

Chapter 26**The Civil Rights Era (1945-1975)****What You Will Learn**

African Americans made important gains in their struggle for civil rights in the decades after World War II. Their civil rights movement inspired other groups, such as women, Latinos, and Native Americans, to protest for better treatment.

Chapter 26 Focus Question

As you read this chapter, keep this question in mind: How did the civil rights movement change the nation?

Section 1**Beginnings of the Civil Rights Movement****Section 1 Focus Question**

What key events marked the beginning of the civil rights movement in the 1950s? To begin answering this question,

- Learn about barriers in the North and segregation in the South.
- Read about the integration of baseball and the military.
- Find out about *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*.
- Understand the significance of the Montgomery bus boycott.

Section 1 Summary

Racial obstacles for African Americans began to change after World War II, when professional baseball and the armed services (desegregated). In the 1950s, the Supreme Court made decisions to desegregate schools and, after the Montgomery bus boycott, to end segregation on buses:

Separate but Unequal

African Americans faced racial barriers throughout the country. In the North, prejudice kept African Americans from getting good jobs or from buying homes in white neighborhoods. In the South, laws kept African Americans separate from whites in restaurants, hospitals, schools, and on public transportation.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) worked to end prejudice and segregation. This organization had an important victory in 1915, when the Supreme Court judged grandfather clauses to be unconstitutional. These clauses had been used to keep African Americans from voting. Beginning in 1938, the talented lawyer Thurgood Marshall took charge of the NAACP's legal efforts. (He fought against segregation laws so that integration, or an end to racial segregation, could be achieved. ✓)

buried at
Arlington National

Key Events

1954	Supreme Court strikes down school segregation in <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> .
1955	African Americans stage a bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama.
1955	United Farm Workers union is founded.
1966	National Organization for Women is founded.

segregation = separate / divided

Whites
ONLY !!!

✓ Checkpoint

Explain what the NAACP fought against.

What is lynching?

✓ Checkpoint

Name two institutions that desegregated during the 1940s.

1. _____
2. _____

Vocabulary Builder

Reread the bracketed paragraph. Use context clues to write a definition of *hostile*.

✓ Checkpoint

State why Oliver Brown sued the Topeka board of education.

✓ Checkpoint

Name two people closely associated with the Montgomery bus boycott.

1. _____
2. _____

Barriers Begin to Crumble

African American soldiers fought bravely in World War II, as did other minorities. After the war, they wanted discrimination to end. The color barrier fell in Major League Baseball in 1947, when Brooklyn Dodgers manager Branch Rickey hired Jackie Robinson to play for his team. Robinson endured terrible treatment by other players and baseball fans. Eventually, however, his talent and courage earned him many admirers.

President Harry Truman was sympathetic to civil rights. He supported legislation against lynching and to end discrimination in voting and hiring. But Congress did not pass these laws. In 1948, Truman—as commander in chief—ordered an end to military segregation without needing congressional approval. ✓

Desegregating the Schools

In 1951, Oliver Brown sued the Topeka, Kansas, board of education because he thought his daughter should be allowed to attend a nearby public school. At the time, the school allowed only white students. Thurgood Marshall took the landmark civil rights case, *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, before the Supreme Court. He argued that segregated schools were not equal to all-white schools, and they made African Americans feel inferior. The Court ruled that schools needed to be integrated.

In many places, there was harsh resistance to school integration. In 1957, when nine African Americans tried to attend an all-white high school in Little Rock, Arkansas, they faced hostile mobs. President Eisenhower eventually sent federal troops to protect the nine students. ✓ (Little Rock 9)

The Montgomery Bus Boycott

In 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to white passengers on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. She was arrested. To protest this injustice, the African American community boycotted, or refused to use, the city's buses. At the time, nearly 75 percent of Montgomery's bus riders were African Americans. Leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr. urged the boycott to continue until bus segregation laws were repealed. Angry white citizens bombed King's house. Other leaders were arrested on false charges. Still, the boycott continued 381 days. In November 1956, the Supreme Court ruled against segregation on buses. ✓

Check Your Progress

1. How did the Supreme Court help to end segregation?

2. What led to the Montgomery bus boycott, and why was it effective?

Section 2

An Expanding Role for Government

Key Events

1954

Supreme Court strikes down school segregation in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

1955

African Americans stage a bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama.

1965

United Farm Workers union is founded.

1966

National Organization for Women is founded.

What does this word mean?

