

1. Describe the difficulties that Black Americans faced in the early 1950s.

Black Americans were severely segregated by white Americans in the early 1950s. Whites usually used violence to stand against the black Americans' protest, so they suffered from it a lot. Some of them were killed or brutally injured and some lost their houses. Even though black Americans faced the brutal physical attacks, they didn't quit protesting to gain the civil rights that they should have had. For example, they should have had a voting right but they didn't at that time. It is considered as a political difficulty and it is one of the difficulties that black Americans faced, and others are considered as social difficulties or economic difficulties.

As mentioned above, black Americans in the south weren't given a voting right that white Americans had. Various places prevented black Americans from voting, mostly by violence. For example, in Mississippi, black Americans who tried to register to vote faced intimidation or lynching, and only 5% of them were registered to vote. (Walsh)

Other political difficulty was that black Americans faced official and legal discrimination in education. Twenty states had segregated schools in 1954 and many black Americans needed to walk a lot to go to school and the facilities in it weren't as equal as white schools. Linda Brown, a third grader black girl, was one of those who needed to walk a lot, twenty blocks, to go to her school even though there was a school two blocks away from her house. Her family felt unfair about it and recruited in Topeka by the NAACP, there were other twelve families recruited. The NAACP, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, asked the families to try to enter white schools in each of their neighbors by knowing that they would be rejected. They sued the Board of Education in Topeka. (PBS) Because of their big effort to stop the segregation, the Supreme Court, the most powerful court in the USA, fortunately ruled that the segregation on schools was illegal.

Black Americans were treated badly by police too. They frequently participated in attacks on black Americans and didn't stop the attacks. Moreover, cases that black Americans

were involved were judged unfairly towards them. (Walsh) In March 1956, Martin Luther King was accused of guilty of boycotting the buses in Montgomery even though it was just a protest against the inequality and whites were guiltier than him. (BCC) Also, white juries almost always acquitted whites accused of killing black Americans. (Walsh)

Black people were segregated so severely that they were willing to go to a jail rather than being racially segregated. (BCC) The segregation was established by the “Jim Crow” Laws which were fully enforced in seventeen states, and it affected black Americans’ lives terribly in the south.

The formation of KKK also affected black Americans’ lives severely. Its act became a law once and it fell down before the civil rights movement, but as the movement started to happen, the Ku Klux act began. (Spartacus) They terrorized the black Americans by bombing, burning houses and churches, using violence against individual person for example. (History Learning Site)

Social difficulties include lynching, a terrible act against one or several people who a crowd of people considers guilty of a crime, done by capturing them, letting them to not have a trial in court, and killing them illegally mostly by hanging. As mentioned in the second paragraph, black Americans who tried to register to vote faced lynching in Mississippi, and it is considered as a social difficulty too. (Walsh)

Other social difficulty is a violent reaction to a black Americans’ little fault. In August 27th 1955, Emmet Till who was a fourteen year old boy was murdered because of just doing something that white Americans wouldn’t be murdered if they did the exact same thing as he did. Emmet was from Chicago in the north and went to Mississippi to visit his relatives at that time. He wasn’t used to the southern life about the racism, so he flirted with a white twenty-one year old woman. Emmet was murdered just because of it, by the woman’s husband, Roy Bryant, and his half-brother, J.W. Milam. Emmet was brutally beaten that it focused the attention of the world to how severely black people were treated in the south. Roy and Milam were acquitted

and arrested for murder, but later on they sold the story of it to a magazine for \$4,000. (SMU)

Black Americans had a hard time also on transportation. They weren't allowed to sit on white seats and just to stay in a "colored section," and also if the seats got full, black Americans had to give up their seats to whites. They were all the regulation of the city. When a black forty-one year old woman refused to do it in a bus in 1955 and the protests for it followed in Montgomery, Alabama, whites all violently attacked blacks. The woman was Rosa Parks and she was the local secretary of the NAACP. She didn't do nothing wrong but she was arrested and fined \$14. Thus, the local black community carried out a boycott of the buses for thirteen months, officially beginning on December 1st, 1955. It was organized by Martin Luther King who was a young black religious preacher in the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church that black people in Montgomery wouldn't use buses until they are completely desegregated, which means that approximately, 17,000 black people in the city walked to work for thirteen months. (Spartacus) The bus company refused to give in and they destroyed many black people's houses. Martin Luther King was arrested, and other black people involved in the boycott suffered a lot because of whites' violent response. Fortunately, the boycott ended when the bus company agreed to end segregation on buses.

