



# Early Civil Rights Acts



## During Reconstruction: The First Civil Rights Act 1866


- The Civil Rights Act (1866) was passed by Congress on 9th April 1866 over President Andrew Johnson's veto.
- The act declared that all persons born in the United States were now citizens, without regard to race, color, or previous condition. As citizens they could make and enforce contracts, sue and be sued, give evidence in court, and inherit, purchase, lease, sell, hold, and convey real and personal property.
- Persons who denied these rights to former slaves were guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction faced a fine not exceeding \$1,000, or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both.
- The Freedmen's Bureau agents were empowered to advocate in helping newly freed slave

# 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment

- The opening sentence of Section 1 of the 14th Amendment defined U.S. citizenship: “All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.”
- Section 1’s next clause was: “No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States.” This greatly expanded the civil and legal rights of all American citizens by protecting them from infringement by the states as well as by the federal government.
- Finally, the “equal protection clause” (“nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws”) was clearly intended to stop state governments from discriminating against



# Civil Rights Act of 1875

- March 1, 1875, The new law required: “That all persons within the jurisdiction of the United States shall be entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, and privileges of inns, public conveyances on land or water, theaters, and other places of public amusement; subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law, and applicable alike to citizens of every race and color, regardless of any previous condition of servitude.”
  - The second section provided that any person denied access to these facilities on account of race would be entitled to monetary restitution under a federal court of law.
  - The Supreme Court declared the law unconstitutional in 1883.
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1950s-1960s

# Civil Rights

## Brown v Board of Education, Topeka, Kansas, 1954

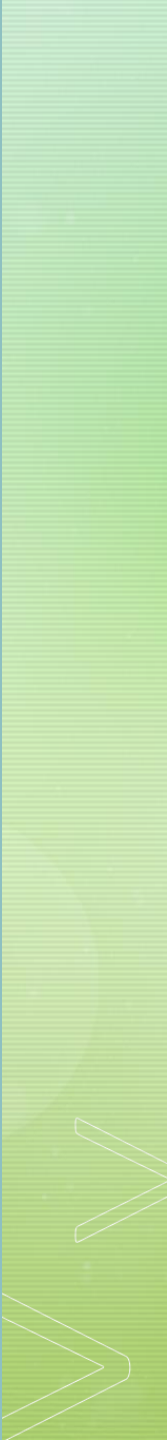
- The NAACP challenged the Plessy vs Ferguson decision
- The Supreme Court's ruling that "separate was unequal."
- All public schools were to be desegregated immediately

# The Montgomery Bus Boycott 1955

- Rosa Parks refusal to give up her seat in the “colored section” to a white man was the beginning of the Bus Boycott for all classes and ages advocating an end to segregation and racial harmony.
- There were four women prior to Rosa Park whose Constitutional rights were violated by the Montgomery bus system. Aurelia Browder, Susie McDonald, Claudette Colvin and Mary Louise Smith all served as plaintiffs in the legal action challenging Montgomery's segregated public transportation system in the case *Browder v. Gayle*
- On June 19, 1956, the courts agreed "deny and deprive plaintiffs and other Negro citizens similarly situated of the equal protection of the laws and due process of law secured by the Fourteenth Amendment." The U.S. Supreme Court affirmed the decision in December 1956.
- The victorious African American community in Montgomery joyously ended the bus boycott.



