



Introduction

- This is our last lecture on history in the current Gentrain cycle that will recommence in Fall 2026.
- In this last lecture, we will reflect on a fundamental question:
 - Can law alone secure equality and social justice for all?

References

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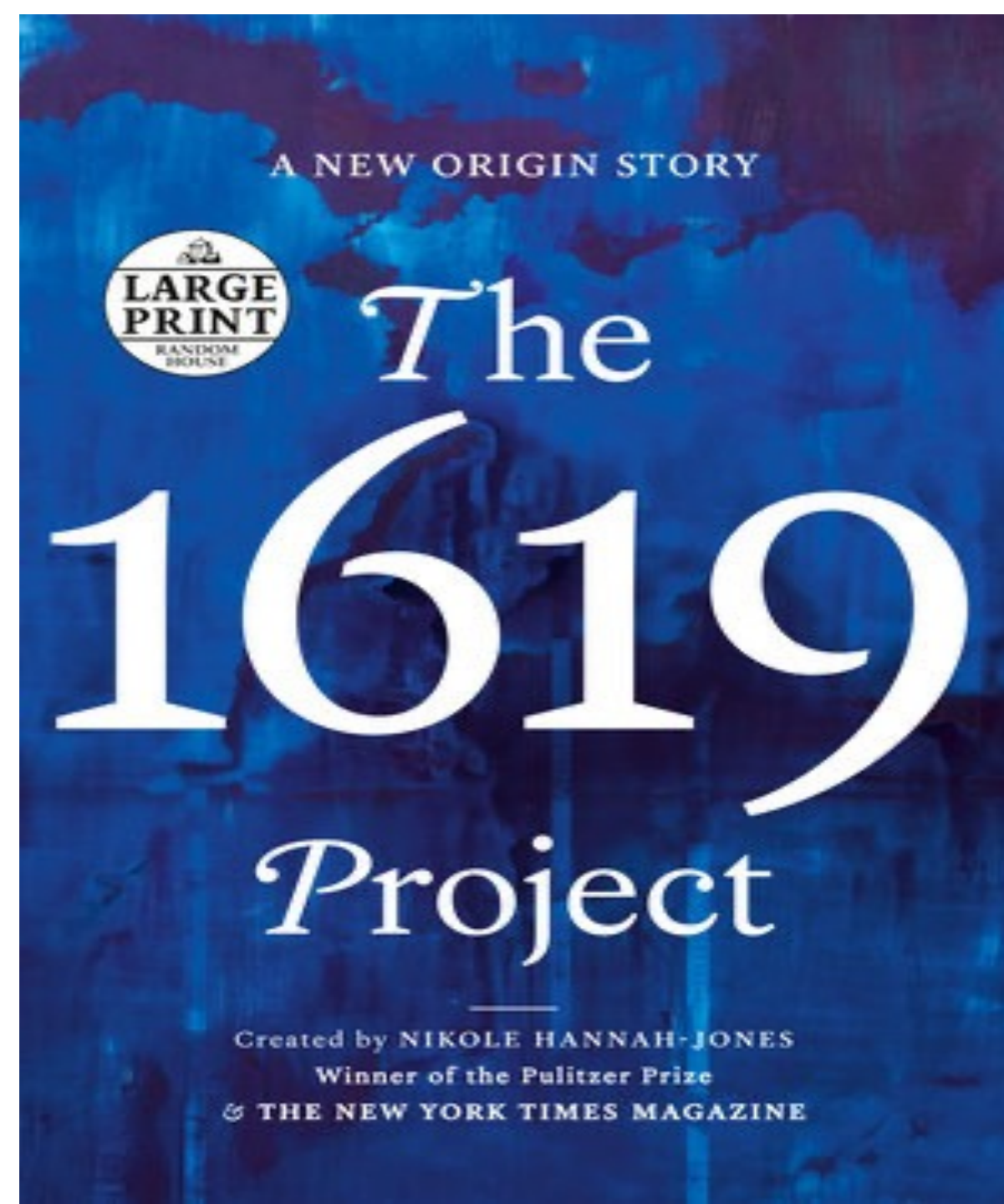
When Did it Begin?

- The Civil Rights Movement, says historian Morris, is “The organized and collective form of black protest...When large masses of black people became directly involved in economic boycotts, street marches, mass meetings, going to jail by the thousands, and a whole range of disruptive tactics commonly referred to as non-violent direct action... (p. ix).
- This is part of a process showing that law alone cannot bring about social change. Participants in civic life must join hands to claim and respect each other’s equal rights.

When Did it Begin?

The Civil Rights Movement is another phase in the long struggle to dismantle an enforced social, economic, psychological, physical, spiritual, and religiously oppressive and exploitative legal structure.

The slaveowners had begun to erect it since 1619, when a Dutch slave ship delivered the first shipment of 19 enslaved persons to settlers along the Saint James River.



When Did it Begin?

- Between the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, [the colonial legislatures had spelled out](#) the rights of slave owners and their chattel, the inheritable and transferable property they acquired to cultivate the growing size of their plantations, or “labor-camps,” authors of the 1619 Project termed them.
- By 1639, they were not to be armed. By 1660, relationships between them and the indentured labor were restricted. By 1662, an Englishman’s child born to a slave would also be a slave. Baptism will not transition a slave adult or child to freedom. By 1669, punishment resulting in death or disability of a slave will be part of disciplinary measures. . . .”

When Did it Begin?

- By 1691, slaveowners and their associates could monitor slave absence from work and be rewarded if they brought them to the owner. Moreover, an English person intermarrying “negroes, mulattoes, and Indians” shall, within three months, be banished and removed from this dominion forever. Any negro or mulatto set free shall be transported out of the dominion within six months.
- By 1705, a slave's being in England did not free him/her. An English person who intermarries slaves or free negro or mulatto, “ be committed to prison, and there remain, during the space of six months, without bail; and shall forfeit and pay ten pounds current money of Virginia... The church ministers presiding over such a marriage shall be “forfeiting and paying, for every such marriage the sum of ten thousand pounds of tobacco . . .”

