

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

1) Former slaves were faced with discrimination both by defacto and dejure discrimination soon after slavery was abolished.

-Week 2: The New South and Lynching



KKK Protest Against African Americans found at <http://scalar.usc.edu/works/the-best-selling-novel-currents-in-american-culture/the-history-of-violence-against-slaves>

After slavery was abolished by the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments, many former slaves still faced major discrimination and had less rights than white men. With the use of sharecropping, many former slaves felt like they were back at square one (**Crash Course: Reconstruction**). Since they worked the land and only kept a small fraction of what they made, many felt it was an unfair system allowed by the government, but there was not a way out since many employers would not hire former slaves. In many cases, former slaves were lynched simply because of fear (Who's history? The reckoning over Confederate Monuments and the Racial Terror of Lynching). Even though most of these cases were false, many former slaves were not given a fair trial or a trial at all. This stemmed from the idea that America is a white nation, so people who were white had the power over African Americans. ("**Lynch Law in Georgia**" by Ida B. Wells (1899)).

2) Immigrants during the late 1700s were faced with racism even though many of them were from Europe.

-Week 3: A Melting Pot?



Immigrant Families coming through Ellis Island found at <https://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/ellis-island-history>

While the US was growing as a result of an Industrial Revolution, the population was also growing. With more job opportunity, many immigrant from many countries began to come to the US for a better life. While there were many immigrants from Europe that faced discrimination, many Chinese immigrants also faced discrimination from fellow Americans. They also faced poor conditions and violence (“Life of a Chinese Immigrant” Chew (1903)) in addition to not being able to find jobs better than working in mines or railroads (Immigration, Jan. 30th, 2019). In the west, there wasn’t just Chinese Immigrants working and living, there was every race and religion working together. This caused conflicts between groups and laid the bricks for racial stereotypes (Limerick: The Frontier as a Place of Ethnic and Religious Conflict). In addition, in 1882 the United States passed the Chinese Exclusion Act which prevented Chinese immigrants from coming to the US.

3) The Women’s Suffrage movement fought to get women the right to vote.

-Week 5: Social Freedom?



Suffragettes protest for the right to vote. Found at <https://www.aclumaine.org/en/news/celebrate-womens-suffrage-dont-whitewash-movements-racism>

In the early 1900s, the women's suffrage movement began to pick up speed again after it had taken a nosedive after the civil war. Some states in the west had allowed women to vote as early as 1869, and many women wanted that right to spread eastward ([Women's Suffrage, Feb. 13th, 2019](#)). Some women felt that they had to take extreme measures to get the right to vote, but they were faced with police force and many of them were thrown in jail where they continued to resist and dying from starvation (Iron Jawed Angels). In 1920, women got the right vote after hundreds of years of fighting for the right to vote (["The Remonstrance" \(1909\)](#)).

4) World War II gave more rights to women and African Americans, but took away rights from Japanese citizens.

-Week 6: More Freedom at Home and Abroad?



Forced Internment of Japanese Americans found at <https://eji.org/history-racial-injustice-forced-internment-of-japanese-americans>

During World War II, the United States became increasingly fearful of Japanese Americans because of the attack on Pearl Harbor. To combat this fear, anyone in the West that was from Japan should be removed and put into internment camps. Many tried to make it seem like home by adding pictures and keepsakes (World War II, Feb. 22nd, 2019). On the flip side, many women were finding jobs in factories while the men were out fighting (Crash Course #36: World War II Part 2: The Homefront). Many African Americans were also finding that even though they could fight in the war, they were in segregated units, and they wanted the units to be equal. After the effects of the Great Depression, many families had to find a new normal (Family Life (1939)) while also adjusting to the wartime efforts which included rationing of food and materials along with possibly having one or both parents out of the house.

5) The Cold War spawned fear of communism in the government which led to lavender scare.

-Week 8: What Kind of Nation?



Anti-homosexual rally found at <https://www.cinemastlouis.org/qfest/lavender-scare>

During the Cold War, a list of suspected communists was released to the public and many of those people were also suspected homosexuals so many citizens assumed that homosexuals were also communists. As a result, many people who were suspected to be homosexual were faced with shock and conversion therapy ([The Cold War. March, 11th, 2019](#)). The lavender scare was allowed due to a law passed in 1950 meant to purge federal employees of homosexuals ([Crash Course #37: The Cold War](#)). Ironically, in 1947 the Truman Doctrine was passed to help maintain the rights of American citizens during wars; however, for many people suspected of being homosexual had many of their rights taken away ([Truman: The Truman Doctrine \(1947\)](#)).

6) The Black Freedom Movement was meant with violence after they practiced their right to protest.

-Week 9: Free to be You and Me?



A peaceful protester met with police dogs and violence. Found at <https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2013/06/18/193128475/how-the-civil-rights-movement-was-covered-in-birmingham>

The Black Freedom Movement (BFM) was a peaceful and non-violent group that protested for equal rights such as voting, equal income and social equality. In Birmingham, AL the BFM conducted a peaceful protest with the intention to get arrested with civil disobedients. However, Bull Connor made the order to turn on fire hoses and let loose police dogs to attack

the protesters ([The Black Freedom Movement. March 18th, 2019](#)). Even though the protest was within their rights, they were met with violence and had the right to protest taken away. This showed the country what horrors the BFM was being faced with and led to the government having increased pressure to pass the Civil Rights Acts which was indeed passed in 1964 ([Crash Course #40: 1960's in America](#)). In addition, seeing the protests turn violent caused many BFM members to turn to violence and want to start protesting violently. Leaders such as Malcolm X wanted to turn to this type of protesting because they thought that being peaceful wasn't getting anything done ([Carmichael and Hamilton "Black Power" 1967](#)).

7) After Women gained the right to vote, the concern shifted to women working outside the home and getting equal pay

-Week 10: What Are Women's Rights?



A feminist movement march for the right to their own bodies. Found at <https://csw.ucla.edu/cswresearch/past-projects/womens-social-movement-activities-in-los-angeles/>

The Feminist Movement in the 1960s was trying to get equal pay, abortions, birth control, etc. In addition, some feminists also were fighting for minority rights since the movement was so diverse. ([Feminism and Women's Movement. March 27th, 2019](#)) Another big argument was help with child care and housework since many women were still expected to do all the housework even if they had a job ([The Politics of Housework. 1968](#)). Many women felt it was wrong that men should be in control of their bodies even though they don't understand the female body (*She's Beautiful When She's Angry*).