

American Institute of Pakistan Studies
Monmouth College
The US Embassy in Pakistan

The Civil Rights Movement

Dianne Pinderhughes
The University of Notre Dame
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Thank You President Haq

- I appreciate the kind invitation by President Farhat Haq of the American Institute of Pakistan Studies, also Professor of Political Science of Monmouth College to deliver this lecture on “The US Civil Rights Movement.”
- In recent years I’ve become an inveterate international traveler, and would have delivered this face to face. Of course the Coronavirus Pandemic has restricted us to our homes so I come to you from my home in South Bend, Indiana where I am a faculty member at the University of Notre Dame.
- I’d like it to have been otherwise, but I will do my best to make this work.

Introduction to Today's Lecture

- This is an enormous but wonderful responsibility. Here's what I'll do during my 50 minutes of lecture.
 - Introduction
 - Historical Overview
 - Demographics and Geographical Location
 - Specific Organizations
 - Leadership
 - Legislative and Bureaucratic Impact

I. Historical Overview

- Importance of Race and Racial Slavery
- Racial Slavery – stigmatized the Black population
- As a group, Blacks weren't seen as individuals
- **Racial Slavery**
 - Wasn't just slavery – it was **Racial Slavery**, which associated Negative values with the population, not just for their limited time in Indentured servitude

As slavery's legal status for the enslaved African population lengthened into life, and then into permanent hereditary of servitude, it became inescapable.

The system framed Blacks narrowly, and this was well established, by the 1660s, a century before the Revolutionary War.

Brief Chronology of American Political History, 1

- **Colonial through 19th Century**

- 1619 – Founding of British Colonies in the Americas begins
- 1660s- Virginia Colonial law begins to create notion of racial slavery
- 1776 – Declaration of Independence and American Revolutionary War begins
- 1783 US Nation is created
- 1787 – Constitutional Convention convened; 2nd American Republic is created
- 1808 End of Importation of slaves into the United States
- 1860 - 1865 American Civil War
- 1865 -1876 Reconstruction and Constitutional Amendments
 - 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments
- 1870-1899 – Blacks Elected to US Congress from the South
- 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* – Supreme Court affirms constitutionality of
 - Segregation in public sector
- 1890s – 1950 The Solid South – Electorate composed only of White voters

Price, Birch & Co., Dealers in Slaves, 283 Duke St. Alexandria, Va.

- 1861 – 1865 Civil War Photograph
- Source: Library of Congress <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2018667034/>



Chronology Contd: Twentieth Century 2

- 1928 – Oscar DePriest, first Black elected to the US House from the North
- 1940 *US v. Classic* – ended White primaries.
- 1942 Congress of Racial Equality founded
- 1950 – Leadership Conference on Civil Rights founded
- 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court rules segregation of public schools is unconstitutional
- 1954-55 Montgomery Bus Boycott leads to desegregation of buses; and Southern Christian Leadership Conference founding
- 1957 First Civil Rights legislation since the 19th century Civil War Amend
- 1960 Nashville Sit-ins and founding of SNCC

Chronology Contd, Twentieth Century 3

- 1960 John F. Kennedy Elected
- 1963 – Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights founded
- 1963 Kennedy Assassinated – Lyndon Baines Johnson succeeds him
- 1964 Civil Rights Act
- 1965 The Selma March
- 1965 Voting Rights Act
- 1966 The Black Panther Party is founded in Oakland
- 1968 Martin Luther King Jr. is Assassinated
- 1968 Robert Kennedy is assassinated
- 1968 Richard Nixon Elected President
- 1973 Richard Nixon resigns over the Watergate scandal
- 1980 Ronald Reagan elected President
- Much more continues of course, but the Civil Rights Movement is generally seen as ending by the early to 1970s.

II Demographics and Geography

- *2010 Race and Hispanic Origin*. US Census. 2010.
- Table 1 – Population by Hispanic/Latino Origin and by Race for the US 2000 and 2020,
See p. 4 (What is the population?)
- Figure 4 Minority Population as a Percentage of County Population 2010, p. 20
(Where are these groups located?)
- Source <https://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-02.pdf>

III. Specific Organizations

- How did the Civil Rights Movement come into existence?
- **Racial discrimination** – legally and politically constraining, but ***race therefore became a political resource:***
 - For developing ideas
 - For projecting power
 - For organizing religious, social, political and economic organizations
- Racial discrimination, a powerful socializer, a stimulator of racial status, also reinforces
 - Collective status, and
 - group identity.

Examples of Organizations

Sacred and Secular – importance of religious as well as secular organizations. Heart of Black orgs rests in Black Churches, that is in Black, African American led denominations. Allowed for organizational development integrated with African American cultural characteristics.