# Civil Rights Act of 1957

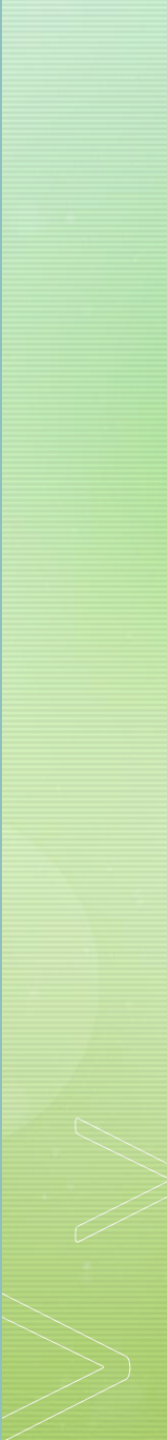
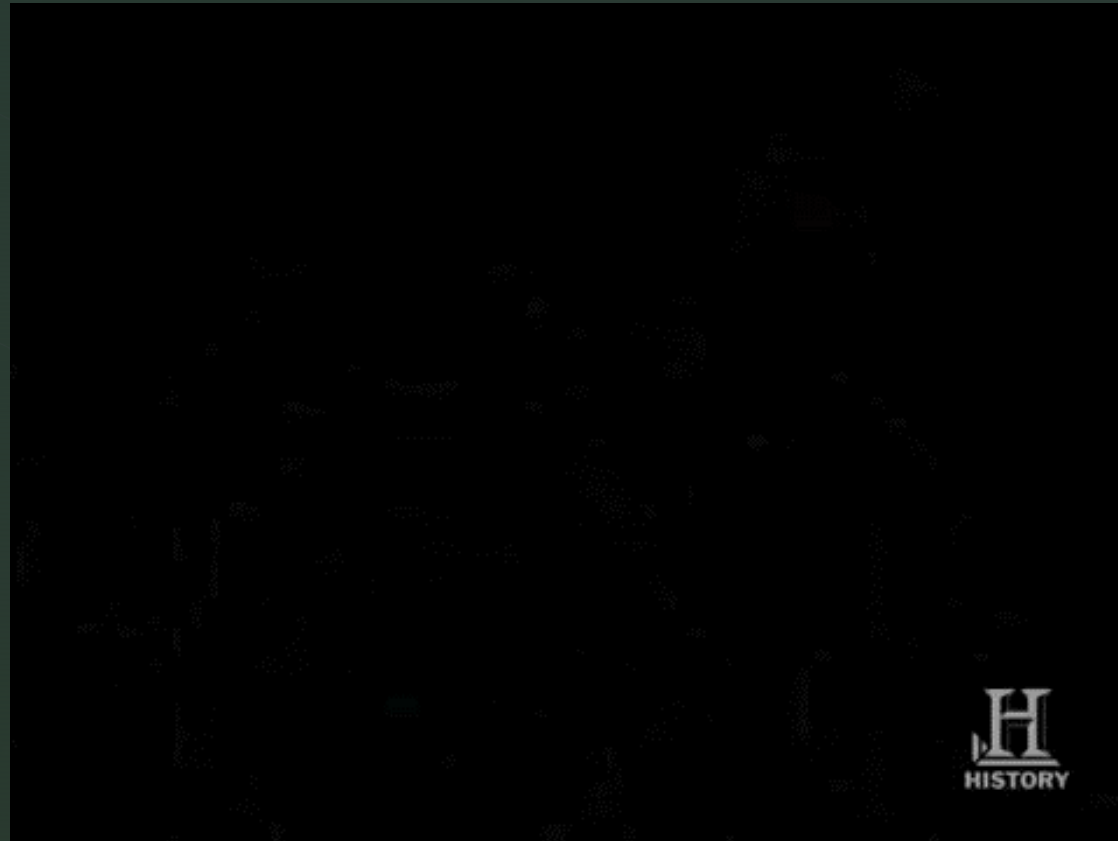
- The first civil rights legislation since Reconstruction. The new act established the Civil Rights Section of the Justice Department and empowered federal prosecutors to obtain court rulings against interference with the right to vote.
  - This act established a federal Civil Rights Commission with authority to investigate discrimination
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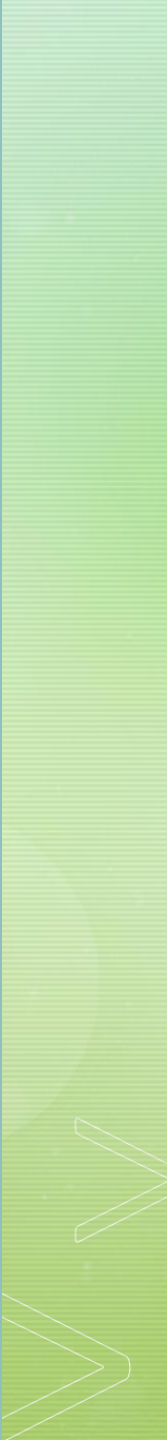
# March on Washington, 1963

