

# Black Civil Rights in America: An Introduction to History



## Black Civil Rights in America (Introductions to History)

by Kevern Verney

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The history of Black civil rights in America is a long and complex one, marked by both progress and setbacks. From the era of slavery to the present day, Black people in America have fought for their rights and freedoms, often in the face of racism and discrimination.

This article provides an overview of the history of Black civil rights in America, from the era of slavery to the present day. It will discuss the key events and figures in the movement, as well as the progress that has been made and the challenges that remain.

## **Slavery and the Abolitionist Movement**

The history of Black civil rights in America begins with slavery. For over two centuries, Black people were enslaved in the United States, and they were subjected to unimaginable cruelty and violence.

The abolitionist movement began in the early 19th century, and it sought to end slavery. Abolitionists argued that slavery was a moral wrong, and they worked to raise awareness of the horrors of slavery.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed slaves in the Confederate states. However, slavery did not end completely until the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution in 1865.

## **Reconstruction and the Jim Crow Era**

After the Civil War, the United States entered a period of Reconstruction. During Reconstruction, the federal government tried to help the South rebuild and to protect the rights of freed slaves.

However, Reconstruction was met with resistance from white Southerners, who were determined to maintain white supremacy. White Southerners passed laws that restricted the rights of Black people, and they used violence to intimidate and oppress them.

The Jim Crow era, which lasted from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century, was a period of legalized segregation and discrimination against Black people. Black people were denied the right to vote, to serve on juries, to attend white schools, and to use public facilities.

## **The Civil Rights Movement**

The Civil Rights Movement began in the mid-20th century, and it sought to end segregation and discrimination against Black people. The movement was led by a number of prominent figures, including Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and Rosa Parks.

The Civil Rights Movement used a variety of tactics to achieve its goals, including nonviolent protests, marches, and boycotts. The movement also worked to pass laws that protected the rights of Black people.

In 1964, the Civil Rights Act was passed. The Civil Rights Act outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The Civil Rights Act was a major victory for the Civil Rights Movement, and it helped to end segregation and discrimination in many areas of American life.

## **The Voting Rights Act of 1965**

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was another major victory for the Civil Rights Movement. The Voting Rights Act outlawed discriminatory practices that

prevented Black people from voting, and it helped to ensure that Black people had the right to vote.

The Voting Rights Act has been instrumental in increasing the number of Black voters in the United States. Black voter turnout has increased significantly since the passage of the Voting Rights Act, and Black people now have a greater voice in the political process.

### **Progress and Setbacks**

The Civil Rights Movement achieved significant progress in the 1960s, but there have also been setbacks since then. In recent years, there has been a rise in racial tensions in the United States, and there have been a number of high-profile cases of police brutality against Black people.

Despite the setbacks, there has also been progress. Black people have made significant strides in education, employment, and other areas. Black people are now represented in all levels of government, and they are making a difference in all walks of life.

### **Challenges that Remain**

Although much progress has been made, there are still significant challenges that remain in the fight for Black civil rights. Racial discrimination and inequality persist in many areas of American life, and Black people continue to face discrimination in housing, employment, education, and the criminal justice system.

The challenge of racism and discrimination will not be easy to overcome, but it is essential that we continue to fight for a more just and equitable

society. We must all work together to create a future in which everyone is treated with dignity and respect, regardless of their race or background.

The history of Black civil rights in America is a long and complex one, marked by both progress and setbacks. However, the movement for Black civil rights has made significant strides over the years, and it has helped to create a more just and equitable society for all Americans.

The challenges that remain are significant, but they are not insurmountable. We must all work together to create a future in which everyone is treated with dignity and respect, regardless of their race or background.



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