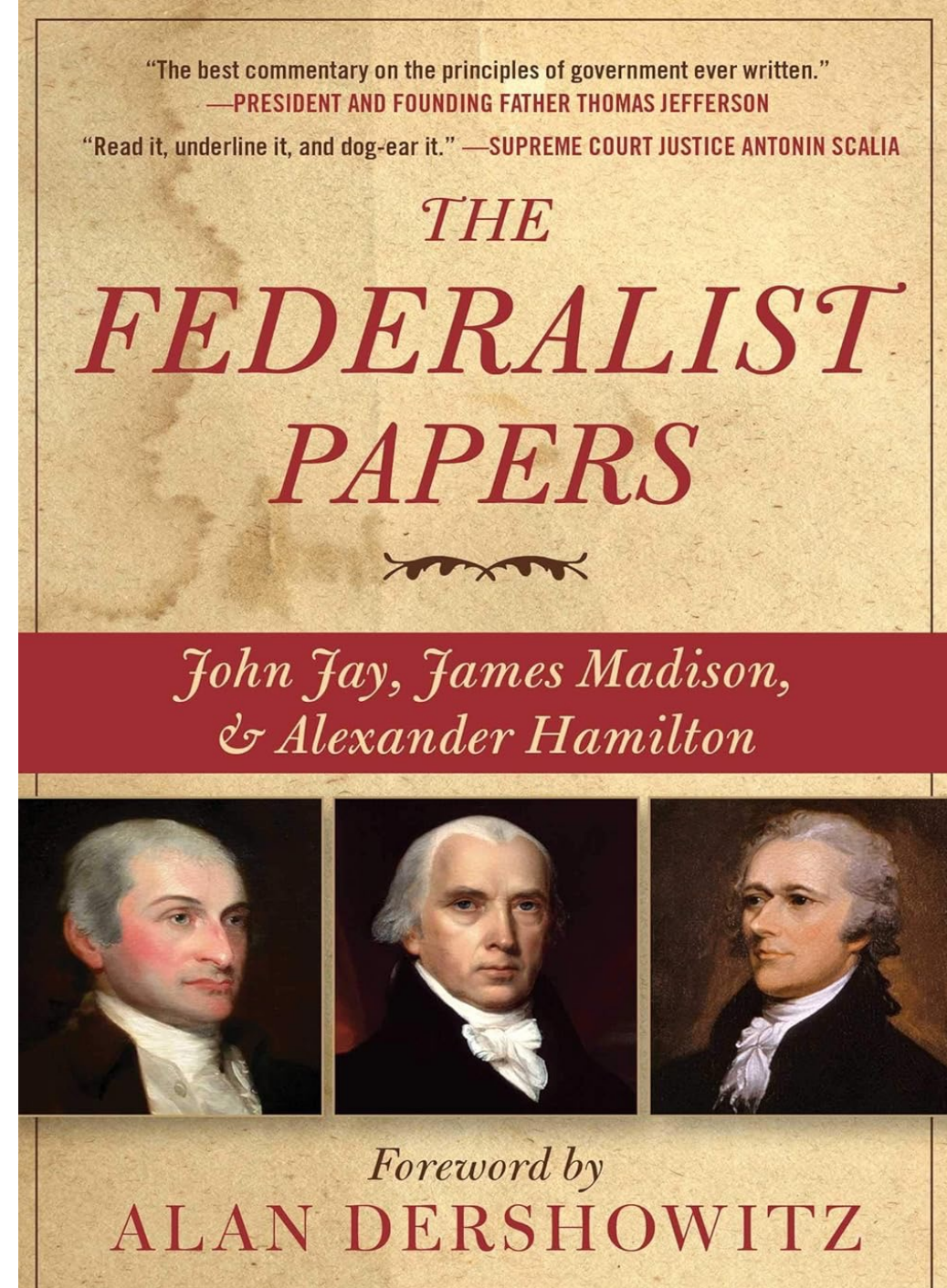
When Did it Begin?

- The US Constitution of 1789 guaranteed the rights of slave owners.
- The enslaved persons figured in the Constitution, but only indirectly in article 1 Section II, “Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, **three fifths of all other Persons.**”



When Did it Begin?

- [The Federalist Paper](#) 54, February 12, 1788, by Hamilton or Madison, offered the rationale for this provision, saying, “... Slaves are considered as property, not as persons. They ought therefore to be comprehended in estimates of taxation which are founded on property, and to be excluded from representation which is regulated by a census of persons. This is the objection, as I understand it, stated in its full force... Let the compromising expedient of the Constitution be mutually adopted, which regards them as inhabitants, but as debased by servitude below the equal level of free inhabitants, which regards the SLAVE as divested of two-fifths of the MAN.”



When Did it Begin?

- In *Dred Scott v Sandford*, 1857, Roger B. Taney's court decreed that free black persons had no right to petition the Courts.
- The judgment in section 1 held, “A free negro of the African race, whose ancestors were brought to this country and sold as slaves, is not a "citizen" within the meaning of the Constitution of the United States...the special rights and immunities guaranteed to citizens do not apply to them. And not being "citizens" within the meaning of the Constitution, they are not entitled to sue in that character in a court of the United States...”





Du Bois

Black Reconstruction

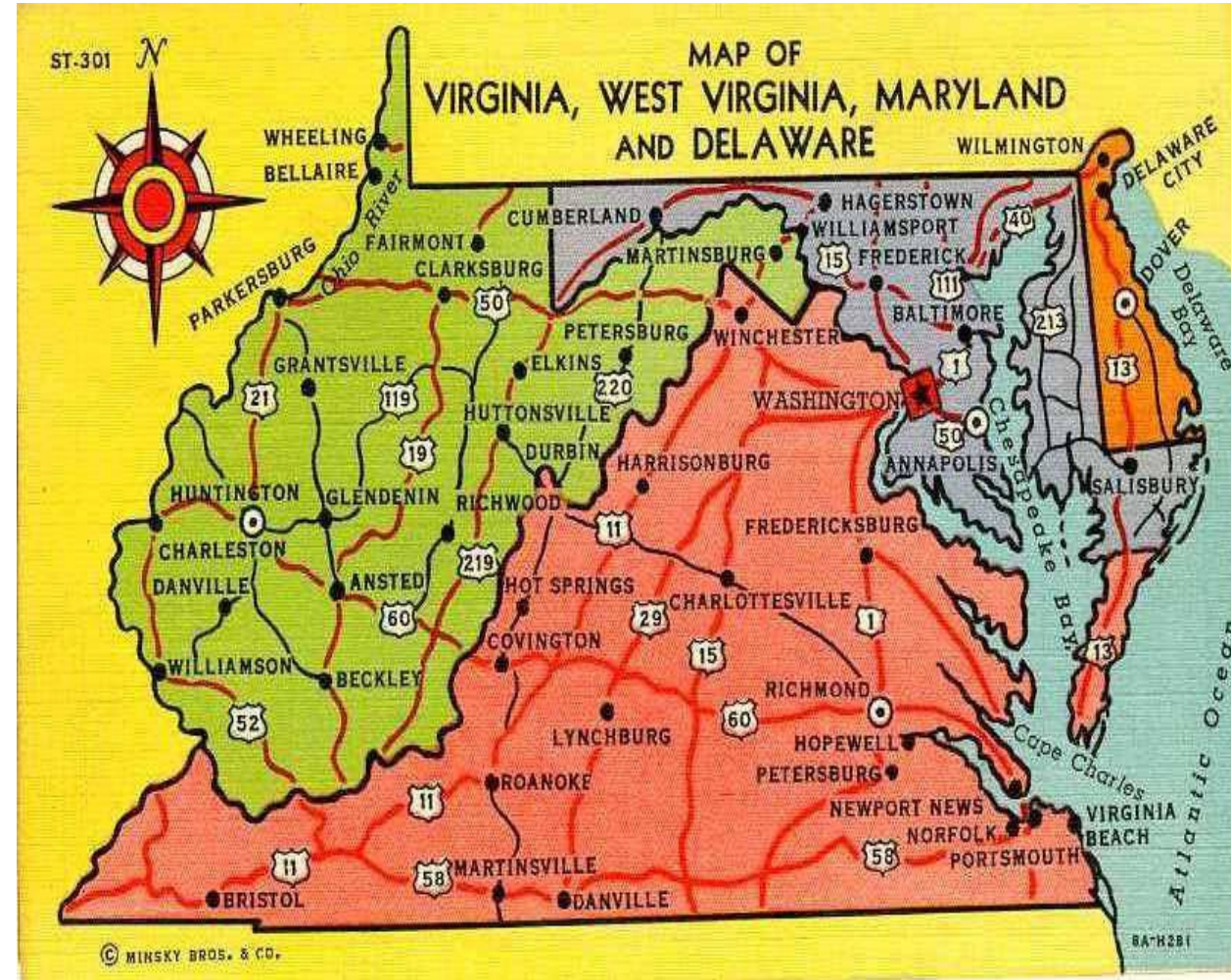
An Essay Toward a History of the Part which
Black Folk Played in the Attempt to Reconstruct
Democracy in America, 1860-1880

