

CHAPTER
14
SECTION 1

Note Taking Study Guide
EARLY DEMANDS FOR EQUALITY

Focus Question: How did African Americans challenge segregation after World War II?

Fill in the timeline below with events of the early civil rights movement. When you finish, write two sentences that summarize the information in your timeline.



CHAPTER
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SECTION 1

Section Summary

EARLY DEMANDS FOR EQUALITY

After World War II, Jim Crow laws in the South continued to enforce strict separation of the races. Segregation that is imposed by law is known as **de jure segregation**. African Americans faced segregation in the North, too, even where there were no explicit laws. **De facto segregation**, or segregation by unwritten custom, was a fact of life.

Thurgood Marshall, an African American lawyer, worked with civil rights organizations to challenge segregation in the courts. In 1954, *Brown v. Board of Education* challenged segregated public education at all grade levels. Chief Justice **Earl Warren** wrote the *Brown* decision in which the Supreme Court agreed that segregated public schools violated the United States Constitution. The *Brown* decision overturned the principle of “separate but equal.” It also lent support to the view that all forms of segregation were wrong.

In Little Rock, Arkansas, the governor ordered the National Guard to block nine African American students from entering the high school. President Eisenhower sent federal troops to protect the students and to enforce the Court’s decision. However, southern states continued to resist compliance with the law.

Congress passed the **Civil Rights Act of 1957**. This act established the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. The law’s main significance was that it was the first civil rights bill passed by Congress since Reconstruction. It was a small, but important, victory.

In 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, an African American woman named **Rosa Parks** refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger. She was arrested. A core of civil rights activists in Montgomery organized a one-day bus boycott to express opposition to Park’s arrest and to segregation in general.

The next evening, Dr. **Martin Luther King, Jr.**, a Baptist minister, gave an inspirational speech in which he called upon African Americans to protest segregation and oppression in a nonviolent manner. The **Montgomery bus boycott** continued for more than a year. In 1956, the Supreme Court ruled that the Montgomery city law that segregated buses was unconstitutional. The boycott revealed the power African Americans could have if they joined together. It also helped King and his philosophy of nonviolence to gain prominence within the civil rights movement.

Review Questions

1. Explain the importance of *Brown v. Board of Education*.

2. How did the Montgomery bus boycott strengthen the civil rights movement?

READING CHECK

What action did the governor of Arkansas take to prevent the desegregation of schools in Little Rock?

VOCABULARY BUILDER

What does the word *compliance* mean in the underlined sentence? Here is a clue: an antonym for *compliance* is *disobedience*. Use this clue to figure out what *compliance* means.

