

Siu Ming Law

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CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

The 1960's civil rights movement sometimes referred to the African-American civil rights movement involved social movements in the United States of America whose objectives were to bring to an end the discrimination and racial segregation against African Americans. These goals were through securing both legal and federal protection of the citizenship rights as enshrined in the constitution. Even several years after the Emancipation Proclamation, African American residing south of the USA still faced an unequal world of segregation, oppression of various forms and disenfranchisement. "Jim Crow" laws enforced at both local and state level denied African American access to social services such as education, theaters, and juries among others.

The movement's leadership and financial support came from politically active labor unions, prominent white politicians, and religious denominations. Civil resistance in the form of acts of non-violent protests and civil disobedience characterized the movement between 1945 and 1968. The Supreme Court in 1954 overturned the state-sanctioned doctrine that viewed African Americans as separate but equal drawing worldwide attention to the fate of the racially discriminated persons in the US. The federal and state governments, business entities and communities had to respond to crisis situations and nonviolent activities between activists and government authorities that highlighted the inequities facing African Americans. Notable

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legislative achievement during this period of civil rights movements or freedom struggles includes;

The post-civil war constitutional that abolished slavery, banned discrimination based on race, color, sex or origin in employment facilities and diverse voter registration requirements. The paper discusses the characteristics, significance and achievements of the 1960's civil rights movement in comparison to the modern American civil rights movements.

Civil rights movements existed in the years 1945 to 1968, but it was after these years that significant events took place regarding civil rights in the United States. Despite the achievements of the 1960's racial discrimination and oppression remains an important aspect of the American life. The distribution of the country's wealth and income progressed to a greater inequality during the 1960's and 1970's even after Martin Luther King's Jr. initiated the poor people's campaign in 1968.

Currently, there seems to be a rebirth of civil rights movements after years of injustice not only to African Americans but also how minorities deal with law enforcement in a nation where police officers are perceived to be above the law. In July 2014, a New York Police Department officer killed a New York resident, Erick Garner while restraining him with a maneuver that the force banned years ago. The encounter sparked conversations around civil rights after being caught on camera by one of Garner's friends and used as evidence in a court of justice. Five months after the incident the grand jury failed to indict the police officer sparking anger and protests.

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Across cities in the US, protestors filled the streets carrying placards with their voices atop calling for recognition of civil rights. Hundreds of people blocked off roadways while others held sit-ins were creating scenes reminiscent of the 1960's Civil rights movements. Americans devoid of the race came together in an act of solidarity that portrayed organized protests. They were of different colors, were in various cities but wore a similar face, a face of resolve.

The African American civil rights movement transformed the American democracy and served as a model for other group advancements and pride efforts in women, students, gay and lesbians among others. These current civil rights actions base on recurring controversies regarding affirmative action programs and compensations for past patterns of discrimination paving the way for more fundamental debates about the boundaries of personal freedom, the government's role in ensuring rights protection and the alternative concepts of social justice. Public education, legislative lobbying, and litigation characterize the strategies of current civil rights movements due to the existence of protected civil rights which the law has failed to interpret correctly or enforce. These plans have slowly replaced direct actions of the 1960's which included boycotts, freedom rides, and marches.

The African American civil rights movements of 1960're achieved legal changes which increased opportunities for women, non-black minorities, disadvantaged persons and other victims of discrimination.

The Supreme Court's declaration that public school segregation was unconstitutional, black movements still compelled the federal government to implement the decision and extend its effect to other areas of public life. This fete was achieved sparking a wave of protests and

requests to have more civil rights devised and upheld. Other reconstructions included efforts to have public and government facilities given to the colored people well-funded to improve quality, abolishment of economic oppression against minorities and eradication of violence against African Americans and Latinos.

Although the civil rights movement achieved significant milestones concerning ensuring equality, a few decades' later gaps between blacks and whites persist. These issues include poverty, unemployment, rights to vote and racial differences in educational institutions. The progress of civil rights has stalled as new burdens such as criminalization and mass incarceration of blacks. According to Noliwe Rooks, a Cornell University professor, **America still needs civil rights movements**. This opinion validates the argument that the motivation behind the 1960's movements lacks in the modern America civil rights movements. The Erick Garner case discussed earlier points at the broader support from whites advocating for an end to inequalities indicating a rising tide of injustice that affects all Americans.

Poverty, education, and voting rights inequalities are recurrent problems that cost the United States billions of dollars each year.

Global warming is also an issue that sparks activism in both the ignorant and elite Americans. These problems highlight global pandemics that give less significance to race, sex or age thus forcing the government to intervene as a means of responsibility. Most activists fighting for civil rights require an informed interpretation of constitutional laws before seeking redress through litigation or mass action. Privacy laws restrict individuals attempting to protest on private land or intruding one's right space while seeking justice.

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In contrast, the African American movement occurred too quickly, was more diverse for credit to be given to one person, organization or strategy. The movement was a coalition of hundreds of local efforts across the nation that lasted several decades incorporating thousands of groups and used all manner of strategies whether legal or illegal. This motivation and ideology attracted significant support but resulted in countless injuries and deaths as individuals fought for nonexistent laws that would ensure equality among all citizens. Those who openly rejected integration had a legitimate reason such as the fear to oversee a change in the status quo they lived with for so long. Others defended segregation for the sake of keeping beneficial ties with the white power structure from which they acquired social and economic mobility than their fellow colored people.

Civil rights have taken new dimensions as more individuals feel threatened by laws that seem to infringe on their rights.

Activism that led to the triumph of gay rights in the United States met a global backlash with some leaders terming it as immoral. This conflict indicates a cultural war that gives civil rights movement a bad name although the rights of same-sex partners require significant considerations.

In conclusion, the African-American civil rights movement involved social movements in the United States of America whose objectives were to bring to an end the discrimination and racial segregation against African Americans. These civil rights movements transformed the American democracy and served as a model for other group advancements and pride efforts in women, students, gay and lesbians among others. The modern American civil rights aim to protect such efforts thus create cultural wars especially in areas that are deemed controversial

such as gay and lesbian rights. This aspect forces activists fighting for civil rights to search for an informed interpretation of constitutional laws before seeking redress through litigation or mass action. Civil rights have taken new dimensions as more individuals feel threatened by legislation that seems to infringe on their rights as compared to the 1960's civil rights movements that sought to fight for the fundamental rights of African Americans. With such an understanding it dwells upon current civil rights movements to borrow a leaf from the past actions' motivation to ensure that as much as we pursue our rights the overall effect requires considerable thought to avoid backlash from different cores in the world.

Siu Ming,
Some suggestions for improvement:

- your essay is unfocused. Articulate your thesis statement clearly in your introduction and use the body of essay to support it. Too much was included that did not point to your main topic.
- Improve organization
- Maintain focus on the past. Current events are too recent for a history paper.
- Use correct citation style
- Cite your sources

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