AMERICA EXPLAINED
THE BRAND NEW SCHOOL PROGRAM

Black in America
Factsheet/Timeline

Colonial Period | New Nation | Reconstruction | Jim Crow* | Civil Rights Movement | Modern Era

ACTIONS

1619: First Africans arrive to the British colonies

1854: Lincoln University founded for blacks

Civil War (1861-1865): the North/Union wins against the South/Confederacy. By the end of war the Ku Klux Clan is formed

1877: Southern whites regain control of Southern States

1948: Pres. Truman desegregates military

1960: Sit-ins begin

1963: March on Washington: Martin Luther King: „I have a dream."

1968: MLK assassinated

1972: Shirley Chisolm is first black presidential candidate in a major party

2009: Barack Obama becomes first black President

LEGISLATION

Late 1600s: Slave Codes define Africans and their decendants as slaves

1776: Declaration of Independence („...all men are created equal...")

1808: Slave trade is banned, although slavery remains legal and widespread

1863: Presindet Lincoln`s Emancipation Proclamation frees all slaves in Confederate states

1868: Citizenship is granted to blacks

1870: 15th Amendment prohibits denying citizens the right to vote based on race

1877: Southern state legislate and enforce separation of blacks and whites

1954: Brown vs. Board of Education. Result: segregation in public schools is no longer allowed due to the violation of the Equal Protection Clause.

1964: Civil Rights Act, outlaws racial segregation at the workplace and public accommodations such as schools

Today segregation in the US is declining. Especially in metropolitan areas civil rights acts have been enforced and color doesn`t play such a dominant role anymore. But even forty years after the civil rights era the US remains a residentially divided country in which blacks and whites often live in different neighborhoods of different quality. Though the influence of racist hate groups is very small, many still exist.

*The Jim Crow laws established the „separate but equal" status for black Americans. This *de jure* separation led to many thorough discriminations for blacks in all kind of public accommodations such as schools or public transportation.

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