Moreover, white school students acted horribly toward black students. They hysterically cried and over reacted to black students entering schools and also they called black students Negroes which were names that were a lack of respect as a person. (Source B) In August 1956, some students at Clinton High School detested their school as it became to integrate. (BCC) They didn't want to go to school with black students mostly because there was a belief in some areas in the south that black Americans were not intelligent enough to be



given an education. Therefore, black students weren't given the same amount of education as the white students. (History Learning Site)

One of the economic difficulties is that many black Americans suffered from poverty. In most cases, white Americans earned more than blacks. For example, white teachers earned 30% more than black teachers in the south. Also, when more than 400,000 black Americans migrated from the south to the industrial sites in the USA, they faced discrimination at work. They earned only half the amount of money that white Americans earned. The discrimination against the black Americans were extremely harsh that president Roosevelt was involved to end it. (Walsh)

Mostly because of the poverty, their living conditions were horrible. They faced terrible slum conditions in ghettos and new horrors of racism, unemployment, and brutality of the police. (Socialist Appeal) One of the reasons why black Americans suffered from poverty is because they weren't given a good education and weren't able to advance themselves in the society in the south. A poor education made them to have a poor lifestyle. (History Learning Site)

In conclusion, black Americans were segregated very severely and faced a lot of difficulties. They were tried to be driven away from America by many of the whites violently. The black Americans had the most difficult time in this era.

2. Why did the Civil Rights movements develop in the 1950s?

The Civil Rights movements developed as the world war two ended. The black Americans were segregated before the war though their segregation began to be more severe than before, so more and more black Americans became to get involved in the Civil Rights movements to end the segregation against them. The most influential fact about the development of the Civil Rights movements was the emergence of Martin Luther King. He developed the movements so that many black Americans participated in them.

Before the world war two, black Americans were segregated in the south but it wasn't that severe than it was during the Second World War. They were segregated in the south because "Jim Crow" laws operated there. White Americans were likely to get jobs in the army but only two black Americans were the officers there. Also, there were no black Americans in the navy.

While, the situation started to change during the Second World War. The black Americans began to face more difficulties. One of them was discrimination in armed forces. Although black American men were employed as officers and pilots in the army, the army refused to train them and trained only white officers and pilots in 1941. In the navy, black American men were employed only to be a kitchen staff. The black American women weren't employed at all at that time. (Learn History)

Because of the increasing of severity of segregation against black Americans and the Civil Rights movements becoming from a regional to a national problem, many of them started to join the movements. The membership of some organizations to end segregation increased rapidly at that period. The NAACP was one of the organizations for black Americans to be able to gain the civil rights they were supposed to have. The membership of the NAACP began to increase and it became the representative of blacks in the nation. (WISC)

Moreover, a massive number of black Americans protested against the civil rights by a march on Washington D.C in March 1941. Phillip Randolph lead that march with a thought that whites who saw it may demand to end segregation against black Americans. Because Roosevelt didn't want this march to take place, thinking that it may cause people to have unwanted attention to discrimination, he called Randolph to the white house and he made some demands. His demands were to immediately end segregation and discrimination in federal government systems, to end segregation of armed forces, to provide a support for an end of segregation and discrimination in all employment. Roosevelt didn't want to accept all of his demands but he decided that the government wouldn't hire people based on their races or national origin. (WISC)

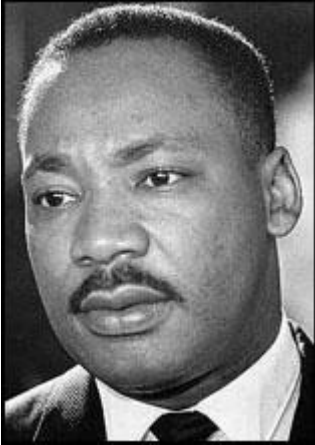
Because of black Americans' big effort, the armed forces began to hire black Americans in any position and over one million people joined it. Also, about two million black Americans were working in factories by 1944. (Learn History) It was because President Truman began to support the Civil Rights act in a workplace. He passed many orders to stop the segregation and discrimination in federal employment in July 1948. He introduced a bill to make a lynching a federal crime too. Moreover, the racism in popular culture was starting to disappear. For example, Jackie Robinson became a first black American to play baseball in a major league. (WISC)

Even though some segregation and discrimination against black Americans disappeared, there were still many problems that black Americans faced, especially in south. The black Americans suffered a lot from poverty and many of them lived in black ghettos because of some segregation in employment. (Socialist Appeal)

Also, black Americans were still segregated in education system, and the Brown Case was discussed in the court. In that case, a black school girl, Linda Brown, needed to walk twenty blocks to go to school even though there was a school that she wasn't allowed to attend because of racism only two blocks away from her house. Her family felt it unjust so they were supported by the NAACP and took a suit against the Board of Education in Topeka. (PBS) It was discussed in the highest court in America, the Supreme Court, and decided that the segregation in schools was illegal. Because it was the first time for the segregation in education system to be discussed, many people focused on the case.

