

Freedom Riders

- Freedom Rides 1961
- Interracial group of activists, led by Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)
- Aimed to desegregate public buses – travelled across states
- Built on momentum of student-led protests
- Journey from Washington D.C.
- 14 May 1961 – bus attacked and firebombed by white mob in Alabama
- November 1961 – policies implemented disallowing segregation of public buses across the nation

“The New Jim Crow”

- Article by Michelle Alexander (2010), published in *American Prospect*
- Idea that mass incarceration has evolved to become “The New Jim Crow”
- Mass incarceration → black Americans have become ‘second class citizens’
- Disguised ‘system of racialised social control’, not as overt as Jim Crow segregation
- Similarities between treatment of former criminals and Jim Crow blacks – racial profiling, police brutality, employment/housing discrimination and difficulties re-entering society after incarceration
- Disproportionate number of African-Americans (more than 2 million under control of justice system) means that impacts of incarceration are certainly a racial issue

Black Power

- Slogan/philosophy promoted in 1966 by Stokely Carmichael – chairman of Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)
- Speech delivered to University of California
- Inherent racism of US institutions
- “We are not going to wait for white people to sanction Black Power” – self-determination
- “Group power”, considers peace movement a failure
- Government/institutions not enacting change – has to be taken into group’s hands

Brown v. Board of Education

- May 1954
- Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas
- Unanimous Court ruling that ‘separate but equal’ public schools were unconstitutional
- Overturned mandate of *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896)
- Major victory of activism but inspired activism to desegregate other areas of life
- Many southern schools remained segregated after judgement → *Brown v. Board of Education II* (1955) – ‘all deliberate speed’
- Ambiguity about how to enforce desegregation allowed de-facto segregation to continue

Do the Right Thing

- 1989 film directed by Spike Lee
- Red/orange colouring to depict climate/weather in film – heat both mirrors and escalates racial tensions to boiling point
- Gentrification of cities → unaffordable living in film
- Morally ambiguous characters eg. Sal
- Interesting perspective of Italian Americans – had same views as 1960s southern whites despite different area/time/group of people
- Highlights issue of police brutality – killing of Raheem
- Riot patrols respond to Mookie breaking window of Sal’s restaurant instead of Raheem’s death
- White hysteria at time of release – suggested that film would inspire black Americans to riot, criticised by Lee as failing to recognise black intelligence

“Strange Fruit”

- Song first performed by Billie Holiday in 1939
- ‘*Southern trees bear a strange fruit*’ – lynched African Americans
- Vivid imagery of ‘*black bodies swingin’*’ and ‘*burnin’ flesh*’
- Post-reconstruction – lynchings became the most notorious type of violence used to prevent African-Americans from voting/challenging racial hierarchy – non-legal method of punishment via hanging from a tree
- Lynchings most common during 1890s – continued to be a primary symbol of southern racial violence

Residential Segregation

- Great Migration → de facto residential segregation in the North through the migrants’ formation of ‘ghettos’ – safety of living in a community with common cultural links
- South – segregation enabled through income patterns and white resistance to living near black communities
- Diversification of predominantly white neighbourhoods → ‘White flight’ – white residents located to more segregated area
- White flight → ongoing racial isolation of certain areas
- Reinforced existing notions of white superiority & lay foundations for de facto schooling segregation

Chicago Defender

- Newspaper founded in 1905 for mainly black readers nation-wide
- Words “Negro” or “black” not used, rather people of “Race”
- Widely circulated – 500,000 weekly readers at its peak
- Called for government intervention into plight of African-Americans
- WWI context – supported Great Migration movement, published ‘Bound for the Promised Land’ poem

A. Philip Randolph (1889-1979)

- Led the 'Double V' campaign – victory abroad and true democracy at home
- Head of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters for 10 years – labor union for black employees of the Pullman Company
- Outbreak of WWII → shifted focus to military/industry employment segregation
- Organised 1941 March on Washington of 150,000 African Americans to 'shock white America' (1941) and end employment/military discrimination

"Mammy" figure in popular culture

- Discussed as a key example of the issues of representation faced by the African American community
- An example of an 'institutionalised' and 'internalised' stereotype in media/popular culture (West, 2008)
- 'Caregiving mammy' depiction of African American women
- Derived from history of domestic servants
- Used to market Aunt Jemima products
- Large, dark, bandanna-clad, unattractive
- Used to 'prove' that white men didn't find black women attractive – justification for being allowed in the white man's home
- Re-writing history of slavery by portraying black women as intrinsically caring/wanting to take care of white families

Reconstruction

- Period between 1865 and 1877 aiming to transform post-Civil War America into a nation characterised by unity between states and an end to legalised, racial-based discrimination
- Attempted to secure rights eg. voting for African Americans
- Racial discrimination continued despite these efforts
- 13th Amendment prohibited slavery, 14th Amendment granted equal citizenship rights, 15th Amendment gave African American men voting rights
- Black Codes 1865-55 curtailed freedoms – restrictions on mobility, required to work for little or no pay for southern landowners, aimed to recreate slavery social hierarchy
- Sharecropping system economically bound African-Americans in southern states
- Voting restrictions: poll taxes (often couldn't be paid), literacy tests, grandfather clauses

Fannie Lou Hamer

- Leader of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party – challenged segregation in the Mississippi Democratic Party
- Delivered a speech to the Democratic National Convention (DNC) about voter restrictions and police brutality in 1964, highlighted illegality of segregated election process