- Women's Club Movement, late 19th/early 20th, helped create the foundation for the NAACP and others
- NAACP/NAACP LDF Founded 1908, 1940 (Civil and legal rights)
- Southern Christian Leadership Conference 1957 (church based)
- Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee 1960 (student orgs)
- Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies 1969 (BEOs)

Protest and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)

- SNCC used African American Music and Culture as a foundation for strength: *[Freedom singing](#) was a vital part of SNCC's community organizing work. Often stemming from traditional church songs, freedom songs brought people together, gave them courage, encouraged them to participate, and helped them imagine and believe in change.*
- Some examples: “Woke up this Morning with my Mind on Freedom”
“We Shall Overcome”
- SNCC Sources <https://snccdigital.org/our-voices/song-music/songs-stories/>
- SNCC's original members are old now, but they've been active throughout their lives.
- Duke University hosts the SNCC digital gateway <https://snccdigital.org/>

IV. Leadership: Just a Few from the Many

- Leadership is related to organizational strength. Among whites in the US, lawyers were most frequently represented. This was not the case among African Americans where there was a much smaller cohort of lawyers; instead religious leaders were more likely to be dominant.
- You've all likely heard of the **Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.** But I'm going to focus on two other leaders, **Cong. John Lewis** and **the Rev. C.T. Vivian**, who both died on Friday July 16 at 80 and 95.
- Bios:
 - Lewis – US House of Representatives <https://johnlewis.house.gov/john-lewis/biography>
 - Vivian - <https://ctvli.org/ctvivian.php>

Congressman John Lewis 1940-2020

- Short Video biography of Rep. John Lewis by Georgia Public Broadcasting. 6:03 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OfWR0TAD20M>
- Photos of Lewis from the SNCC Archive <https://pro.magnumphotos.com/Package/2K1HRG2ADPTV>



“Strong People Don’t Need Strong Leaders”

- Ella Baker 1903 – 1986
- Worked with just about every Black organization in the 20th century
 - The NAACP – Membership Director in the 1940s
 - President, NYC NAACP
 - Executive Director, Southern Christian Leadership Conference
 - Guide, Advisor to SNCC
 - And many others.
- Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/20/opinion/martin-luther-king-ella-baker.html>