The other event was the boycott of the buses officially started on December 1st, 1955 and it was the first challenge to segregation in transportation system. It started because Rosa Parks, the local black secretary of the NAACP, refused to give in a seat to a white man in a bus

Martin Luther King



in Montgomery, Alabama which was against the regulation of buses in the city, being convinced by local civil rights leaders. She was arrested and fined. Thus, fifty local black leaders gathered in a Montgomery Church to discuss a response to it. They thought of an idea of boycotting the buses because black people made up 60% to 70% of the bus riders, and started the boycott of the buses in the city. (WISC) It was organized by Martin Luther King who was a young religious preacher in the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, and thanks to him, the

boycott ended successfully. (Spartacus) The Supreme Court ruled that the segregation on buses was unconstitutional. That event focused many people's attention internationally and Martin Luther King who led the peaceful protest first made his name to the world.

The Little Rock incident in 1957 included a peaceful and brave protest against the segregation too. In September on that year, nine black students tried to attend the Little Rock Central High School and the white guard, students and teachers tried to kick the black protesters out even though they were supposed to be admitted. Therefore, black community took governor to the court to stop the segregation like that, and the President Eisenhower withdrew the guard in the school and put it under federal control. (WISC) It captured the attention of whites and was a victory for the peaceful protest.

After those events, some white liberal congressmen ensured that black Americans could have a vote right in 1957 by introducing the Department of Civil Rempowered . (WISC)

The Civil Rights movement developed in the 1950s because many incidents such as Brown Case or the boycott captured the attention of many people including white politicians. They focused many people's attention because their protests were peaceful. Thus, many of

them began to think that the segregation was a bad thing to be done and started to support the Civil Rights movement. If Martin Luther King didn't emerge and black Americans did violent protests, the Civil Rights movement wouldn't become popular in a good way and develop.

3. To what extent had the Civil Rights movement been successful by the late 1960s?

The Civil Rights movement had been successful to some extent and not successful to some extent. However, it was successful overall because if there was no peaceful movement led by Martin Luther King, the segregation might have become more severe. The peaceful protests made many people in the world to be focused on how severely black Americans were treated because of racism and to feel bad for black Americans. Thus, many people including whites began to support the Civil Rights movement. Mentioned below explains how successful the Civil Rights movement was politically, socially, economically, and culturally.

The Civil Rights movement was politically successful in the late 1960s to some extent because there was the Civil Rights act in the 1950s. That peaceful act made the movement in the 1960s much more successful. There were some protests against the segregation of schools and transportation system. The Montgomery bus boycott was one of the protests. In that case, black Americans didn't protest violently as whites would likely have done, and 17,000 black people in the city just didn't use the buses and walked to work for about a year. (Spartacus) Therefore, the Supreme Court ruled the segregation on buses was illegal. If black Americans protested violently, for example by bombing the buses, whites would have thought that black Americans shouldn't be given the same rights as the whites had and the segregation on buses might get more severe. Because those successful protests continued for a long time, the Civil Rights movement in the late 1960s could be successful too.

The Civil Rights act in 1964 was also a political success. It was supposed to be done by President Kennedy who noticed of the situation that black Americans faced at that time, but because of his assassination, the former vice president Johnson took his part to act out the Civil

Rights act. It introduced that the government would prohibit the segregation in public places which were the most places in the country including schools, restaurants, stores, and train or bus stations. Moreover, if those places weren't desegregated yet, the government wouldn't provide them with the federal funding. By that time, 68% of people supported the meaningful Civil Rights act. The act in 1964 gained more and more support from the population. (History Learning Site)

The Voting Rights act and the Civil Rights act were also considered as political successes. The Voting Rights act was passed in 1965 and it guaranteed black Americans to have voting rights. The Civil Rights act was passed in 1968 and it banned discrimination in employment and the sale of dwelling. Since then, black Americans became legally equal to white Americans. (BCC)

Moreover, there was an increase in the number of black Americans in Congress. In 1969, the number of black American congressmen increased to 43 even from 13. About 10% of 43 black congressmen made up the House and 1% of them made up the Senate. Thus, more than 10% of the Congress was made up by black Americans. Black Americans began to be elected as mayors in major cities too. Carl Stokes became the first black mayor in Cleveland, Ohio. (CNN)

However, the Civil Rights movement wasn't successful politically to some extent because the protests of black Americans against the segregation were usually met with violence of whites. The whites' organizations began to form and one of them was KKK, Ku Klux Klan. Its act, the Ku Klux Act, once became a law and influenced black Americans' lives a lot. When NAACP, CORE, and SNCC which were all for black Americans organized a freedom summer campaign to end the political disenfranchisement of black Americans, KKK killed three civil rights workers who organized the campaign, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner. Not only KKK but other whites attacked black Americans involved in the campaign. They bombed many black Americans houses and churches, and beat more than eighty

volunteers of the campaign. (Spartacus)

The movement was politically successful overall because even though black Americans were brutally attacked by whites, the movement improved many black Americans' lives because the segregation against them became illegal and they became legally equal to whites. Also, the black Americans began to adapt to the American society.