BE YOUR HISTORIAN

**"I AM GOING TO TELL THIS STORY AS
THOUGH NEGROES WERE ORDINARY HUMAN
BEINGS, REALIZING THAT THIS ATTITUDE
WILL FROM THE VERY FIRST SERIOUSLY
CURTAIL MY AUDIENCE" (1934).**

When Did it Begin?

- During and after the Civil War, a crucial question before Congress and the Executive in the wake of the Confederacy's looming defeat was how to re-admit the eleven seceded states into the Union.
- As historian Robinson argues, the Republican Congress asserted its right to make such decisions during the Lincoln era in late 1862. The President accepted the creation by Congress of a new state, West Virginia, which was carved out of Virginia's territory (p.110).



When Did it Begin?

- While Lincoln appointed military governors in states conquered by the Union army, he could not compel Congress to accept representatives elected by these governments.
- In 1864, Congress refused to reseat the delegation from conquered Louisiana and enacted a plan for Reconstruction in the Wade-Davis bill, including readmission criteria, which Lincoln killed by using the pocket veto.
- Constitutionally, it meant that as long as Congress refused to accept these representatives, the states would remain excluded from the federal government (p. 110).

Andrew Johnson's
Phase of Reconstruction,
April–December 1965

Enters Andrew Johnson

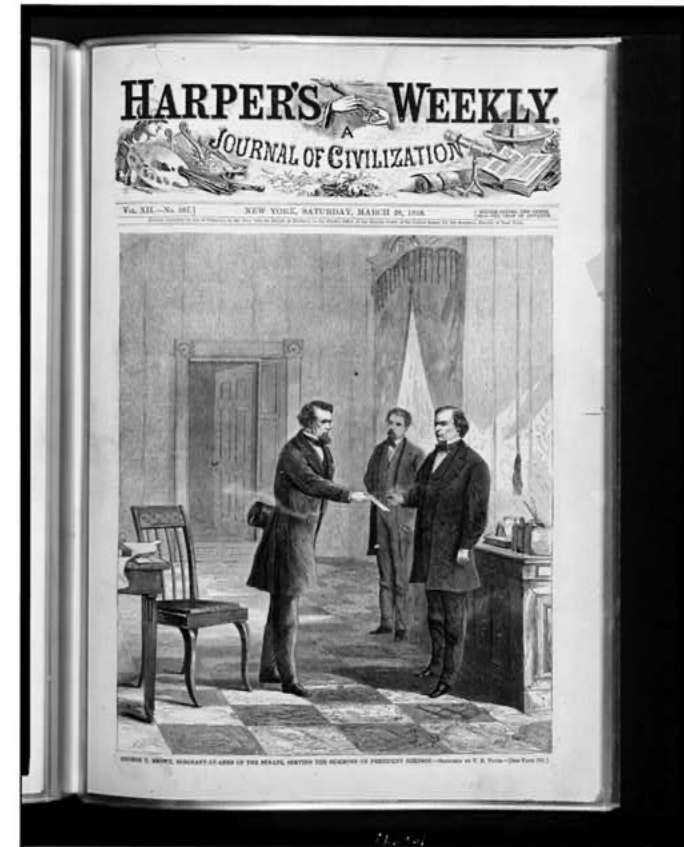
- The thirty-ninth Congress adjourned from April through December 1865 amid a national tragedy. An assassin took Abraham Lincoln's life, and Andrew Johnson became President on April 15, 1865. Johnson was a Southerner.
- The Southern interests' counterattack on emancipation began as Johnson took the following steps during the Congressional recess:
 - Used his presidential pardon and amnesty powers to relieve Southern landowners from the civil disabilities (e.g., loss of the right to vote and to hold public office)
 - Appropriated powers to fix the process of readmission of the 11 Confederate states.

Enters Andrew Johnson

- Restituted abandoned or confiscated land back to the rebels, and thus scotched any redistribution plans
- Enabled the rebels to re-enter politics in their states during the crucial autumn and fall elections in 1865, elections that determined the entire slate of state officers and congressional representatives.
- As Bromberg shows in a detailed study of such elections in Virginia, 1865, apart from a few exceptions, the South elected Confederate leaders to local, state, and Congressional seats.

Enters Andrew Johnson

- The reconstituted Southern state legislatures of 1865 adopted Black Codes to neutralize the impact of emancipation. Johnson refused to condemn them.
- In South Carolina, for example, the legislature declared as vagrants any blacks found without regular employment; it then decreed that blacks could not leave the premises without their "master's" permission; and finally, it barred blacks from any nonagricultural jobs or the skilled trades without special permission from a local judge.
- The "black codes" denied freedmen most of their basic citizenship rights. They could neither vote nor serve on juries.
- The Slave Codes of the colonial era returned under a new name.

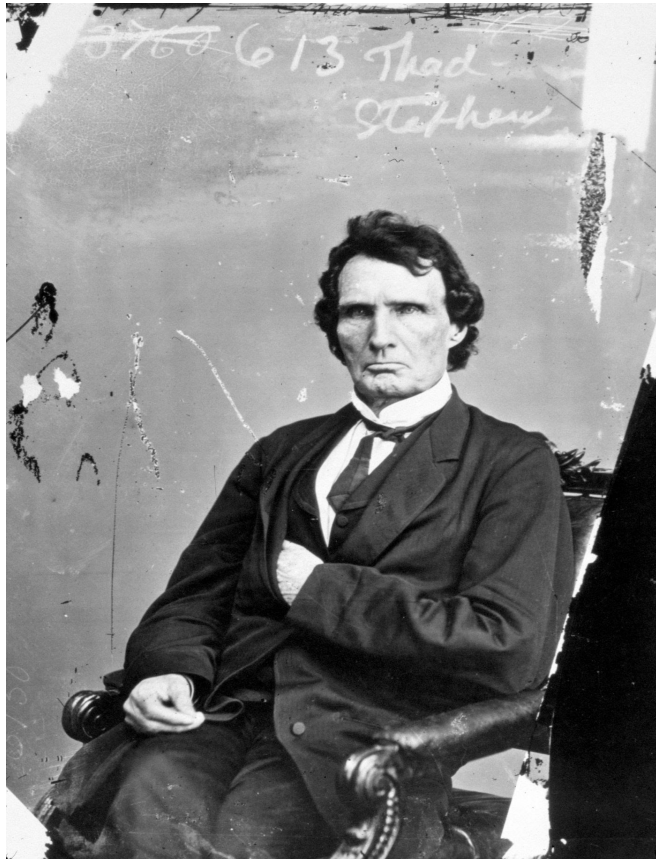


George T. Brown, sergeant-at-arms, serving the summons on President Johnson / [sketched by T.R. Davis.](#)

Radical Republicans' Phase of Reconstruction

December 1865-1877

- Thaddeus Stevens, Rep, PA.



