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7 Ways that Studying US History 1877 to Modern Times History Shapes the Way You Think About Equality

Equality is in y'all.

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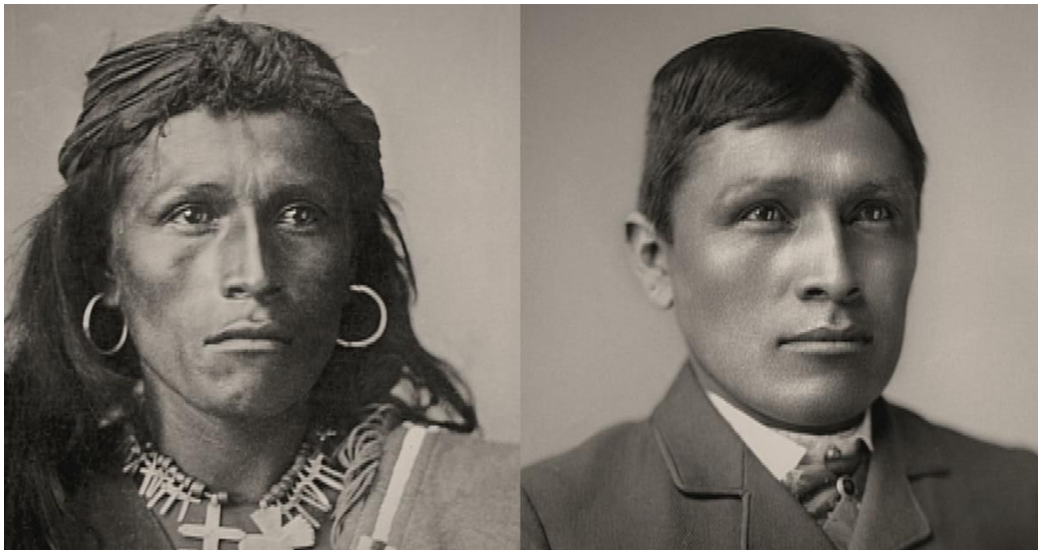
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1. The mistreatment of Natives Americans, their lands, and their cultures.

Week 3: A Melting Pot? NATIVE AMERICANS & THE WEST (January 28th)



“Tom Torlino-Navajo” Available:

<http://carlisleindian.dickinson.edu/images/tom-torlino-1882-and-1885>

The first picture is of a Navajo who was forced into the boarding schools that “Americanized” Native Americans. The second photo depicts the same Navajo three years after he entered the school. **These schools took children away from their homes and stripped them of their cultures. They chopped off their long hair and forced them to celebrate only Christian holidays (Native Americans and the West, January 28th, 2019).** The boarding schools had rules that classes would only be taught in English. Students could no longer study their own languages. This created language barriers between the older and younger generations of tribes (Rules for Indian Boarding Schools, 1890). This forcing of ideas and cultures took away equality in ideas and ways of life. Natives were treated terribly and unjustly discriminated

against on lands what were once their own. With the creation of the Dawes Act, lands were taken from tribes and given to individual families along with citizenship if they showed evidence of “Americanization”(Crash Course #24: Westward Expansion).

2. The lack of job safety in low income areas and what made that change.

Week 4: Freedom at Home and Abroad? SOCIAL REFORM (February 4th)



Chalk outlines on Washington Place memorialized the 108th anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, Photo by: Sam Klein, 2019) Available on: <https://nyunews.com/news/2019/03/26/triangle-shirtwaist-fire-memorial-service-at-brown-building/>

This image from 2019 is a representation of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire that occurred in 1911. This fire had women who worked in the textile factory trapped due to the locked doors. Doors in the factory were kept locked to keep workers working. In addition, the dilapidated fire escapes collapsed, further trapping the women. As a result, many of the underpaid, young, immigrant women workers chose to jump to their deaths rather than be burned in the quickly growing fire (Social Reform, February 4th, 2019). These same women held a strike the year before for better working conditions only to die of smoke inhalation, burns, and the blow of concrete as they hit the ground from multiple floors up (The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire 1911). After this tragedy, the inequality of working conditions was made known. The realities of sweatshop work were highlighted. Factories, however, began to hide the children who were too young to be working, and barely paid for the work they did, when inspectors came (Conditions at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company, 1911). This fire was a turning point in social reform for New York, and it led to many new policies to make jobs safer and more equal, such as child and woman labor laws.

3. The fact that women had to FIGHT for the right to vote, along with many other oppressed groups.

Week 5: Social Freedom? WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE (February 13th)



Women picket the White House in 1917, demanding full access to voting rights, Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division; Available on: <https://www.nps.gov/articles/womens-suffrage-wwi.htm>

This photograph is of the of the brave women who were going against social norm and fight for their right to vote. They picketed outside of the White House, in front of the whole nation. **Women wanted to be treated like the citizens they were and have more opportunities outside of the home (Crash Course #31: Women's Suffrage).** Women fought for the right to vote for many years, in many ways. Many joined groups such as the NWP, the National Woman's Party and NAWSA, the National American Woman Suffrage Association. Some faced arrests and hunger strikes (Women's Suffrage, February 13th, 2019). These hunger strikes, which seemed radical, were written about by Alice Paul. She also described the other horrors she and her peers faced in the prison they were kept in. This writing was used to inspire other women to speak out and fight for their right to vote (Alice Paul Inspire her Fellow Suffragists, 1917-1918). Finally, in 1920 with the 19th Amendment, women gained the right to vote, after a long fight for a privilege that every American should have always had.