✓ Checkpoint

Name three cases decided by the Warren Court.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Vocabulary Builder

Eradicate means "to get rid of."
Find a synonym for *eradicate* in the bracketed paragraph on the next page.

Section 2 Focus Question

What was the "Great Society"? To begin answering this question,

- Learn about the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren.
- Find out about the domestic goals of President John F. Kennedy.
- Discover President Lyndon Johnson's interest in social reform.

Section 2 Summary

The role of the federal government expanded during the 1960s. This was partly due to the actions of the Supreme Court and partly due to legislation for social reform that was favored by President Kennedy and advanced by President Johnson.

The Warren Court

President Eisenhower appointed Earl Warren as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in 1953. Warren broke with past decisions if he believed they were unfair. He did not depend on the precise words of the Constitution to make his decisions. This approach to law has become known as "judicial activism," and it remains controversial. It led to the landmark decision ending school segregation in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*.

The Warren Court generally supported the rights of individuals. In the 1966 decision *Miranda v. Arizona*, the Supreme Court determined that police must inform arrested persons of their right to remain silent and to have a lawyer. This decision was criticized for making it harder to prosecute criminals. In the 1969 decision *Tinker v. Des Moines School District*, the Supreme Court expanded freedom of speech. The Court ruled that school administrators could not punish students for wearing black arm bands in protest of the Vietnam War. ✓

Kennedy's Brief Presidency [*Bay of Pigs, Cuban Missile Crisis*]

John F. Kennedy ran for President against Richard Nixon in 1960. Kennedy, a Roman Catholic, had to assure the public that he believed in the separation of church and state. Kennedy beat Nixon in a very close election, and he became the youngest President in U.S. history.

Kennedy believed that social reforms were necessary. He had a strong domestic agenda. Kennedy wanted people to have equal treatment under the law, and he wanted to eradicate poverty and improve health conditions. Congress did not pass most of his legislation, although they did approve some antipoverty programs.

★ Kennedy's most successful accomplishment was the nation's

J.F.K.

NASA

space program. His goal was to place a man on the moon by the end of the 1960s.

Kennedy's administration was brought to a tragic end when he was assassinated in Dallas, Texas, on November 22, 1963. Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested for the murder. He, too, was shot and killed two days later. Earl Warren headed a commission that reported Oswald as the sole shooter. ☒ Jack Ruby killed Lee Harvey Oswald

Johnson's Great Society

After Kennedy was assassinated, Vice President Lyndon Johnson took over as President. In 1964, Johnson was elected President by a landslide. Johnson had grown up in a poor family in Texas, and he wanted to eliminate poverty in the United States.

Johnson began his presidency by advancing laws that Kennedy had promoted. Soon he came up with his own program, an ambitious plan for social and economic reform that he named the Great Society. As part of the Great Society, Johnson promoted an antipoverty agenda that he called the War on Poverty. The table below shows his major programs.

Great Society and the War on Poverty

Program	Purpose
Economic Opportunity Act	To address causes of poverty
Head Start	To provide preschools for needy children
Food stamps	To provide food vouchers for the poor
Welfare	To give cash payments to the poor
Department of Housing and Urban Development	To build housing for the poor and middle-income
Medicare	To help the elderly pay medical bills
Medicaid	To help poor people (not covered by Medicare) pay medical bills



Check Your Progress

1. Define "judicial activism." Name one of the cases decided by the Warren Court, and describe its impact.

2. List some of the goals of Johnson's Great Society.

✓ Checkpoint

Name two issues that Kennedy was successful at promoting.

1. _____
2. _____

✓ Checkpoint

Name two programs that were part of Johnson's War on Poverty.

1. _____
2. _____

Section 3**The Civil Rights Movement Continues****Section 3 Focus Question**

How did the civil rights movement gain momentum? To begin answering this question,

- Learn about Martin Luther King, Jr., and civil disobedience.
- Discover which legislation helped further civil rights.
- Read about how new leaders emerged in the movement, and find out about its lasting effects.

Section 3 Summary

Protests using King's ideas of civil disobedience led to important changes, but later, the civil rights movement splintered. President Johnson pushed important civil rights laws through Congress.

King's Strategy of Nonviolence

Martin Luther King, Jr., believed in civil disobedience, or peaceful refusal to obey unjust laws. King's philosophy came from Jesus and Christian teachings, and was influenced by Mohandas Gandhi's movement in India. King also took ideas from A. Philip Randolph, an African American labor leader. In 1957, King and other prominent African American church leaders came together to form the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). This group led many 1960s protests for civil rights. ✓

Nonviolent Protest Spreads

African Americans protested segregation in several ways. One method was the sit-in, in which people sit and refuse to leave. This occurred at a "whites only" lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1960. After its effectiveness, sit-ins became common. Freedom Rides were another type of protest. African Americans rode buses with white colleagues to verify that the Supreme Court's order to desegregate interstate travel was followed. Freedom Riders often faced violence.