- Charles Sumner, Sen, MA.



Congressional Republicans' Phase of Reconstruction

December 1865-1877

- In December 1865, the 39th Congress resumed its session. Johnson met his first defeat when Congress refused to seat the representatives from the ex-Confederate states.
- The legislature and the executive remained at war throughout Johnson's term. He used his veto power 29 times. Congress overrode fifteen of them, at times the same day. Here are some of the major examples:
 - Freedmen's Bureau Renewal Act, 1866.
 - Civil Rights Act of 1866.
 - Second Reconstruction Act, 1867.
 - Third Reconstruction Act, 1867.
 - Supplemental Reconstruction measures related to military reconstruction in the South.
 - Arkansas readmission bill, 1868. Also, Readmission bills for North Carolina, South Carolina, Louisiana, Georgia, Alabama, and Florida, 1868
 - Electoral College exclusion resolution for unreconstructed rebel states, 1868.

Congressional Republicans' Phase of Reconstruction

December 1865-1877

- Americans gave Republicans a two-thirds majority in Congress in the 1866 elections. It enabled Congress to pass four Reconstruction Acts between March 1867 and July 1868. Through these Acts, Congress:
 - Established former Confederate states as territories, complete with military governors under the control of Congress.
 - Fixed the re-admission rules: adopt new constitutions; allow all adult males to vote, blacks as well as whites; bar former Confederates from the conventions in which the new constitutions were drafted, and ratify the Fourteenth Amendment.

Congressional Republicans' Phase of Reconstruction

- The Fourteenth Amendment developed concurrently with the Civil Rights Act to ensure its constitutionality.
- Section One of the Fourteenth Amendment granted citizenship and repealed the Taney Court's infamous Dred Scott (1857) decision. Moreover, it ensured that state laws could not deny due process or discriminate against groups of people.

The Fear of Black Reconstruction—1869-1877

- In the 1868 presidential election, African Americans' voting power manifested in the victory of Ulysses S. Grant. Black voters formed the backbone of the Republican coalition in the South.
- Reconstruction brought the first moment of mass democratic participation for African Americans. Beginning in 1867, Congress ordered southern states to eliminate racial discrimination in voting, and African Americans began to win elections across the South.
- In a short time, the South was transformed from an all-white, pro-slavery, Democratic stronghold to a collection of Republican-led states with African Americans in positions of power for the first time in American history.



When did it Begin?

- To make emancipation financially meaningful, the Radicals aspired for permanent land confiscation and distribution to the freedmen, but failed to rally enough votes for it in the First Reconstruction Act passed on March 2, 1867.
- By the time the Second Reconstruction Act was enacted on March 23, 1867, land distribution was a dead issue.

End of Reconstruction

- By 1871, the Democrat “Redeemers” reclaimed power in Tennessee, Virginia, and Georgia.
- In 1874, the Democrats captured the House, taking over one source of the Reconstruction legislation.
- The Senate remained Republican.


End of Reconstruction

- Following the Presidential elections of 1876, Republicans, fearing another sectional crisis, opted for the Compromise of 1877, i.e., Democrats conceded the presidency to Rutherford B. Hayes on the condition that all remaining troops would be removed from the South and the South would receive special economic favors.
- In April 1877, the remaining troops were ordered out of the South.

End of Reconstruction

- The end of Reconstruction and the political vulnerability of the federal government cleared the way for the ex-Confederate states to unravel the constitutional impact of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth amendments and harden their chokehold over the freedmen.
- The South found an ally in the Supreme Court, a parallel to what we had seen in the 1857 Dred Scott decision.

Judiciary's Role
in
Black Reconstruction



THE
MEN AND WOMEN WHOSE
CASES AND DECISIONS HAVE
SHAPED OUR CONSTITUTION



A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF THE
SUPREME COURT

WITH A FOREWORD BY HOWARD ZINN

PETER IRONS

"It is such good reading that we allow the author to lead us to places in history that we might not have expected to travel." —THE BOSTON GLOBE

UPDATED TO INCLUDE RECENT LANDMARK CASES
AND CHANGES ON THE BENCH



Supreme Court and Reconstruction 1873-1876

- The Court tested the limits of the Fourteenth Amendment and the states' rights doctrine for the first time in 1873 (in the Slaughterhouse cases).
- In its interpretation of the amendment, the Supreme Court distinguished between the citizenship of the United States and the citizenship of a state. The court interpreted the Constitution's clause stipulating that states could not "abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States" as referring to national citizenship and limited to constitutional guarantees.
- The court affirmed, based on this distinction, that states were not bound to provide their citizens with the same "privileges and immunities" they enjoyed as national citizens.

Supreme Court and Reconstruction

- The Court further stipulated that Congress could not go beyond the very few express limitations imposed by the Constitution on the States. It could not go beyond these limitations to interfere with state “powers for domestic and local government, including the regulation of civil rights, the rights of person and of property,” and all other powers not delegated to Congress.
- The Supreme Court thus employed the “state action” doctrine stipulating that the effects of Congressional legislation were limited to acts “of a state” that are directed against blacks. Discrimination that is “private” in nature did not fall in the Supreme Court’s reading of the Fourteenth Amendment.

Enforcement Acts of 1870 and 1871

- The Ku Klux Klan (KKK) emerged in 1866 in Pulaski, Tennessee, and had spread to nearly every state of the former Confederacy by 1868. It became synonymous with growing incidents of violence against freedmen.
- The federal government assigned itself a role to suppress Southern paramilitary tactics by passing the Enforcement Acts between 1870 and 1871.
- The acts made it criminal to deprive African Americans of their civil rights. The acts also deemed violent Klan behavior as acts of rebellion against the United States and allowed for the use of U.S. troops to protect freed people.

Supreme Court and Reconstruction

- Deciding a challenge to the Enforcement Acts, in its judgment in the Cruikshank case in 1876, the Supreme Court again reaffirmed the distinction between national and state citizenships and that the Bill of Rights did not bind the states to their enforcement.
- The Supreme Court reversed the convictions, holding that whites had not engaged in “state action” during the massacre. Also, only states could prosecute for murder (which, in this case, Louisiana had already refused to do).
- The Cruikshank decision closed more doors on the freedmen seeking relief under Reconstruction and federal law enforcement.
- Cruikshank also limited the federal officials’ ability to protect the Southern blacks against intimidation and violence.