The movement was socially successful to some extent because some peaceful protests made black Americans' lives better. One of them was a freedom march on August 28, 1963. It was led by Martin Luther King and over 250,000 blacks and whites marched down the street of Washington DC for blacks to demand the equal Civil Rights. They tried to get voting rights, equal employment, and other rights too. The march was broadcasted by a lot of media and focused attention of the population, and gained more support to stop the segregation. (Watson)

However, the movement wasn't successful to some extent because white Americans drove away black protesters by violence. They used water cannon, baton charges and dogs, and also made about five hundred arrests of black protesters a day. (Source H)

Moreover, because of the violence of whites, some violent black protesters began to appear such as Malcom X and Black Panthers. They thought that violence should be met with violence and if blacks didn't use violence, they would be completely destroyed. Malcom X was a member of the Nation of Islam but he left it and made the Organization of Afro-American Unity because he rejected his previous beliefs of integration and racial inequality and believed in black power. Thus, he decided to solve the problem by using violence. In his speech on 9th November, 1963, there was a saying, "You haven't got a revolution that doesn't involve bloodshed," and he rejected the peaceful Civil Rights movement led by Martin Luther King. (Spartacus) The Black Panthers were formed in 1966 because they thought that the non-violent protest of Martin Luther King had failed. They were prepared to use violence to get what they wanted and didn't want to beg whites to get integrated. Because of the emergence of violent organizations, more and more people began to support them and less people began to support

the Civil Rights movement. (History Learning Site)

Overall, the movement was socially failure because many people even blacks began to think that the peaceful Civil Rights movement was pointless and to reject the non-violent movement. Many people began to support violent protests even though they were part in the peaceful movement previously.

The movement was economically successful to some extent because black Americans began to earn much more salaries and to live in a better condition than previous times. The table to the right shows the mean annual earnings of black and white Americans during 1939 to 1969.

As in the table, black Americans' salaries

were lower than whites' salaries. However, black Americans' salaries increased annually for both males and females. In 1939, the salaries of black Americans were lower than the half of whites' salaries, but in 1969, black Americans' salaries became closer to the whites' salaries for both males and females and didn't have a massive amount of difference as they had in 1939.

(Encyclopedia)

	Male		Female	
	Black	White	Black	White
1939	\$537.45	\$1234.41	\$331.32	\$771.69
1949	1761.06	2984.96	992.35	1781.96
1959	2848.67	5157.65	1412.16	2371.80
1969	5341.64	8442.37	3325.12	3786.45

However, the movement was not successful economically because many of black Americans were still living in the black ghettos and suffering from poverty. Their salaries increased but still, they didn't have enough money to live in a good condition. Also, because they had a time of no education, they weren't educated as whites were, and so they had a limited amount of jobs that they were able to choose from. Thus, they couldn't have well-paid jobs. (History Learning Site)

The movement was successful overall because the salaries of black male and female

Americans increased and more black Americans could improve their living conditions even just a little although there were still many black Americans who couldn't live in good conditions. If there wasn't Civil Rights movement, black Americans would have suffered with poverty and couldn't improve their living conditions.

The movement was culturally successful to some extent because black Americans began to believe that being black was beautiful and they were strong. Black Americans began to have stronger desire to end the segregation. They wanted more than in the Civil Rights movement. They even wanted to build a separate country within America and not to beg white Americans for black Americans to have equal rights. (History Learning Site)

However, the movement wasn't successful to some extent because black Americans' strong desire was tried to be gained by violence and the peaceful protest began to fade out. Because of the violence, some whites began to think that black Americans shouldn't have the equal rights as whites had and the support from the population began to decrease. (History Learning Site)

Overall, the movement was not successful culturally. It was because the peaceful Civil Rights movement began to end and to lose support from the people in the world because of the stronger desire tried to be achieved by violence.

In conclusion, the Civil Rights movement had been successful politically and economically, but not successful socially and culturally. However, the Civil Rights movement was necessary even though there were some failures because it made black Americans to be able to be active in the US society and improved their lives in many ways.

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