own people being armed
- Wanted economic power for Black people
- Saw integration as a key to success and civil rights
- Focused mostly on voting and desegregation in the south (www.History.com)

Malcolm X

- Black people have the right to self-defense and to defend themselves against police brutality
- Black People should live separate from white people or even move back to Africa
- Was against working with white politicians
- Wanted to fix all black issues in both the North and South (www.History.com)

Civil Rights Movement -> Black Lives Matter Movement

- The civil rights movement was the starting point for Black equality in America
- Now there are still many movements that fight for the liberation of black people such as Black Lives Matter
- Founded in 2013, the movement began with the use of the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter
- Black people continue to be oppressed and face racial tensions all across America
- Before it was seen through segregation and now it is seen through gun violence, police brutality etc. (<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/from-civil-rights-to-black-lives-matter1/>)



Image comparing The Civil Rights Movement and Black Lives Matter(www.senate.gov)

What was the civil rights movement and Black Lives matter were needed

Civil Rights Movement

- Segregation and jim crow laws
- Many black people were lynched and being killed
- Black neighborhoods were burned down

Black Lives Matter

- High amounts of police brutality towards Black People
- Racism against black people has been increasing
- Violence towards black individuals and unfair policing

Summary

The Civil rights movement began in the 1950s as economic improvements began in America for many. While more people became middle class and were able to move into suburban areas, African Americans continued to live in poverty and face racism. Segregation in the North and South was a main way racism and discrimination continued to be prevalent even after slavery ended. Jim Crow laws made it legal for everything that black and white people had to be equal while separated. This low quality of living was not fair for Black people and they began to create the civil rights movement in order to gain the equality they have deserved all along. Many Black activists led and participated in boycotts, marches and held rallies in order to fight for their rights. <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history>



Image of protest led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (www.senate.gov)

Key Words

1. NAACP - The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is a civil rights organization in the United States
2. Reconstruction - the action or process of reconstructing or being reconstructed
3. Liberation-the act of setting someone free from imprisonment, slavery, or oppression; release
4. oppressed - subject to harsh and authoritarian treatment

References

1. “Black Power Scholar Illustrates How MLK And Malcolm X Influenced Each Other | KUT Radio, Austin’s NPR Station.” KUT Radio, Austin’s NPR Station, 12 Aug. 2020,
2. <https://www.kut.org/2020-08-12/black-power-scholar-illustrates-how-mlk-and-malcolm-x-influenced-each-other>.
3. “Civil Rights Movement.” Anti-Defamation League, <https://www.adl.org/education/resources/backgrounders/civil-rights-movement>. Accessed 12 Apr. 2021.
4. CrashCourse. Civil Rights and the 1950s: Crash Course US History #39. YouTube, 22 Nov. 2013, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S64zRnnn4Po>.

References pt.2

1. ---. "Malcolm X." HISTORY, A&E Television Networks, 21 Jan. 2021, <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/malcolm-x>.
2. ---. "March on Washington." HISTORY, A&E Television Networks, 16 Mar. 2021, <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/march-on-washington>.
3. ---. "Martin Luther King, Jr." HISTORY, A&E Television Networks, 1 Apr. 2021, <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/martin-luther-king-jr>.
4. <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/from-civil-rights-to-black-lives-matter1/>

A central illustration within a dark blue rectangular frame. It features a planet with a ring system and three small circles on its surface, surrounded by five stars of varying sizes. Below the planet is a simple line-art rocket ship.

Thank You!
Any questions?