Goals – Jobs and Freedom





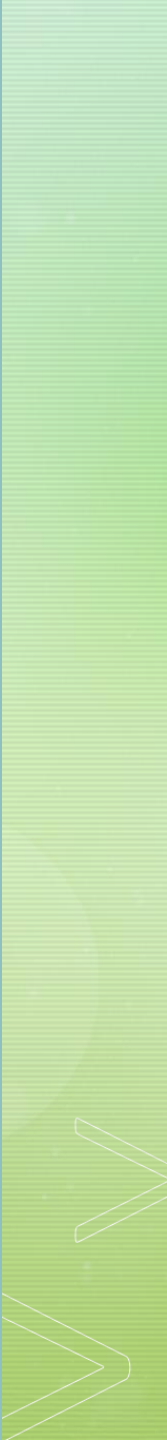
# 1963, Affirmative Action

- **Executive Order 11114—Extending the Authority of the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity**
  - June 22, 1963
  - WHEREAS it is the policy of the United States Government to encourage by affirmative action the elimination of discrimination because of race, creed, color, or national origin in employment on work involving Federal financial assistance, to the end that employment opportunities created by Federal funds shall be equally available to all qualified persons
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# 1964, Civil Rights Act

**This act, started by President Kennedy, signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on July 2, 1964, prohibited discrimination in public places, provided for the integration of schools and other public facilities, and made employment discrimination illegal. This document was the most sweeping civil rights legislation since Reconstruction.**

