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A Policy Brief on the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in the PUBH 5110

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A Policy Brief on the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in the PUBH 5110

The Civil Rights Act of 1964, which ended segregation in public places and banned employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin, is considered one of the crowning legislative achievements of the civil rights movement.



<https://www.loc.gov/classroom-materials/jim-crow-segregation/>

“Freedom Riders”
On May 4, 1961, 13 “Freedom Riders”, seven Black and six White activists, mounted a Greyhound bus in Washington D.C., embarking on a bus tour of the American South to protest segregated bus terminals. Facing violence from both police officers and white protestors, the Freedom Rides drew international attention.



<https://www.npr.org/2011/05/05/136025553/freedom-riders-risked-their-lives-for-equality>



<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/civil-rights-act>

“Jim Crow Laws”

Jim Crow laws were established in the South beginning in the late 19th century. Black people couldn't use the same public facilities as white people, live in many of the same towns or go to the same schools. Interracial marriage was illegal, and most Black people couldn't vote because they were unable to pass voter literacy tests.



<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Rosa-Parks>

“Rosa Parks”

Segregation laws at the times stated Black passengers must sit in designated seats at the back of the bus. When a White man got on the bus and couldn't find a seat in the White section at the front of the bus, the bus driver instructed Parks and three other Black passengers to give up their seats. Parks refused and was arrested. As word of her arrest ignited outrage and support, Parks became the “mother of the modern-day civil rights movement.” Black community leaders formed the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) led by Baptist minister Martin Luther King, Jr., a role which would place him front and center in the fight for civil rights.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-history/postwarera/civil-rights-movement/a/the-march-on-washington-for-jobs-and-freedom>



<https://www.politico.com/story/2018/03/07/this-day-in-politics-march-7-1965-437394>

“March on Washington”

One of the most famous events of the Civil Rights Movement took place on August 28, 1963: the March on Washington. It was organized and attended by civil rights leaders such as A. Philip Randolph, Bayard Rustin and Martin Luther King, Jr. More than 200,000 people of all races congregated in Washington, D.C. for the peaceful march with the main purpose of forcing civil rights legislation and establishing job equality for everyone. The highlight of the march was King's speech, “I Have a Dream”.



<https://americanhistory.si.edu/brown/history/16-legacy/freedom-struggle-2.html>

“Little Rock Nine”

On September 3, 1957, nine Black students, known as the Little Rock Nine, arrived at Central High School to begin classes but were instead met by the Arkansas National Guard and a screaming, threatening mob. The Little Rock Nine tried again a couple of weeks later and made it inside but had to be removed for their safety when violence ensued. President Dwight D. Eisenhower intervened and ordered federal troops to escort the Little Rock Nine to and from classes.



<https://www.blackpast.org/childrens-page/little-rock-crisis-1957/>

“The Civil Rights Act”

President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, legislation by President John F. Kennedy before his assassination, into law on July 2 of that year. The law guaranteed equal employment for all, limited the use of voter literacy tests and allowed federal authorities to ensure public facilities were integrated.