

Discrimination in the New South

November 4, 2013

Discrimination in the New South

Standard: SS8H7

The student will evaluate key political, social, and economic changes that occurred in Georgia between 1877 & 1918.

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b. Analyze how rights were denied to African-Americans through Jim Crow laws, Plessy v. Ferguson, disenfranchisement, and racial violence.

Since the Civil War...

African-Americans had been given a number of rights, including citizenship, freedom, and the right to vote for men

However, many things remained the same in terms of how they were treated

Other groups, including Jews, Catholics, and other races also experienced discrimination in the New South

1906 Atlanta Race Riot

There were many factors that led up to the riot in 1906, but the ultimate cause that sparked the action was a false story on September 21 in a local newspaper that told of black assaults on whites

A crowd of over 5,000 whites and blacks gathered in Decatur Street when the tension broke and the attacks became real

The riot lasted two days, with the military having to come in and restore order

When it was over, 18 African-Americans and 3 whites were dead, and hundreds were injured

The 1906 Atlanta Race Riot

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“NEGRO DIVES AND CLUBS ARE THE CAUSE OF FREQUENT ASSAULTS”

HALF CLAD NEGRO TRIES TO BREAK INTO HOUSE; BOUND OVER BY THE RECORDER

Only Rare Fortitude of Miss Owie Bryan Prevented the brute from breaking into bedroom.

SHE HELD THE DOSE TILL NEIGHBORS CAME

Judge Dreyfus gave Negro, whose name is Luther Fruiter, a speedy trial and found him

DIAMONDS OF GEISMAR ARE MISSING

Inspector Ewing says those clubs must go and he will let the police to hunt him in closing them.

Richard A. Ewing, city police inspector, is going to make a sweeping effort to clean up all illegal “dives.” Mr. Ewing has been investigating the same situation for several days, and reached the conclusion that a number of “dives” in Geismar street and its main part of the city are subject to violation of the city laws. The street

STUD PICTURES OF WHITE WOMEN FOUND

Inspector Ewing says those clubs must go and he will let the police to hunt him in closing them.



Jim Crow Laws

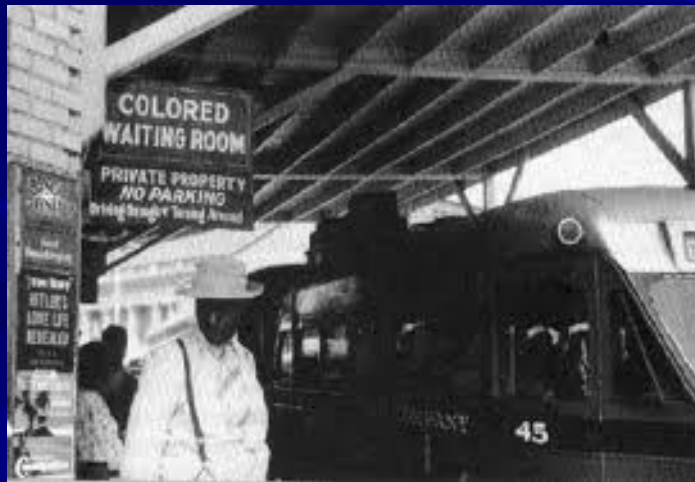
These were passed in some version in many parts of the country

They established “separate but equal” facilities for whites and blacks

Although the facilities were “separate”, they were rarely “equal”

In 1889, Georgia’s Congress segregated (separated by race) many public places, such as theaters, water fountains, and restrooms

“Separate but Equal”??



Testing Jim Crow

In 1892, Homer Plessy bought a train ticket in Louisiana. He was $\frac{7}{8}$ white and $\frac{1}{8}$ black, so he sat in the “whites only” car. He refused to move when asked, and was arrested because Jim Crow laws required “separate but equal” railroad cars on trains. Plessy staged the incident to test the constitutionality of Jim Crow laws.

Plessy v. Ferguson

The case made it to the U.S. Supreme Court, which upheld Jim Crow laws by a 7-1 vote

This case gave states the right to control social discrimination and to promote segregation

Throughout the South, laws were passed that segregated many public facilities, including schools

Disenfranchisement

The 15th Amendment granted black men the right to vote

However, more and more of these men found themselves being denied their voting rights in many southern states, including Georgia

Disenfranchisement means to deprive a person of the right to vote or other rights of citizenship

There were 3 major types of disenfranchisement in Georgia

Disenfranchisement in Georgia – The Grandfather Clause

In 1901, Georgia passed a grandfather clause

- It stated that only men whose fathers and grandfathers had been eligible to vote in 1867 could vote
- Because very few African-Americans were eligible to vote in 1867, this kept many from voting

Those that did manage to pass the standards of the grandfather clause faced other issues

Disenfranchisement in Georgia – The Poll Tax and Literacy Tests

Georgia and local areas passed additional qualifications for voting

Voters had to own property, pay a poll tax (a tax to be able to vote), and pass literacy tests

These tests were not standard, so the poll worker could ask any question they wanted to try and stump the voter

Disenfranchisement in Georgia - Gerrymandering

Southern politicians also used gerrymandering to prevent African-Americans from voting

Gerrymandering means to draw election district lines in such a way that benefits certain groups (racial groups, political parties, etc.)