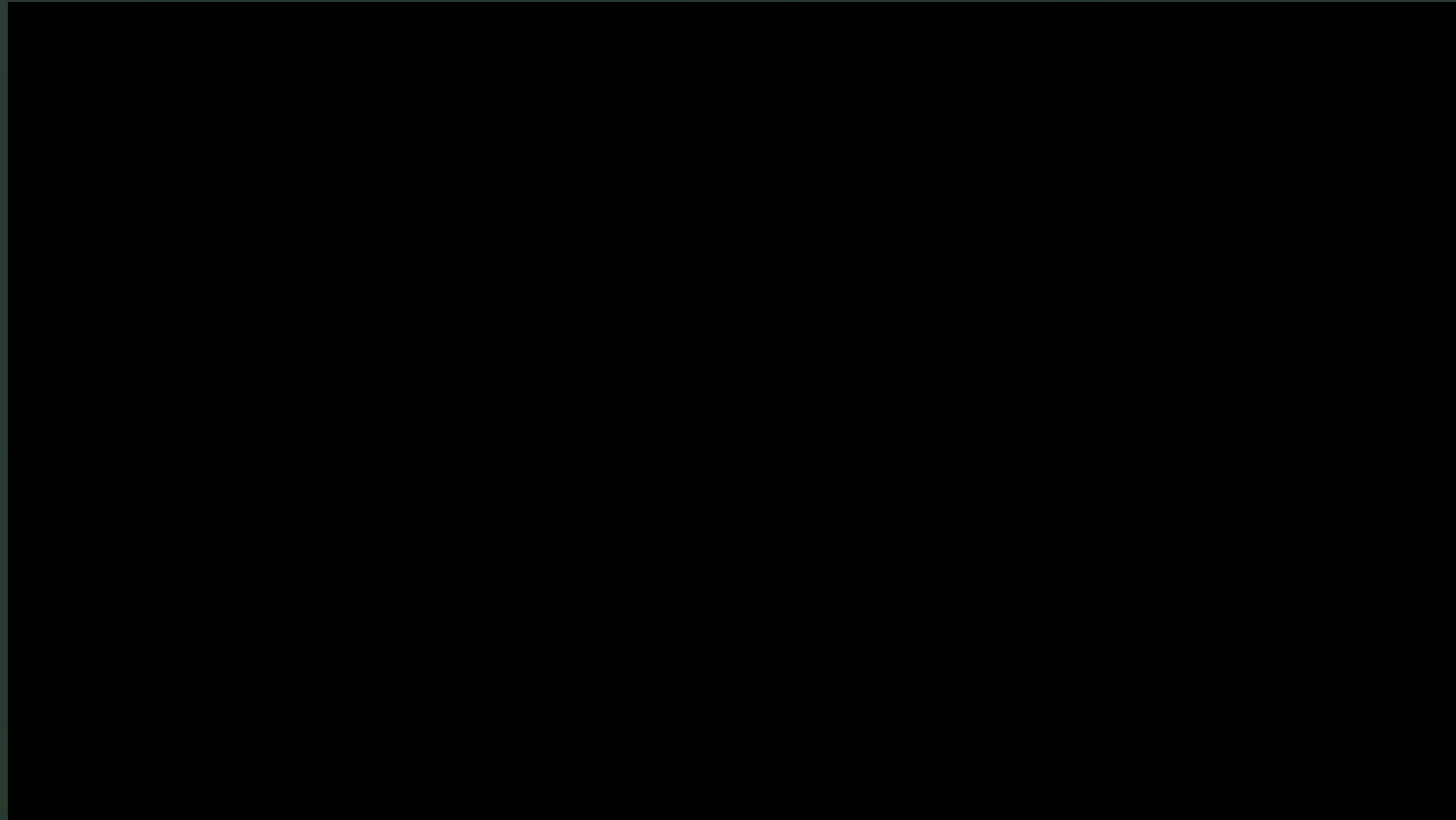


# 1965

- On February 26, 1965, there was a peaceful demonstrations in Selma organized by SNCC for the right to vote.
- Jimmy Lee Jackson was shot and killed for protecting his mom from being beaten for participating in the march. His death sparked the decision to take his body and march to the capitol of Alabama.
- Bloody Sunday, March 7, 1965, under the direction of the governor, George Wallace of Alabama, State troopers were ordered to not allow the march to take place.
- On March 21, 1965, The Selma to Montgomery march for the right to vote had began. They started from Brown Chapel Church and crossed over the Edmund Pettus Bridge, a bridge named after a white confederate soldier so that everyone will remember his name. A 54 mile march that took five days for the right to vote was completed.




# Selma to Montgomery





# Voting Rights Act of 1965

- **on August 6, 1965, by President Lyndon Johnson. The law outlawed the discriminatory voting practices adopted in many southern states after the Civil War, including literacy tests as a prerequisite to voting.**
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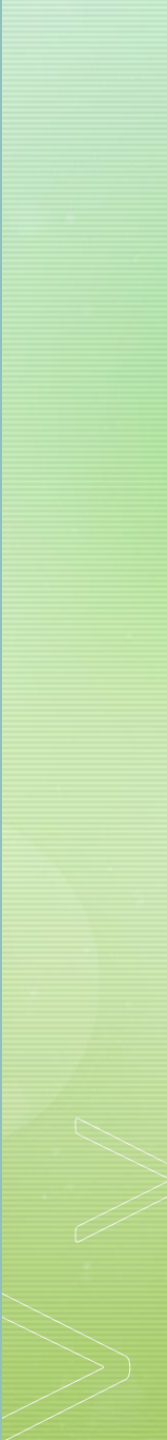


# 1968

- On April 4, 1968, the day, the world saw racial hatred magnified by the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



# Assignment

- Make a Venn Diagram
  - Compare and Contrast any two Civil Rights Act.
  - Use at least two provisions from each act when comparing.
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# How far have black people progressed since the March on Washington?

## Suggestive Topics:



Higher Education  
Affirmative Action -  
Executive Order  
11114



1967 city riots



Civil Rights Bill, 1968



Economic status



Prisons statistics



poverty rate



Employment



Soldier