In 1963, the SCLC organized massive marches in Birmingham, Alabama, to protest the city's segregation policies. The city's police used violent means to try to stop the marches. Images of the brutality were broadcast throughout the United States, horrifying viewers. Birmingham finally agreed to desegregate because of lobbying from the business community.

During the same year, President Kennedy sought to get Congress to pass a sweeping civil rights act. To publicize the bill, the civil rights community organized the March on Washington. Almost 250,000 people came to the demonstration, where King moved the crowd with his famous speech, "I Have a Dream." ✓

Key Events**1954**

Supreme Court strikes down school segregation in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

1955

African Americans stage a bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama.

1965

United Farm Workers union is founded.

1966

National Organization for Women is founded.

✓ Checkpoint

Name three people who influenced Martin Luther King, Jr.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

WOW
hard to believe
but it's true

✓ Checkpoint

Name two types of protests used during the early 1960s.

1. _____

2. _____

(Civil disobedience) ???

Civil Rights Legislation

President Johnson successfully pushed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 through Congress. This act integrated public facilities, outlawed job discrimination, sped up school desegregation, and helped to protect rights of voters. Even so, African Americans had trouble registering to vote in the South. In 1964, civil rights groups worked to register voters in Mississippi. Three volunteers were murdered. In 1965, King organized a march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to publicize the voting rights problem. State troopers tear-gassed, whipped, and clubbed the peaceful marchers, all witnessed on the evening news. In response, Johnson pushed the Voting Rights Act of 1965 through Congress. This law banned discriminatory voting practices and allowed federal officials to register African Americans in the South. ✓

✓ Checkpoint

List two pieces of civil rights legislation passed under Johnson.

1. _____
2. _____

✓ Checkpoint

Name two leaders who disagreed with King's approach.

1. _____
2. _____

✓ Checkpoint

Define affirmative action.

The Movement Splinters

Some African Americans began to disagree with King's slow, nonviolent approach. Malcolm X initially believed in total black separatism rather than integration. He later supported a white-black brotherhood, but he was murdered before his new ideas were fully formed. Stokely Carmichael believed in "black power," encouraging African Americans to support African American businesses and to feel pride in being black.

The movement focused on the South, but African Americans in the North had grievances, too. Many lived in ghettos, or poor, run-down neighborhoods. In Watts, a Los Angeles neighborhood, African Americans reacted to police brutality with massive rioting in 1965. More than 1,000 were killed or injured. Other cities also erupted in riots, and politicians struggled to find a solution. Things grew worse in 1968, when Martin Luther King, Jr. was shot to death. Riots took place all over the country. ✓

Summing Up the Civil Rights Era

- ★ The civil rights movement ended legal segregation, removed barriers to voting, and led to more African Americans holding political office. Affirmative action, a policy by which businesses and schools give preference to groups discriminated against in the past, increased the number of African Americans in colleges and in professions. Critics opposed affirmative action because they believed it unfairly benefited certain groups over others. ✓

Check Your Progress

1. What did the Civil Rights Act of 1964 do?

2. What were three achievements of the civil rights movement?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Section 4

Other Americans Seek Rights

Key Events

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1954 | Supreme Court strikes down school segregation in <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> . |
| 1955 | African Americans stage a bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama. |
| 1965 | United Farm Workers union is founded. |
| 1966 | National Organization for Women is founded. |

Section 4 Focus Question

What other groups were swept up in the spirit of reform? To begin answering this question,

- Learn about the gains of the women's rights movement.
- Find out about Mexican Americans' struggles for change.
- Read how older Americans, the disabled, and Native Americans formed groups to seek fairer treatment.

Section 4 Summary

As African Americans struggled for civil rights, other groups also began to organize for better treatment. Women, Mexican Americans, Native Americans, the disabled, and older Americans tried to advance their own economic and social conditions.

Women's Rights Movement

In the 1960s, women began to question their place in society, inspired by Betty Friedan's book *The Feminine Mystique*. Friedan argued that women were unhappy because of their limited roles in society. Friedan and other leaders in the women's rights movement founded the National Organization for Women (NOW) in 1966. NOW fought for fairer treatment under the law, better professional opportunities, and day-care for working mothers. NOW also led the fight for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), which would outlaw sex discrimination. Congress passed the ERA in 1972, but 38 states had to ratify it for it to become law.

