

Objectives

- Describe efforts to end segregation in the 1940s and 1950s.
- Explain the importance of *Brown v. Board of Education*.
- Describe the controversy over school desegregation in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- Discuss the Montgomery bus boycott and its impact.



Terms and People

- **de jure segregation** – segregation that is imposed by law
- **de facto segregation** – segregation by unwritten custom or tradition
- **Thurgood Marshall** – African American lawyer who led the legal team that challenged segregation in the courts; later named a Supreme Court justice

Terms and People (continued)

- **Earl Warren** – Supreme Court Chief Justice who wrote the decision that ended segregation in public schools
- **Civil Rights Act of 1957** – law that established a federal Civil Rights Commission
- **Rosa Parks** – African American woman arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white person, leading to a prolonged bus boycott

Terms and People (continued)

- **Montgomery bus boycott** – a 1955-1956 protest by African Americans in Montgomery, Alabama, against racial segregation in the bus system
- **Martin Luther King, Jr.** – Baptist preacher and civil rights leader who advocated nonviolent protest against segregation



How did African Americans challenge segregation after World War II?

African Americans were still treated as second-class citizens after World War II.

Their heroic effort to attain racial equality is known as the civil rights movement. They took their battle to the street, in the form of peaceful protests, held boycotts, and turned to the courts for a legal guarantee of basic rights.

Despite their service in World War II, segregation at home was still the rule for African Americans.

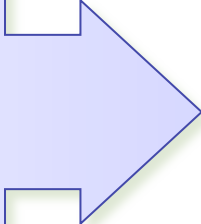
de jure segregation

- in the South
- separate but equal
- segregation in schools, hospitals, transportation, restaurants, cemeteries, and beaches

de facto segregation

- in the North
- discrimination in housing
- discrimination in employment
- only low-paying jobs were available

World War II set the stage for the rise of the modern civil rights movement.



- Discrimination in the defense industries was banned in 1941.
- Truman **desegregated the military** in 1948.
- Jackie Robinson became the **first African American to play major league baseball**.
- CORE was created to end racial injustice.

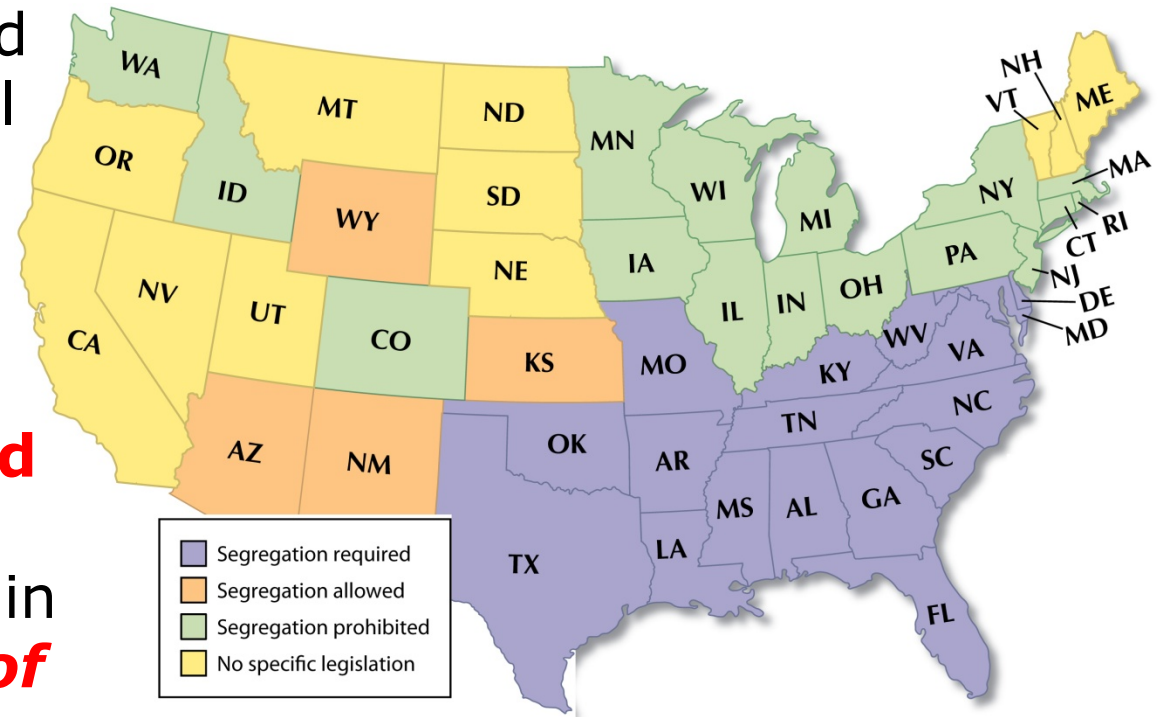
African American veterans were unwilling to accept discrimination at home after risking their lives overseas.



In 1954, many of the nation's school systems were segregated.

The NAACP decided to challenge school segregation in the federal courts.

African American attorney **Thurgood Marshall** led the NAACP legal team in ***Brown v. Board of Education.***



Written by Chief Justice **Earl Warren**,
the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision said:



- Segregated public education violated the Fourteenth Amendment.
- “Separate but equal” had no place in public education.

The *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling was significant and controversial.

In a second decision, *Brown II*, the courts urged implementation of the decision “with all deliberate speed” across the nation.

About 100 white Southern members of Congress opposed the decision; in 1956 they endorsed “The Southern Manifesto” to lawfully oppose *Brown*.

The *Brown* decision also met resistance on the local and state level.

In Little Rock, Arkansas, when nine African American students tried to enter Central High, the governor had the National Guard stop them.

President Eisenhower had to send in troops to enforce the *Brown* decision.



Elizabeth Eckford tries to enter Central High.

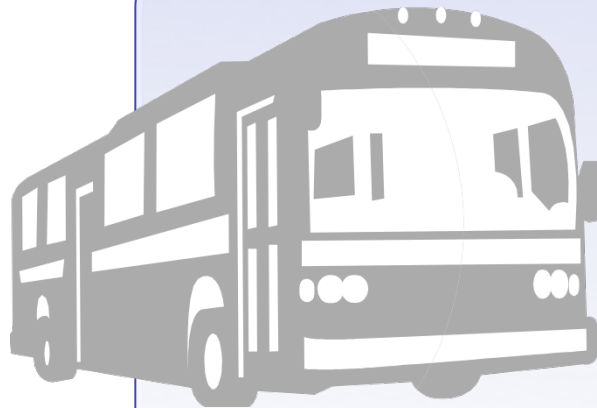
Some civil rights activists took direct action.

In Montgomery, Alabama, **Rosa Parks** was arrested for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white person.

This sparked a boycott to integrate public transportation.

The black community walked or carpooled to work rather than take public transportation.

The Montgomery bus boycott launched the modern civil rights movement.



- **Martin Luther King, Jr.' s** inspiring speech at a boycott meeting propelled him into the leadership of the nonviolent civil rights movement.
- The black community continued its **bus boycott for more than a year** despite threats and violence.

In 1956, the Supreme Court ruled that **segregated busing was unconstitutional** and the boycott ended.

The bus boycott was a tremendous and exciting victory for African Americans.

- It proved that they could work together and demand change.
- It inspired King and Ralph Abernathy, another Montgomery minister, to **establish the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)** to continue the nonviolent struggle for civil rights.



But even with these victories, discrimination and segregation remained widespread.

Section Review

QuickTake Quiz



Know It, Show It Quiz