Supreme Court and Reconstruction: Civil Rights Act 1875

- Charles Sumner led efforts for the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1875. It was an effort to spell out in specific terms the procedural guarantees of the Thirteenth and the Fourteenth Amendments and so to outlaw discrimination in public accommodation, entertainment, and transport, in juries, churches, and publicly supported schools, and charities.
- In 1883 the Supreme Court declared it unconstitutional in Civil Rights Cases, a term collectively referring to *United States v. Stanley*, *United States v. Ryan*, *United States v. Nichols*, and *United States v. Singleton*.

Supreme Court and Reconstruction: Separate but Equal: Plessy v Ferguson (1896).

- The State governments established systematic racial segregation (Jim Crow) in the 1880s and 1890s.
- The Supreme Court recognized the separate but equal doctrine in Plessy v. Ferguson (1896), a major civil rights case.
- This was one of many Jim Crow laws passed in southern states that Homer Plessy challenged in 1892. The Court denied his constitutional claim under the Fourteenth Amendment.
- Plessy established the “separate but equal” segregationist doctrine that survived for another six decades until the Brown decision in 1954.

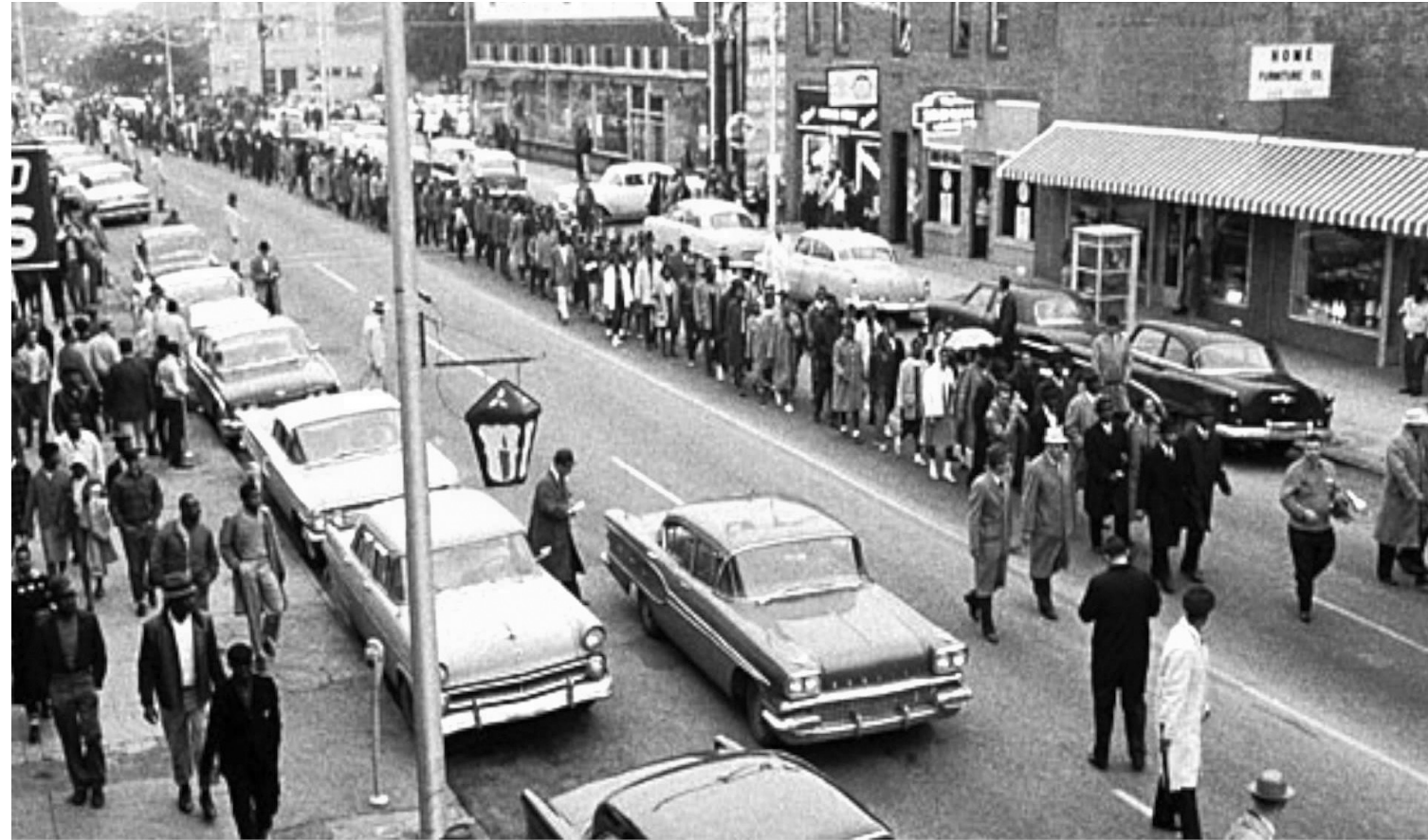
Seventeenth to Twentieth Century: The Civil Rights Movement (CRM)

- Twentieth-century urbanization became a major cause of CRM. Unlike and more than any other moment in four centuries of Black struggle for justice, the urban infrastructure turned racism into a concrete, visible, perpetually noticed, experienced, and yet seemingly invincible reality.
- It was symbolically and organically operational and confronted and impacted lives at every street corner: separate entrances, separate benches, separate educational institutions, separate seatings at shared mobile or static spaces.



Seventeenth to Twentieth Century: The Civil Rights Movement (CRM)

- Not unsurprisingly, then, the first challenge to the segregation was transport-based.
- Homer Plessy in 1892 had challenged Louisiana's Separate Car Act. The Court used to codify Separate but Equal as the law of the land.
- Urban America and the transport sector will haunt the Court as the segregated municipal bus systems triggered the most active phase of the CRM.



Seventeenth to Twentieth Century: The Civil Rights Movement (CRM)

- Black passengers boycotted bus systems in Baton Rouge, LA, effective June 19, 1953, for eight days; Montgomery, AL, December 5, 1955, for 381 days; and Tallahassee, FL, May 1956, for seven months.
- The boycotts manifested the inherent interdependence of the exploiter and the exploited as the empty buses, strikes, or slowdowns hit the operators, and impeded the crucial availability of manpower from affluent homes to factory and office floors.
- Rosa Parks, with Dr. Martin Luther King joining her, became the most enduring emblem of the non-violent movement.



