

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

1. Minorities work well in Society



History of NASA (2017, October 2). In *National Woman's History Museum* . Retrieved from <https://www.womenshistory.org/exhibits/women-nasa>

This picture shows a group of women in an office. During this time, this was uncommon due to the harsh treatment against women and other minorities being allowed in the workplace. Even when having all of the same qualifications as the men, the minority candidate for the job would almost always be put aside and not hired because of their race or gender. Women, for example, had their lives ruled by standards set in place by men and society at the time. In the

film, *She's Beautiful When She's Angry* (2014), the movie mentions how “you [Women] couldn't have career aspirations. You couldn't decide not to have a child.” This quote stands out because it supports the idea that women couldn't work in the “real world” alongside men. Expectations such as the need to have children or serve their husband kept women from going out into society and following their true passions.

This picture also relates to women in male-dominant fields. Although the picture shows all women, these women worked for NASA, a predominantly male field/organization. In the series, *Makers: Women who make America* (2014), the episode “Women in Space” talks about the many struggles women have faced while contributing to the space force. Even when they were right about their findings, men would always put them down and consider them less than, even when they were, in fact, smarter than the men. Though women went through these many struggles, they overcame all of them and stood up for their abilities in the workplace. Feminist movements, such as the Bread and Roses group (Primary Source: *Bread and Roses*, 1970), that helped prove their worth. This committee focused on providing women with standards that they should expect society to abide by. Much like the women in this picture, the Bread and Roses committee stood for “women participating in the economy” and “an end to sex discrimination by job definition.” If there were no expectations put in place for women, or other minorities, then there would be more opportunity for everyone equally, instead of the deciding factor being race or sex.

2. Minorities Should be Protected



Taylor, A. (2014, May 28). 1964: Civil Rights Battles. In *The Atlantic*. Retrieved from <https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2014/05/1964-civil-rights-battles/100744/>

Throughout history, minorities have been targeted due to their differences in race, sex, culture, and many other factors that made them different. This picture shows a woman of color being handled by officers in an aggressive way because she stayed at a riot for too long. In the 1960's, people of color were arrested and/or called out by police for minor issues. This aggressive attitude has stemmed from prior actions towards not only people of color, but all minorities, because of the history of America. Even though America is known as "the melting pot," it has always been a place of discrimination against minorities, such as people of color. In the film, *Who's History?* (2018), the people talk about the efforts to bring down monuments in Tennessee. These monuments honored previous slave owners, abusers, and other terrible historical figures for their roles in society, which has led to black oppression now. Also, in *An Outrage* (2017), the documentary focuses on the horrible treatment towards people of color in the south and the lynchings that went on there. The lynchings were done without offering the person a trial and went straight to killing for no reason most of the time. In *Lynch Law in Georgia* (1899), Ida B. Wells talks about the terrible treatment and lynchings that went on during that time. The document mentions a note left on a body that read "beware all darkies. You will be treated the same way," which implied that they would be lynched in the same way that person had been. This treatment would never happen to a white male and should never happen to any minority. This type of treatment has gone on for way too long and as seen in the documents mentioned it has been happening for usually no reason.

3. Cultures Should Be Accepted



Burr, B. (2015). This explains how the parents handle a out burst. In *thinglink*. Retrieved from <https://www.thinglink.com/scene/696385308706471936>

This picture shows people connecting arms despite the obvious race difference. It is a powerful image that promotes inclusion and equality in society, something that the United States has lacked in history. In *(MP - Montoya, The Frontier as a Place of Global Competition and Gender Redefinition)*, the author talks about how different it was at that time. It was anything but this picture, actually. Native Americans were sent away from their homes and forced to abide by American standards, despite this land supposedly being a melting pot for all cultures to safely blend. Also, in *Crash Course #24 (Crash Course #24: Westward Expansion)*, the host talks about how westward expansion destroyed most of the vivid culture that was present in the west. This was also talked about in *Rules for Indian Boarding Schools (1890)*, when it talks about how the children were taken from their families and forced to change from their cultures. The students at these boarding schools would be forced to change everything from their hair, language, way of thinking, clothing, and much more in an effort to get rid of the Native American way of life. This was all done so the new Americans could take over and make their land more “normal.” As stated earlier, the United States is known as “the melting pot” and this type of treatment didn’t meet the standards of what that meant.