4. Women's roles during WWII and how they had to change their lives for others.

Week 6: More Freedom at Home and Abroad? WORLD WAR II (February 20th)



Middletown, PA, 1944; Available on:

<https://www.pophistorydig.com/topics/tag/wwii-women-workers/>

World War II was an extremely difficult time for everyone as families were already strained from the Great Depression (Family Life, 1939). During this time, women had to take over predominantly male jobs in factories while the men went to war. These women were paid less than their male counterparts. The women completed the typical male factory work then followed up with the more commonly considered “women’s work” taking care of the household. In addition, t grew victory gardens, took care of the kids, and worried about their husbands who were away fighting. In short, the women did all of the jobs that were left behind. (Crash Course #35: WWII the Homefront). Propaganda was directed towards them to “to the work they left behind.” Often, this propaganda portrayed the women dressed in factory clothes but painted with perfect hair and makeup (WWII, February 20th, 2019). When the men returned, the women were expected to give up the jobs that they had been working. Women were expected to quit with no questions asked and return home.

5. Suburbs of the Post War Boom.

Week 8: What Kind of Nation? THE POSTWAR BOOM (Marth 13th)



Detroit, Michigan, February 1942; Available on:

<https://medium.com/@DmitriMehlhorn/a-requiem-for-blockbusting-68152244e77a>

With the end of the war came a boom of money and people. These booms gave birth to suburbanization. One of the greatest examples is Levittown, a suburb. Each house was eerily similar and all located close together. One was able to give their neighbor sugar with ease (Journalist Describes Levittown, 1948). These suburbs had large homes on little land and created a need for cars so people could travel to and from work after moving from the cities (Crash Course #39: Civil Rights and The 1950s). With this growth came intense segregation in suburbs. As the picture shows, minorities were discriminated against when finding housing, and sometimes not just for their skin color. There were also cases of income segregation due to the pricing of homes to keep minorities out, thus leaving out lower class people. With this came blockbusting, a “tool” that realtors would use. They would spread lies through white communities saying that an African American family was moving in to create fear of dropping house values. They could then buy the houses for cheap and fast and then turn around a sell them for a greater profit (The Postwar Boom, March 13th, 2019).

6. The inequality within movements fighting for equality.

Week 9: Free to Be You and Me? THE BLACK FREEDOM MOVEMENT and SOCIAL MOVEMENTS OF THE LATE 20TH C. (March 18th and 20th)

and

Week 10: What are Women's Rights? FEMINISM AND WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS (March 27th)



Women's liberation movement in Washington, DC, August 26, 1970, Don Carl; Available on: <https://www.vox.com/2018/3/20/16955588/feminism-waves-explained-first-second-third-fourth>

Through the decades, there have been many movements and fights for equality. **Civil Rights, Chicano, Native American, Gay Rights, and the Feminist movement name just a few**(Crash Course #40: 1960s in America). While these movements were fighting for equality, they were inherently unequal to their members. Within the Civil Rights movement, African American women were often forgotten about, left to sweep up after the events rather than speak. **During the Feminist movement, it was often the same as African American and other minority women were forgotten. African Americans and gay people were left out of movements that were meant to help them (Feminism and Women's Movements, March 27th, 2019). They were held under "double oppression", being racial minorities in addition to gender minorities (The Double Oppression of Mexican-American Women, 1972).** While this photo shows many different races of women fighting for equality, it was not often the case. For example, while women fought for equality in the Feminist movement, they were only fighting for themselves. They often did not stand for lesbians, because their participation would make the group seem too radical.

7. The world we live in today, how much has changes and what remains.

Week 13: Operation Freedom? 9/11 AND THE WAR ON TERROR
and
Week 14 MASS INCARCERATION and TODAY



9/11 Memorial in New York; Available on:

<https://www.911memorial.org/blog/year-review-2017-911-memorial-museum>

We have come a long way from the world where we began. While there is less inequality, there is still a great amount. Everyone has the right to vote, but if you do not have a photo ID or a car to get to the polling locations, you can not really vote. Similarly, if you have been in jail before, you can not vote (9/11 and the War on Terror, April 17th, 2019). With 5% of the world's population but 25% of the world's prisoners, this takes a large chunk of potential voters out of our country (13th, 2016). This, along with gerrymandering, prevents voters from using their voices and opinions to influence the world they live in. After 9/11, Americans became afraid but protective and powerful. Our country became extremely nationalistic with 9/11 and America shirts and pins sold everywhere they went (The 9/11 Decade, The New York Times, 2011). This growth of nationalism has spurred hatred toward immigrants, especially Muslims. And while there may be more equality than there was, white women are still paid less than men. Women of color are paid even less than that. In the US today, it seems almost as though we are taking steps backwards with constant hate crimes and hatred towards minority groups. We should be thankful for the progress we have made but should also be making greater strides towards total equality.