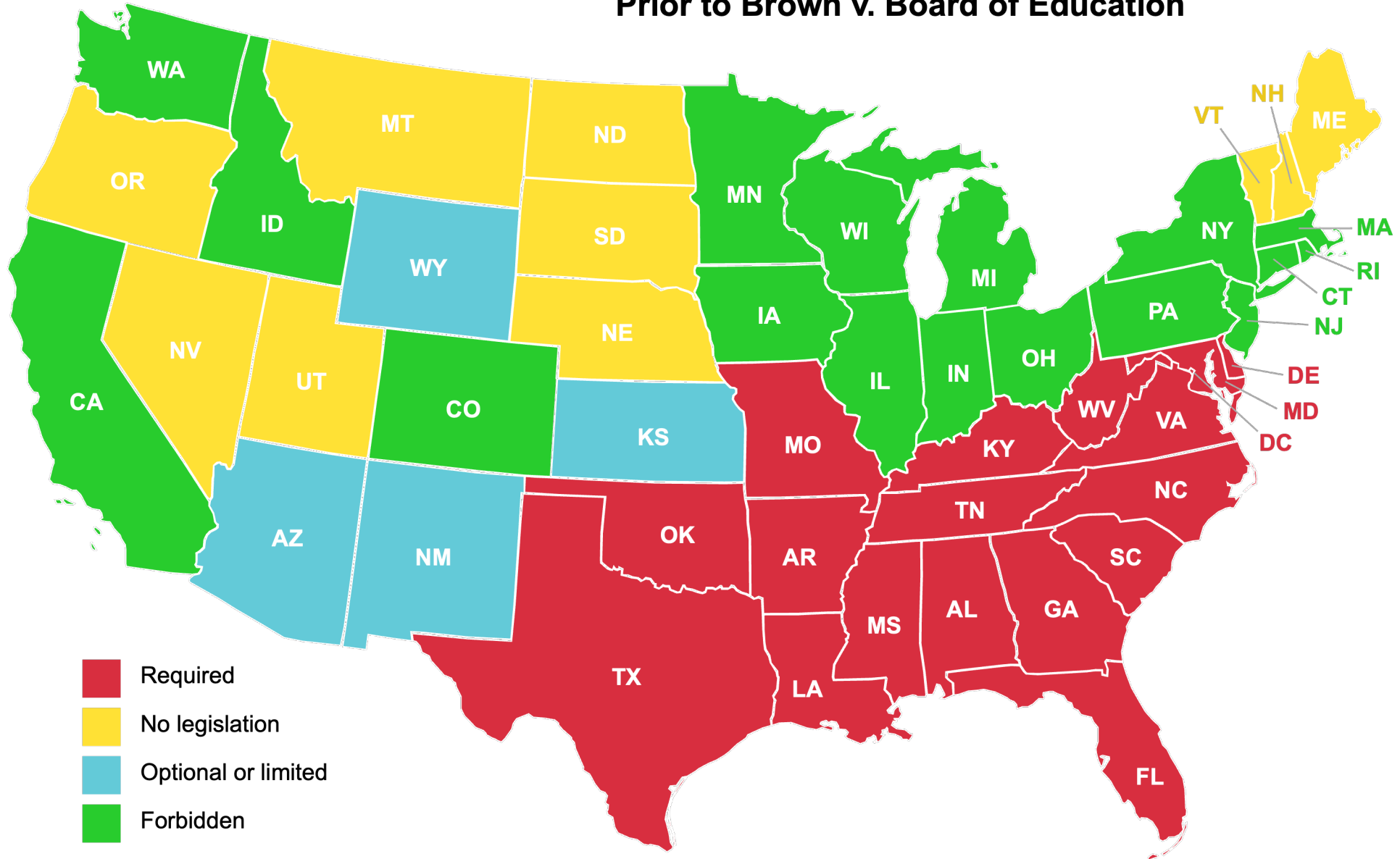
Seventeenth to Twentieth Century: The Civil Rights Movement (CRM)

- Municipalities and businesses remained under pressure.
- Business communities were vulnerable to boycotts and strikes because the growing retail purchasing power of the African-American communities affected their revenue.

Seventeenth to Twentieth Century: The Civil Rights Movement (CRM)

- Another cause of the movement was intergenerational consciousness, in both rural and urban centers: another generation of African-American children was severely discriminated against in the basic education sector.
- At the high cost of jobs, social pressure, and economic persecution, aspirational parents signed the NAACP constitutional petitions to challenge the separate but equal school system.
- This is a link to [Separate but Equal](#), a Sidney Poitier movie about the parents' courage and the Court decision.

Educational Segregation in the United States Prior to Brown v. Board of Education



Conclusion:

Brown v Board of Education of Topeka

- Chief Justice Warren announced the Court's decision on May 17, 1954. He dismissed the Plessy case as precedent, saying it involved “not education but transportation.” Warren said segregation generated a “feeling of inferiority” in black children and affected their “hearts and minds in a way unlikely ever to be undone.” He cited the studies of Kenneth Clark and other social scientists in a footnote to support his conclusion that school segregation violated the Fourteenth Amendment.
- Chief Justice Warren's court took a decisive first step. While resistance in the southern states persisted, the Court further reinforced its directives in 1958, requiring them to immediately desegregate the educational institutions.



Earl Warren and Thurgood
Marshall

Also, A Story of Two Men

- Earl Warren is to the left. He presided over the court in 1954 and announced the historic judgment on May 17. President Eisenhower had appointed him as Chief Justice a year before. Warren had served as Governor of California and spent his childhood in Bakersfield.
- Thurgood Marshall is to the right. He headed NAACP's legal division and led a vigorous legal challenge to segregation in educational institutions. He argued for desegregation in the Brown case. President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed him to the Supreme Court in 1967.

Seventeenth to Twentieth Century: The Civil Rights Movement (CRM)

- African American children confronted the counterattack on desegregation.
- Here is one example of [the Arkansas Nine walking through the racial barrier escorted by the 101 Airborne Division.](#)



Elizabeth Eckford:

Time at Central High School in '57 was hell every day.'

Before the army troops' intervention, Eckford was left alone for lack of coordination as the Arkansas National Guard denied her entry into the School and the surrounding mob jeered her and threatened to lynch her. She survived to tell her story.



Seventeenth to Twentieth Century: The Civil Rights Movement (CRM)

- Judicial revolution and the public outrage owed to the emerging urban and rural organizational structures, which pioneered integrated non-violent resistance to racial tyranny. These structures had multiple components:
- NAACP, founded in 1908. Although banned in parts of the South, the movement led on several fronts, including a formidable legal wing under the dynamic leadership of Thurgood Marshall.
- The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) was an indigenous organization. Its leadership remained at the organizational center of the movement because it functioned as the decentralized component of the mass-based black church.

Seventeenth to Twentieth Century: The Civil Rights Movement (CRM)

- The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) assisted the NAACP's mission.
- The predominantly white organizations that assisted the movement included: Highlander Folk School HFS, The Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF), and the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR).
- Grassroots organizations emerged locally to coordinate and supplement the movement's work. Examples are the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA), Inter-Civic Council (ICC), and Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights (ACMAR).

Seventeenth to Twentieth Century: The Civil Rights Movement (CRM)

- The Students Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) began in early 1960, with the famous Greensboro Four challenging a Woolworth's eatery that refused to serve people of color. Beyond Greensboro, NC, the students across the South were quick to join them.
- The success of the student's sentence amazed the black leaders. Most interestingly, white students began to join them and organized themselves following their lead. Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) modeled itself after SNCC (Morris, p. 223).

Seventeenth to Twentieth Century: The Civil Rights Movement (CRM)

Freedom Rides joined the movement precisely on May 4, 1961, when thirteen of them in two small integrated groups took a Greyhound bus and a Trailways bus from Washington DC to New Orleans to test whether the authorities had desegregated the bus terminal facilities. As they encountered difficulties in the south, the black organizations, including the SNCC, offered protection.