READING SKILL

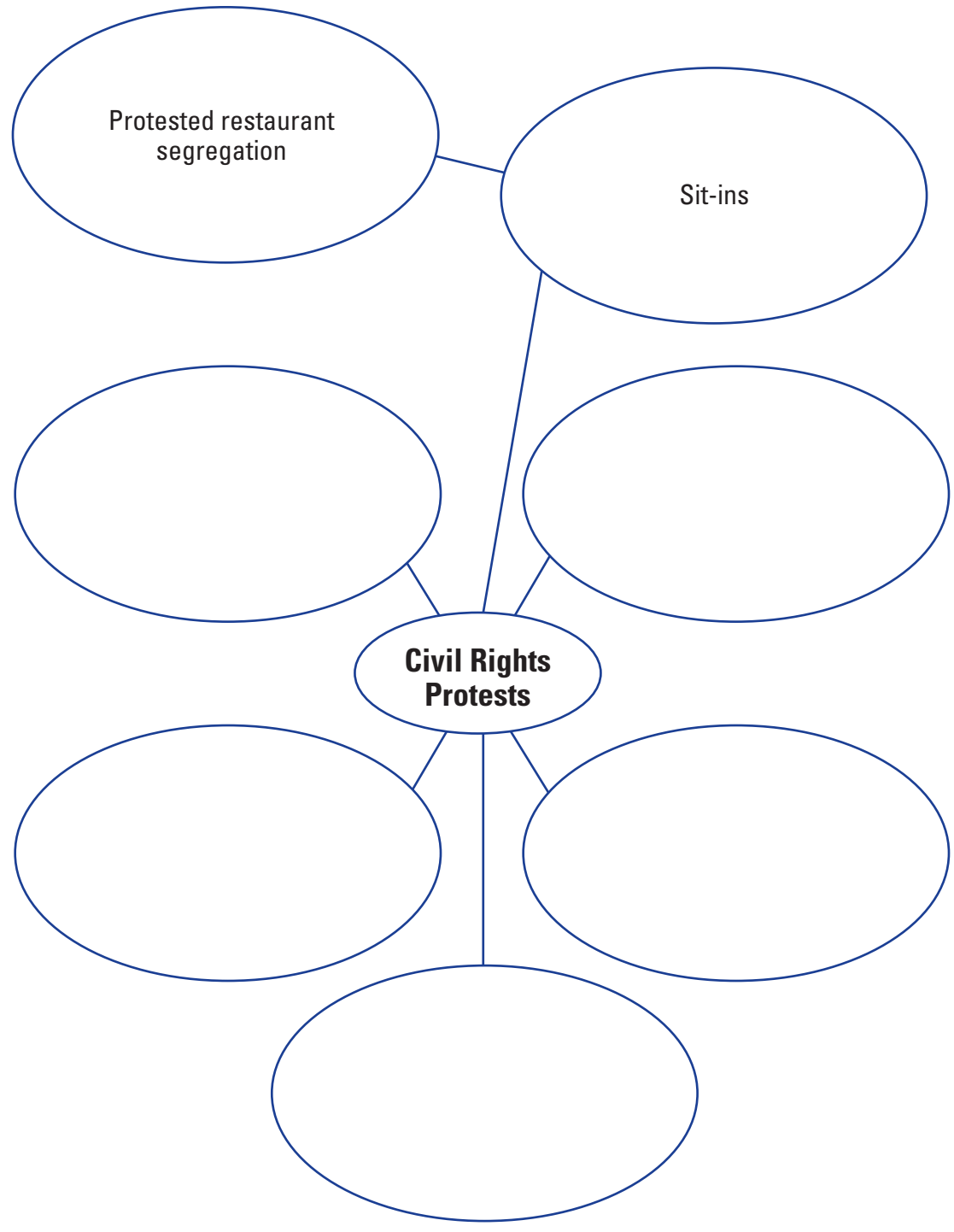
Summarize List three key events of the 1950s that helped to end segregation.

CHAPTER
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SECTION 2

Note Taking Study Guide
THE MOVEMENT GAINS GROUND

Focus Question: How did the civil rights movement gain ground in the 1960s?

Use the concept web below to record information about the civil rights protests of the 1960s.



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Section Summary
THE MOVEMENT GAINS GROUND

Despite some victories, activists continued to struggle for civil rights for African Americans. In North Carolina, four college students started a **sit-in** to protest discrimination. This sit-in sparked a wave of similar protests across the nation. Young African American activists established the **Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee**, or **SNCC**, to create a grass-roots movement to gain equality.

The next battleground was interstate transportation. The Supreme Court had ruled that segregation on interstate buses was illegal. In the spring of 1961, the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) staged a "**freedom ride**" through the Deep South to test the federal government's willingness to enforce the law. After the freedom riders met with violence, President John F. Kennedy intervened. Mississippi's leaders agreed to send police to protect the riders.

In September 1962, **James Meredith** won a federal court case that allowed him to enroll at the all-white University of Mississippi. Civil rights activist **Medgar Evers** was instrumental in this effort. Although full-scale riots erupted the night before his arrival, Meredith went on to graduate from the university in 1963.