In Georgia, voting districts were drawn to weaken African-American voting power

Leo Frank

African-Americans were not the only group being discriminated against

Leo Frank was a 29-year old Jewish man who was the manager at the National Pencil Company in Atlanta

On April 26, 1913, he was charged with the murder of Mary Phagan, a 14-year old employee

Leo Frank's Trial

Frank's trial was one of the most debated in Georgia's history

The main witness was Jim Conley, who was an African-American and the janitor at the factory

Conley was also a suspect, but many people disliked Jews, so they listened to what he had to say

Although there was little evidence, Frank was convicted and sentenced to death

The Death of Leo Frank

Frank's lawyers appealed the case, and the governor changed Frank's sentence to life in prison

Two months after the change, 25 armed men broke into the prison, kidnapped Frank, drove to Marietta (where Mary Phagan was from), and hanged Frank from a tree

The Rebirth of the Ku Klux Klan

In July 1915, the KKK received a charter from the Fulton County Superior Court

On Thanksgiving night, 1915, 35 men climbed to the top of Stone Mountain, lit torches, and circled a burning cross

The group, which called themselves the Knights of Mary Phagan, signaled the rebirth of the Klan in Georgia

Fighting Discrimination in the New South

The New South period showcased many of the great civil rights leaders in history

The list is long, but the most famous include Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. DuBois, John and Lugenia Burns Hope, and Alonzo Herndon

In their own way, each of these people overcame discrimination and fought for civil rights for African-Americans

Booker T. Washington

Washington believed that economic independence was the only road to social and political equality

He spoke across the U.S. and Europe, but gave his most famous speech at the International Cotton States Exposition in Atlanta in 1895

The speech, known as the Atlanta Compromise Speech, proposed that blacks and whites should agree to benefit from each other economically

W.E.B. DuBois

DuBois did not agree with Washington

He believed that truth and knowledge would help different races understand and accept each other

He wanted social and political integration, as well as higher education for African-Americans

He thought that Washington wasn't pushing hard enough and thought that just waiting for economic success wouldn't help African-Americans

John and Lugenia Burns Hope

- John Hope was half-white, but had a black mother
- He became the first black president of Morehouse College
- He was friends with DuBois and worked to restore order to the city during and after the 1906 race riot
- His wife, Lugenia Burns Hope, also helped advance African-Americans by organizing vocational classes, a health center, and boys and girls clubs
- She started the Neighborhood Union which pushed for improved roads, lighting, and sanitation in African-American neighborhoods of Atlanta

Alonzo Herndon

Herndon, a former slave, worked hard after emancipation and opened a barber shop in Jonesboro

He moved to Atlanta, and by 1900, had opened 3 new shops

He bought property and soon owned office buildings on Auburn Avenue

He bought a small insurance business, and hired African-American college graduates to run it

After Herndon died, his son took over, and it grew into the Atlanta Life Insurance Company

Today, Atlanta Life is worth over \$200 million and is one of the largest African-American owned businesses in the US

Questions...

- 1) Who was being discriminated against besides African-Americans during the New South period?
- 2) When was the Atlanta Race Riot?
- 3) What was the ultimate cause of the riot?
- 4) What did Jim Crow laws establish?
- 5) How did Homer Plessy decide to "test" Jim Crow laws?
- 6) What did the *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision do?
- 7) What is disenfranchisement?
- 8) What were 3 ways that disenfranchisement was accomplished in Georgia?
- 9) What crime was Leo Frank accused of?
- 10) What happened to Frank after his sentence was changed to life?
- 11) What did the Leo Frank case help to resurrect?
- 12) What did Booker T. Washington believe?
- 13) Where did he give one of his most famous speeches?
- 14) What did W.E.B. DuBois believe?
- 15) Who was the first black president of Morehouse College?
- 16) How did Lugenia Burns Hope help advance African-Americans?
- 17) What business did Alonzo Herndon start that today is worth over \$200 million?