4. Everyone Deserves Proper Working Conditions



Scott, M. (2019, March 25). Many Women Who Died in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire of 1911 Were Young Immigrants. In *teenvogue*. Retrieved from <https://www.teenvogue.com/story/women-died-in-the-triangle-shirtwaist-factory-fire-were-young-immigrants>

The picture above shows women at work in the Triangle Shirtwaist factory in New York. In the picture, there is a clear violation of working conditions. These conditions were not uncommon for a primarily female workplace, as they were just happy to have some sort of job and didn't care about the environment in which they were working in. This led to many issues including the fire that broke out in this building. In *The Triangle Shirtwaist Film (2017)*, the video talks about the events leading up to the fire. Things like not being able to eat or drink, elevators being locked, and close working conditions were all hazards as the building was not prepared for women or any human to be working that long and hard. Also, in **McGerr - Class, Gender, and Race at Home: The American Birthplace of Progressivism**, this article talks about the movement to get women out into the workplace, but never talks about the necessary conditions for it to be safe. In *The Conditions at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company*, the article talks about how terrible everything was, including the use of child labor. Despite all of that, the fire broke out and people were trapped because of the forced closure in the building (elevators being shut down during the day, staircases far too small for people to get down or doors locked). These conditions were never to be used again because of the huge death toll that came from this fire.

5. Everyone Deserves Respect at Home



Morris and Libby Stark Hament and children, ~1930 (n.d.). In *Genealogy*. Retrieved from <https://www.genealogy.com/fm/s/p/i/Richard-B-Spinak/PHOTO/0017photo.html>

The picture above shows a family that looks to be happy and normal. At this time, though, the women of the family were treated as slaves essentially, working in the house in preparation for the male to come home to her. In **Crash Course #31: Women's Suffrage**, the host talks about how different society was back then and the movement that sparked women's interest in being part of society. For a long time, women were expected to serve their husband and take care of the children. At this point in time, women were starting to realize that they deserve a place in society outside of the home. In **Crash Course #32**, the host talks about the changes that were being made to society as women started to enter it. It is amazing to see that women aren't treated as much as a slave at home and started bringing in money and voting. *Happiness in Marriage (1926)* talks about the pressure that was put on women at this time to serve the man and make him feel special. There was no standard for the male to reciprocate the actions, but it was just a one-way interaction. The man got what he wanted and the woman would shut up and do whatever he said. This kind of treatment evolved into women starting to stick up for themselves and their rights (feminist movements).

6. Minorities Should Not be Segregated



Sit-ins in Greensboro (n.d.). In *Digital Gateway*. Retrieved from <https://snccdigital.org/events/sit-ins-greensboro/>

This picture shows four men of color protesting in a restaurant peacefully. This kind of action sparked outrage for many southern Americans as it demonstrated the power the white community feared: black rebellion against them. Over time, people of color were segregated into worse conditions (water fountains, restaurants, housing, education, etc) for their everyday life for no reason. White people thought that keeping them in worse situations would keep them below them. In [Crash Course #40: The 1960s in America](#), the host talks about the struggles that went on (primarily in the south) dealing with people of color. These “sit-ins” became a popular form of peaceful rebellion and it led to even more issues between the authorities and the African American communities. In [MP - Cmiel, Sixties Liberalism and the Revolution in Manners, 408](#), the author talks about the sit-ins and how harmless they were to the community. It was only that the people of color were trying to desegregate the white areas and show that they deserve as much as they do. The article [Bigger than a Hamburger](#) talks more about the sit-ins and how the people of color saw them as a peaceful way of showing their feelings about the treatment. After these movements, the segregation has improved drastically and there is no racial separation in public places (for the most part), but this treatment went on for years and remnants still remain because of the amount of time it was present in society.

7. Everyone Deserves the Right to their Bodies



Robinson, W. (2017, June 19). I'm a Mom and I'm Getting an Abortion. In *cafemom*. Retrieved from https://thestir.cafemom.com/being_a_mom/202895/married_mom_getting_abortion

This picture shows a woman in a hospital gown about to get an abortion. While this is a controversial topic, the idea of a woman having control over her life and body is, for some reason, still an issue for many people. In *Roe v. Wade, Part 2: The Culture Wars (2018)*, the podcast talks about how difficult it still is for woman to go get an abortion in Mississippi. Being a southern state, the process is much harder and more unnecessary due to the popular belief there that everyone should be “pro-life” and let the mother give birth, despite their opinions on having a child in their stomach for nine months.

In the podcast, *The GOP (2016)*, the men talk about the history of the Republican party in and how it has evolved by following more southern ideals. In the beginning, they talk about slavery and how Abraham Lincoln tried to abolish it due to the inhumane treatment towards those people and their bodies. The slaves had no rights to their bodies essentially as they were seen as “property” to their owners. This is similar to the idea of a married couple in the 70s. In *The Total Woman (1973)*, the author talks about how the husband in the relationship wants to come home to a wife that is in makeup and looking perfect for him. He wants her to be ready for him to have sex with her regardless of her feelings about it that day. The author also talks about how the wife needs to keep the husband on his toes, as he needs excitement from her body and looks, so don't get into a routine of being comfortable. This kind of treatment has let to women not having control over their bodies as it was normalized to let men “have their way” with their wives at some point in history.