In the spring of 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) targeted Birmingham, Alabama, for a major civil rights campaign. The campaign began nonviolently with protest marches and sit-ins. However, Birmingham's Public Safety Commissioner refused to tolerate the demonstrations. He used police dogs and fire hoses on the peaceful protesters. News coverage of the violence shocked many Americans.

To put pressure on Congress to pass a new civil rights bill, supporters organized a massive demonstration in Washington, D.C. More than 200,000 Americans gathered for the **March on Washington** on August 28, 1963. The highlight of the day came when King gave his "I Have a Dream" speech.

On November 22, 1963, President Kennedy was assassinated. Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson assumed the presidency. Johnson used his political skills to gain the passage of the **Civil Rights Act of 1964**, which banned segregation in public accommodations. The surge in support for the civil rights movement had produced a dramatic shift in race relations and set the stage for future reforms.

Review Questions

1. What was the purpose of the March on Washington?

2. Describe the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

READING CHECK

What was the highlight of the March on Washington?

VOCABULARY BUILDER

What does the word *tolerate* mean in the underlined sentence? The word *forbid* is an antonym of *tolerate*. It means "to not permit." Use the meaning of *forbid* to figure out the meaning of *tolerate*.

READING SKILL

Summarize Summarize the significance of James Meredith's actions in 1962.

CHAPTER
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SECTION 3

Note Taking Study Guide

NEW SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Focus Question: What successes and challenges faced the civil rights movement after 1964?

Complete the outline below to summarize the contents of this section.

<p>I. Push for Voting Rights</p> <p>A. Freedom Summer</p> <p>B. _____</p>
<p>II. _____</p> <p>A. _____</p> <p>B. _____</p>
<p>III. _____</p> <p>A. _____</p> <p>B. _____</p>
<p>IV. _____</p> <p>A. _____</p> <p>B. _____</p>
<p>V. _____</p> <p>A. _____</p> <p>B. _____</p>

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Section Summary
NEW SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Although the civil rights movement had made progress, the southern political system still prevented African Americans from voting. In 1964, the SNCC mounted a major voter registration project, known as **Freedom Summer**. About 1,000 volunteers flooded Mississippi to register African Americans to vote.

In Selma, Alabama, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the SCLC organized a campaign to pressure the government to enact voting rights legislation. The protests climaxed in a series of confrontations, as heavily armed state troopers attacked the marchers. Spurred by the actions of the protesters, Congress passed the **Voting Rights Act** of 1965, which banned literacy tests. Another legal landmark was the **Twenty-fourth Amendment**, ratified in 1964. This amendment banned the poll tax, which had been used to prevent poor African Americans from voting.

Still, for some African Americans, things had not changed much. In many urban areas, anger over continuing discrimination and poverty erupted into violence and race riots. To determine the causes of the riots, President Johnson established the **Kerner Commission**. The commission concluded that long-term racial discrimination was the single most important cause of violence.

The riots coincided with the radicalization of many young urban African Americans. **Malcolm X** was the most well-known African American radical. Malcolm X became the most prominent minister of the **Nation of Islam**, a religious sect that demanded separation of the races. In February 1965, however, he was assassinated.

Many young African Americans considered themselves heirs of Malcolm X and moved away from the principle of nonviolence. SNCC leader Stokely Carmichael thought that African Americans should use their economic and political muscle, which he termed "**black power**," to gain equality. Not long after, militants formed the Black Panther Party. Almost overnight, the **Black Panthers** became the symbol of young militant African Americans.

On April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated. In the wake of his murder, Congress passed the Fair Housing Act, which banned discrimination in housing. Although African Americans had made significant gains, the radicalism of the times left a bitter legacy.

Review Questions

1. Explain the significance of the march in Selma.

2. Why did violence erupt in many American cities in the 1960s?

READING CHECK

Which group became the symbol for young militant African Americans?

VOCABULARY BUILDER

What does the word *confrontations* mean in the underlined sentence? Circle any words or phrases in the paragraph that help you figure out what *confrontations* means.

READING SKILL

Summarize Summarize the impact of Malcolm X on the civil rights movement.