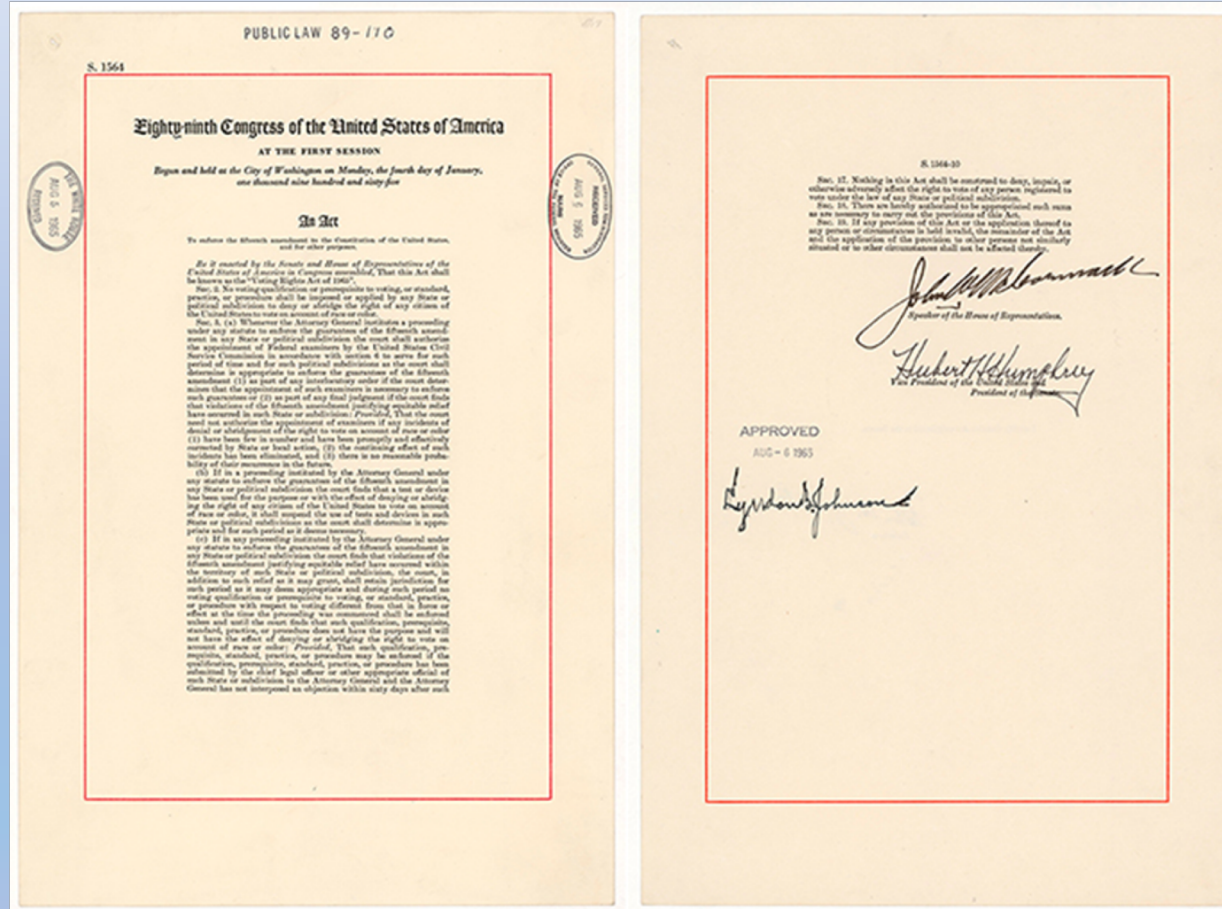


V. Impact – The Products of Legal and Legislative Mobilization and Protest: Voting Rights Legislation and Policy

- 1957 Civil Rights Act
 - Created the Civil Rights administrative infrastructure
- 1964 Civil Rights Act
 - Strengthened Protections against voting discrimination
- 1965 Voting Rights Act
 - Covered Southern states and counties which discriminated
 - Forbade any new voting law changes without federal approval
- 1970 Extension – the 18 year old vote
- 1975 Extension of the VRA – Minority Languages
- 1982 Extension – vote dilution

The Voting Rights Act

<https://www.archives.gov/legislative/features/voting-rights-1965/vra.html>



Voting Rights Legislation 2

1992, 2006 Extensions.

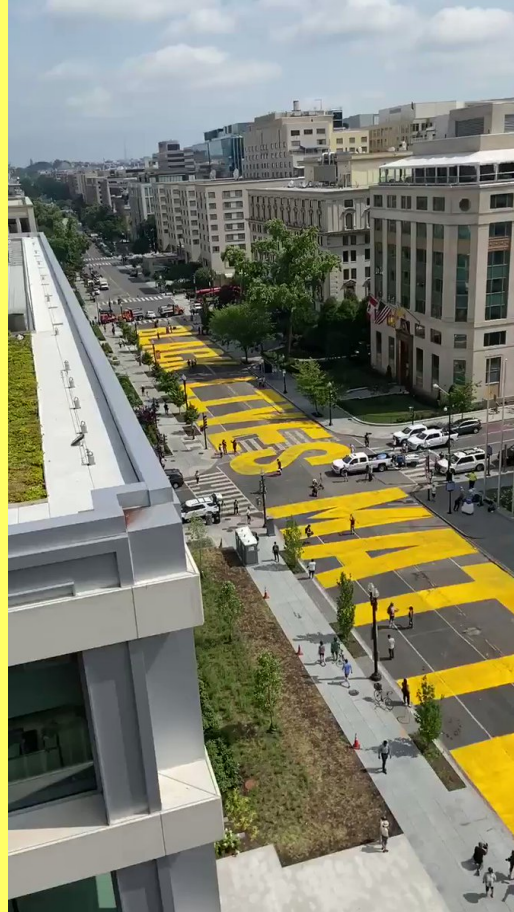
The Voting Rights Act covered African Americans but has gradually been broadened to apply to discrimination across a number of racial and ethnic groups, depending on specific criteria.

2013 – Supreme Court ruling in *Shelby County v. Holder* that a vital section, 4 of the legislation was no longer constitutional, which struck a significant blow to the 1965 legislation. Southern jurisdictions immediately began to move aggressively to weaken reforms that had been upheld for 50 years. This remains a significant agenda item for civil rights organizations.

Bureaucratic Reforms applied in other policy areas as well.

- US Commission on Civil Rights 1957
- US Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
- US Department of Education, to monitor school desegregation
- Department of Health, Education and Welfare
- Now Dept of Health and Human Services (many social welfare programs)
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission 1964
- Dept of Housing and Urban Development – housing segregation
 - 1968

Recently Washington DC's Mayor Muriel Bowser had 16th St, just north of the White House, painted



Summary of Today's Lecture

- Historical Overview
- Demographics and Geographical Location
- Specific Organizations
- Leadership
- Legislative and Bureaucratic Impact
- From the Civil Rights Movement to **Black Lives Matter** in the wake of the Pandemic and George Floyd's Murder on Memorial Day
- The US continues to face profound challenges in the effort to address the elements of the nation's history which were fundamentally flawed.
- I would love to offer more, but this provides you with a brief introduction to the Civil Rights Movement.