Critics of ERA worried that traditional values would be eroded. They feared that women might end up losing alimony and having to serve in combat. Critics also argued that the law was unnecessary, as other laws already existed to protect women from discrimination. Eventually, the ERA failed to be ratified by enough states, and it died.

The women's movement did have important successes. These included the (1963 Equal Pay Act), which ensured that men and women doing the same job received equal pay. The Civil Rights Act of 1965 banned discrimination based on sex. Additionally, more and more women went to college and got jobs outside of their homes. In the political realm, many women were elected to important offices. Shirley Chisholm was the first African American woman elected to Congress. Ella Grasso was the first woman elected governor without succeeding her husband. ✓

✓ Checkpoint

List three goals of the National Organization for Women.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

CHAPTER

29

Section 4 Guide to the Essentials

The Crusade for Equal Rights

VOCABULARY

1. **affirmative action** program meant to provide equal opportunities for minorities and women
2. **bilingual** in two languages

SUMMARY

During the 1960s, the fight for equal rights grew stronger. The goals of the civil rights movement included ending segregation and discrimination in jobs, housing, and education. (See diagram.)

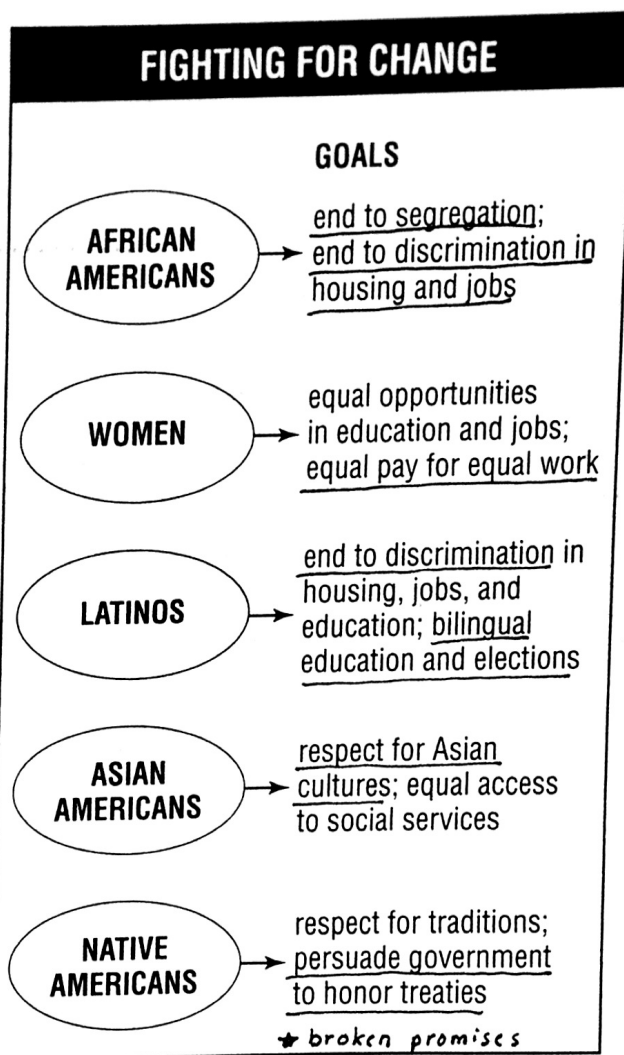
Many civil rights groups used nonviolent protest to achieve their goals. Freedom Riders traveled on buses in the South to integrate them. In 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke to 200,000 Americans at a march in Washington, D.C. As a result of these efforts, Congress passed civil rights laws. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlawed discrimination. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 guaranteed that all citizens could vote.

During the 1970s, African Americans made some gains. They were elected to government positions. **Affirmative-action** programs helped provide equal opportunities in jobs and education.

Women also struggled to win equal rights. In 1966, the National Organization for Women (NOW) was founded to work for equality in jobs, pay, and education.

Latinos worked for change, too. Mexican Americans formed a union to protect migrant workers. The Voting Rights Act of 1975 provided for **bilingual** elections.

Native Americans fought for their rights, as well. The American Indian Movement (AIM) occupied Wounded Knee, South Dakota, to protest unfair treatment.



AIM: _____

REVIEW

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What were the goals of civil rights laws passed in 1964 and 1965? _____

Diagram Skills What were the goals of Native American civil rights groups? _____