The Kennedy administration stepped in, initially offering protection and gradually steering their frequent presence in the south to get them involved in voter registration, promising them money and exemption from the draft.

Marching Ahead

- During the 1960s, the legal battle against racial discrimination moved ahead, as did Dr. King's movement, reflected in a glimpse of the March on Washington, 1963:
- [The Civil Rights Act of 1964](#) is an Act to enforce the constitutional right to vote, to provide injunctive relief against discrimination in public accommodations, to protect constitutional rights in public facilities and public education, to extend the Commission on Civil Rights, to prevent discrimination in federally assisted programs, and to establish a Commission on Equal Employment Opportunity to ensure compliance. It sought to aid schools in efforts to desegregate and prohibited federal funding of programs that permitted racial segregation.
- Further, it barred discrimination in employment because of race, color, national origin, religion, or gender.



Seventeenth to Twentieth
Century:

The Civil Rights Movement
(CRM)

Black churches turned into
bastions of social change.

A black pastor from Alabama had a
dream and a conviction that We
Shall Overcome. He found a
partner in the Federal Government.
Three days after the brutal breakup
of the Selma March, the President
of the United States told Congress
that it was unacceptable.



Seventeenth to Twentieth Century: The Civil Rights Movement (CRM)

The Selma victims heard an echo of their anguished voices in the Congressional chamber. Here is a moment out of LBJ's long speech on Voting Rights Act, 1965: "...What happened in Selma is part of a far larger movement which reaches into every section and State of America. It is the effort of American Negroes to secure for themselves the full blessings of American life. Their cause must be our cause too. Because it is not just Negroes, but really it is all of us, who must overcome the crippling legacy of bigotry and injustice. [And we shall overcome.](#)"



Marching Ahead: The Voting Rights Act of 1965

- [The Voting Rights Act of 1965](#) prohibited states and local governments from passing laws that discriminated against voters based on race.
- The Act outlawed literacy tests and other barriers to voting that had kept ethnic minorities from the polls.
- Following the passage of the act, a quarter of a million African Americans registered to vote, and by 1967, the majority of African Americans had done so.



Seventeenth to Twentieth Century: The Civil Rights Movement (CRM)

- LBJ also had Congress and the requisite number of States approve the Twenty-Fourth Amendment to the Constitution, ending voting restrictions at all levels.
- The Amendment opened the way for the most far-reaching Voting Rights Act of 1965.



Marching Ahead: the Civil Rights Act of 1968

- Johnson's final piece of civil rights legislation was the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which prohibited discrimination in housing based on race, color, national origin, or religion.
- The bill was also a tribute to Dr. King, assassinated on April 4, 1968. It was the last of a series aimed at King's mission and LBJ's legacy to end segregation, discrimination, and oppression in the electoral, educational, occupational, transportation, and housing sectors.

DR. KING FATALLY SHOT BY ASSASSIN IN MEMPHIS

U.S. Shocked, Saddened by Slaying, Johnson Says

Message Is Given Nation After Assassination

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Johnson spoke Thursday night of an "America shocked and saddened" by the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King as he condemned violence, lawlessness and divisiveness.

In a brief message to the nation via television and radio, Johnson disclosed that he is postponing a trip to Hawaii for a Vietnam strategy conference. He had been scheduled to leave around midnight. He said he will leave sometime Friday.

"The President appeared in the doorway of the White House offices, stern-faced and spoke on all television and radio networks.

"I ask every American citizen," he said, "to reject the blind violence that has struck down Dr. King, who lived by nonviolence."

The President urged prayers for peace and understanding in the land and said:

"We can achieve nothing by lawlessness and divisiveness among the American people."

He said he hopes all Americans will search their hearts.

At that point he said he was cancelling all plans for the evening and postponing until Friday his planned take-off for Hawaii and conferences there on problems of war and peace in Vietnam.

DINNER PLANNED

He was to have attended a

ANGUISH VOICED BY U.S. LEADERS

Shock, Grief, Is Reaction; Violence Feared

NEW YORK (AP) — The nation's civil rights and political leaders reacted with anguish, shock and grief Thursday night at the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis.

There also was fear that the slaying could lead to more violence.

"We have been saddened," President Johnson told the nation on radio and television. "I ask every citizen to reject the blind violence that has struck Dr. King who lived in nonviolence."

TRIP PUT OFF

The President said he was postponing his trip to Hawaii, for a Vietnam strategy conference, until Friday. He had been scheduled to leave about midnight Thursday.

Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey said the slaying "brings shame to our country. An apostle of nonviolence has been the victim of violence."

The vice-president said, however, that his death will bring new strength to the cause he fought for.

A spokesman for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said, "I am shocked and grieved by this



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING
Rifle Bullet Fells Rights Crusader

—AP WIREPHOTO.

King: Been to Mountaintop No Matter What Happens

NEGROES SMASH AUTO WINDOWS

Jackson Scene of Disorder at News of Death

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) —

Non-Violence Advocate Dead Day Later

By JAY BOWLES
MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—"It really doesn't matter what happens now. I've been to the mountaintop."

The speaker was Martin Luther King Jr. His audience was

Dies Hour After Injury; Troops Recalled

By DOUG STONE
MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Nobel Laureate Martin Luther King Jr., father of non-violence in the American civil rights movement, was killed by an assassin's bullet Thursday night.

King, 39, was hit in the neck by a bullet as he stood on the balcony of a motel here. He died less than an hour later in St. Joseph Hospital.

Gov. Buford Ellington immediately ordered 4,000 National Guard troops back into the city. A curfew, which was clamped on Memphis after a King-led march turned into a riot a week ago, was reimposed.

Police said incidents of violence, including several fire bombings were reported following King's death.

The 1964 Nobel Peace Prize winner was standing on the balcony of his motel here, where he had come to lead protests in behalf of the city's 1,300 striking garbage workers, most of them Negroes, when he was shot.

PAIR ARRESTED

Two unidentified men who were arrested were released several hours later.

As word of King's death spread through the stunned city.

History, despite its
wrenching pain,
cannot be unlived, but if
faced
with courage, need not be
lived again.

Maya Angelou,
On the Pulse of Morning

Seventeenth to Twenty-first Century:

The Civil Rights Movement (CRM)

By the third decade of the twenty-first century, we see African Americans increasingly taking charge of their narrative in historical, cultural, literary, legal, religious, and entertainment sectors.

For example, between 1877 and 1950, the KKK and other extremist organizations lynched thousands of African Americans. [Ida B Wells](#) archived several of them by 1892, as they were well-publicized events.

SOUTHERN HORRORS. LYNCH LAW IN ALL ITS PHASES



Miss IDA B. WELLS.

Price, . . . Fifteen Cents.

THE NEW YORK AGE PRINT.
1892.

Seventeenth to Twenty-first Century: The Civil Rights Movement (CRM)

Since 2013, the Equal Justice Initiative, Montgomery, AL, has been documenting the lynchings. It has so far collected evidence for 6500 lynchings between 1865 and 1950.

