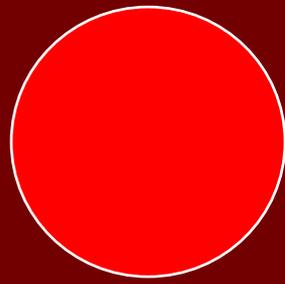


United States 1950s-1960s

PDN



Enduring Understanding:

Because the Cold War was not an actual war, other events such as the Civil Rights Movement were able to happen

Essential Questions:

1. What challenges did American democracy face during the 1950s and 1960s?

Objectives

- Analyze the postwar American economy
- Identify developments in American society and government

Civil Disobedience

Definition:

refusal to obey a law that is considered unjust by using nonviolent techniques such as boycotting, picketing, and sit-ins, especially for the purpose of bringing about change to said unjust law

Brown v. Board of Education 1954

- Background

 - Plessy v. Ferguson*, 1896

 - segregation is legal if “separate, but equal”

- *Brown v. Board of Ed.* overturned this

 - segregation in public schools is unconstitutional because not “equal”

- Paved the way for further integration

1957: Little Rock Nine



- In 1957, nine African-American students were enrolled in Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- Initially Arkansas Gov. Orval Faubus ordered the Arkansas National Guard to stop the students from attending the school.
- In September, President Eisenhower intervened and sent federal troops. The students were escorted by these federal troops and entered school on September 25, 1957.

1955: Montgomery Bus Boycott



- During the mid-1950s, the African-Americans in Montgomery, Alabama boycotted the public bus system.

Montgomery Bus Boycott 1955

- December 1, 1955-December 21, 1956
- Sparked by Rosa Parks' arrest
 - Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white man
- People walked and carpooled to work, to run errands, etc.

1963: Woolworth's SIT-IN Jackson, Mississippi



- A crowd of people heckle Tougaloo College students participating in a sit-in at the Woolworth's lunch counter
- The crowd began with jeers and taunts but soon progressed to beating and kicking the protesters.
- According to John Dittmer in *Local People*, the store manager had to shut down the store, and the demonstrators left under police protection.

Civil Rights Act 1964

- Proposed by Pres. Kennedy, signed by Pres. Johnson
- Made racial discrimination illegal in public places, such as
 - theaters, restaurants, & hotels
- Also dealt with problem of African-Americans voting in the Deep South

1963: a march Birmingham, Alabama



- This photograph is from a march in Birmingham in 1963. This march got national attention when police set their dogs on the protesters.
- Martin Luther King Jr. was arrested for not having a permit for a parade and spent time in jail, where he wrote his famous Letter from a Birmingham Jail.

Other Civil Rights Leaders

- WEB du Bois (1868-1963)
 - wanted African-Americans to assimilate into white culture, which would make them equal
- Malcolm X (1925-1965)
 - wanted a separate country for black people until it was possible for them all to return to Africa