

## **Chapter 21**

# **The Civil Rights Movement (1950–1968)**

# **America: Pathways to the Present**

## **Chapter 21: The Civil Rights Movement (1950–1968)**

### **Section 1: Demands for Civil Rights**

### **Section 2: Leaders and Strategies**

### **Section 3: The Struggle Intensifies**

### **Section 4: The Political Response**

### **Section 5: The Movement Takes a New Turn**

# **Demands for Civil Rights**

PRENTICE HALL

## **Chapter 21, Section 1**

- **What events and cultural trends led to a rise in African American influence in the twentieth century?**
- **How did Americans respond to the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*?**
- **How did the Montgomery bus boycott affect the civil rights movement?**
- **How did other minorities begin to demand civil rights in the 1950s?**



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# The Rise of African American Influence

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## Chapter 21, Section 1

### Migration and the New Deal

- In the years between the Civil War and the 1940s, many African Americans migrated from the South to northern cities.
- During the Depression, Roosevelt and others courted black votes to support New Deal initiatives.
- Under Roosevelt, the number of African Americans working for the federal government rose significantly.

### World War II and the NAACP

- A shortage of labor during World War II led many more African Americans to the North.
- As Americans fought a war against discrimination in Europe, many began to think about the discrimination taking place at home.
- The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) worked hard in the courts to challenge segregation laws.



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# ***Brown v. Board of Education***

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- In 1951, Oliver Brown wanted his 8-year-old daughter to attend a Topeka, Kansas school, which only white children were permitted to attend.
- Brown sued the Topeka Board of Education, and his case reached the Supreme Court. Thurgood Marshall of the NAACP argued Brown's case.
- On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court issued its ruling in the ***Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*** case. In this ruling, the court supported Brown's case for desegregation, stating that, "Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal."
- A year later, the Court ruled that local school boards should move to desegregate "with all deliberate speed."



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# Reaction to *Brown v. Board of Education*

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- Many Americans, both white and African American, rejoiced at the *Brown* ruling. Others accepted the decision although they did not agree with it, hoping that desegregation could take place peacefully.
- Many southern whites, especially in the Deep South, vehemently opposed the ruling. Congressional representatives of states in the Deep South joined together to protest the decision, claiming that it violated states' rights.



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# The Montgomery Bus Boycott

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## The Montgomery Bus Boycott

- **Background of the Boycott** — In December 1955, an African American seamstress named Rosa Parks was seized by the police in Montgomery, Alabama when she refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man.
- **Organization of the Boycott** — In response, civil rights leaders, including Martin Luther King, Jr., organized a boycott of the Montgomery bus system.
- **The Bus Boycott** — Over the next year, 50,000 African Americans boycotted the city bus system, choosing to walk, ride bicycles, or carpool instead.
- **Results of the Bus Boycott** — Despite losing money, the bus company refused to change its policies. Finally, in 1956, the Supreme Court ruled that bus segregation was unconstitutional.



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# Resistance in Little Rock

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### Opposition to Integration

- In the fall of 1957, Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus felt that enforcing **integration**, or the bringing together of different races, would create chaos.
- Faubus therefore posted Arkansas National Guard troops at Central High School in Little Rock, instructing them to turn away the nine African American students who were supposed to attend that school.
- Mobs of angry protesters joined the National Guard in intimidating the African American students.

### Government Response

- Faubus's actions defied the *Brown* decision. President Eisenhower viewed these actions as a challenge to the Constitution and to his authority as President.
- Eisenhower placed the National Guard under federal command and sent soldiers to Arkansas to protect the nine students.



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# Other Voices of Protest

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- Like African Americans, other minority groups demanded equal rights after World War II.
- Mexican Americans found that peaceful protest could slowly bring about some of their goals. Groups such as the Community Service Organization and the *Asociación Nacional México-Americana* worked toward these goals.
- Native Americans faced problems of poverty, discrimination, and little real political representation. The 1953 government policy of *termination*, or elimination of reservations, met with resistance and was eventually discarded.



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# Demands for Civil Rights—Assessment

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## Chapter 21, Section 1

**Which of these was a result of the Montgomery bus boycott?**

- (A) National Guard soldiers were posted in Montgomery.**
- (B) The bus company voluntarily changed its policies.**
- (C) Thousands of African Americans stopped riding buses.**
- (D) Rosa Parks was allowed to keep her seat on the bus.**

**Why was the *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling considered important?**

- (A) It stated that separate educational facilities were unequal.**
- (B) It banned segregation on buses.**
- (C) It demanded that school districts move toward desegregation.**
- (D) It provided military protection for African American students.**

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# Demands for Civil Rights—Assessment

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## Chapter 21, Section 1

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