Their 2013 study focused on the post-Reconstruction to 1850 period and offered data for [the 12 most lynching states](#).

By 2015, its [Legacy Museum Montgomery](#) had showcased 800 soil samples from the sites of lynchings. Their work continues.

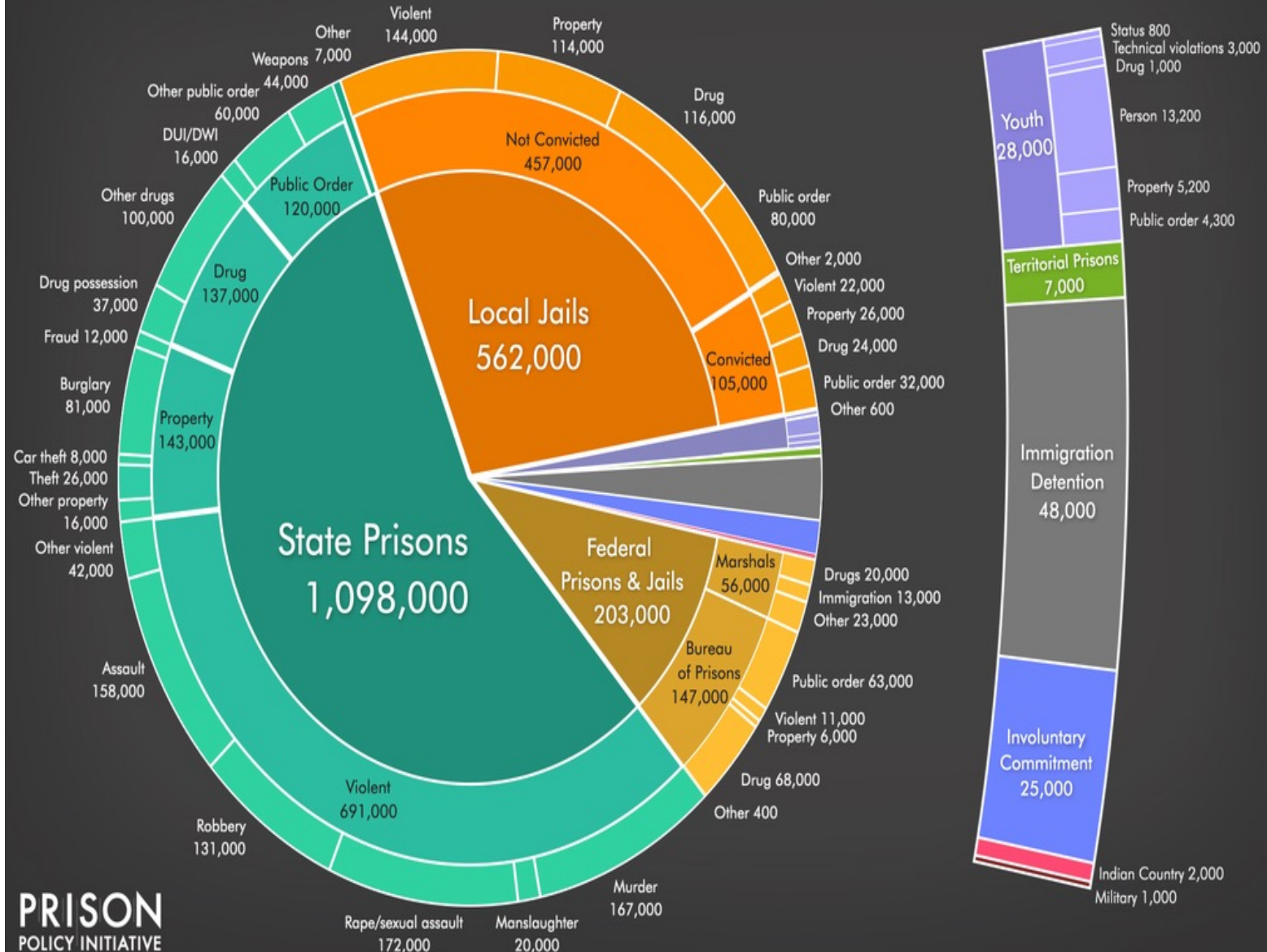


Seventeenth to Twenty-first Century:
The Civil Rights Movement (CRM)

The Equity and Justice Institute affirms that the U.S. has 5% of the world's population but nearly 25% of its incarcerated population. Mass incarceration, thus, remains a major concern for civil rights activists.

How many people are locked up in the United States?

The U.S. locks up more people per capita than any other independent democracy, at the staggering rate of 580 per 100,000 residents. But to end mass incarceration, we must first consider *where* and *why* nearly 2 million people are confined nationwide.



PRISON
POLICY INITIATIVE

Sources and data notes: www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2025.html

Seventeenth to Twenty-first Century: The Civil Rights Movement (CRM): Mass Incarceration

[The Federal Bureau of Prisons](#) shows over thirty-eight percent of US prison inmates are black, over one-third for their share of less than 15 percent in the US population.

The [Equity and Justice Institute](#) considers it a civil rights issue. Prison Reforms are part of its agenda.

Race	# of Inmates	Percentage
Asian	2,467	1.6%
Black	59,180	38.5%
Native American	4,666	3.0%
White	87,552	56.9%

Seventeenth to Twenty-first Century: The Civil Rights Movement (CRM)

- [Barack Obama Presidential Center](#) will open its doors to visitors a month from today in Chicago.
- The Center is an emblem of an increasingly assertive multicultural and multiethnic coalition and alliances joining hands to pursue the cause of justice and equality. While reaffirming that resolve, it would also celebrate the achievements of the movement.



Marching Ahead: The Voting Rights Act of 1965

- As we can see all around us, the struggle continues.
- Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 bars voting practices that discriminate on the basis of race.
- End April this year, the Supreme Court, in a 6-3 decision in *Louisiana v. Callais*, struck down a Louisiana congressional map that added a second majority-Black district, ruling it an unconstitutional racial gerrymander.
- The civil rights activists view the ruling as severely limiting the scope of Section 2 and have protested nationwide.

Seventeenth to Twenty-first Century: The Civil Rights Movement (CRM)

The African American struggle, nonetheless, has broader-based allies now than ever. Media and social media have played a crucial role in the struggle, and yet the problems persist.

In broad daylight, May 25, 2010, a knee strangled Floyd's neck for ten minutes until he died. As the video went viral, Black Lives Matter sent shock waves all over the country.

Shockingly, however, it happened in broad daylight while people crossed the street like any other day, and police officers watched as he breathed his last.



Struggle Continues

- George Floyd is only one of the several victims of racial injustice. The difference, nonetheless, is that when the modern-day version of lynchings occurs, larger cross sections of America mourn, protest, and struggle together.
- We are a diverse society in which the legal framework enables us to challenge the barriers that hinder our access to equal opportunities. Legal initiatives, however, need corresponding changes in the social structure. The civil rights movement shows how difficult it is to bring about that component of change. The perseverance of the African-American community in this endeavor, however, continues to inspire that endeavor.

Questions
Comments