

O. The Modern Civil Rights Movement

1. Despite the changes to the Constitution during Reconstruction, people of African descent continued to be discriminated against in American society for decades to come due to racism.
2. When speaking of civil rights, “discrimination” means “unfair treatment of a person based on race”.
3. Some common forms of discrimination were restricted use of bathrooms, buses, and schools based on race.
4. After the world wars, in which so many African-Americans served with distinction, segregation and other forms of discrimination came under attack as unjust.
5. Rosa Parks, a “black” woman, refused to give up a seat that was restricted to white people on a public bus in Montgomery, Alabama, and was arrested.
6. Ruby Bridges, a little girl in Louisiana, wanted to attend a previously all-white school.
7. The stories of individuals like Parks and Bridges sparked the modern “Civil Rights Movement,” led by a Baptists minister named Martin Luther King Jr.
8. As a result of nationwide protests, two important laws were passed.
 - a) The Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlawed discrimination based on race, especially with regard to employment and the use of public facilities
 - b) The Voting Rights Act of 1965 specifically outlawed discrimination in voting based on race.
11. In 2008, an African American man, Barack Obama, was elected president of the United States, marking a great event in the fight for civil rights.



Rosa Parks (left) refused to accept segregation in public transportation. Ruby Bridges (center) insisted on going to the same school as other children. Martin Luther King Jr. became the national leader of the modern civil rights movement.