

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

1. During the Black Freedom Movement, African American were met with cruel tactics such as, attack dogs and water hoses as they were peacefully protesting.

The Black Freedom Movement. October 21, 2019



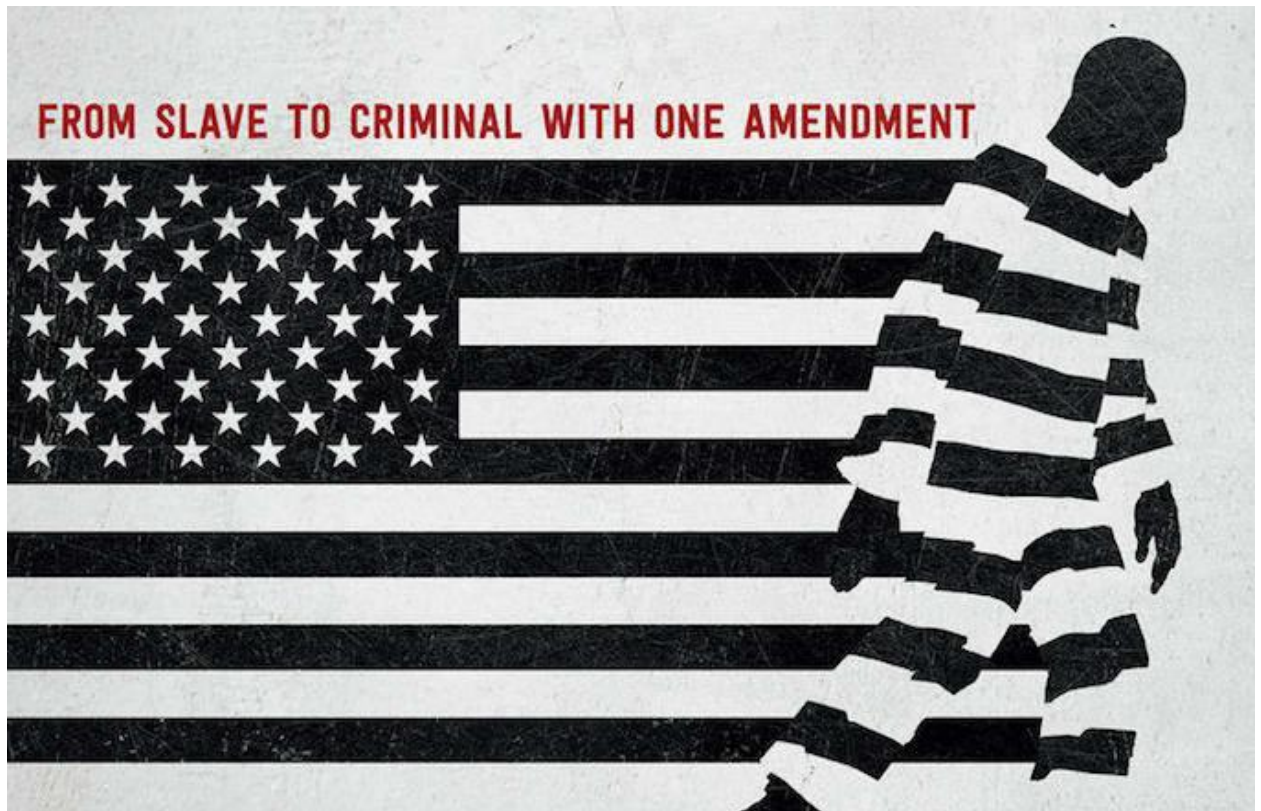
“Civil rights campaigners beaten on first Selma march, Date Taken”: March 7, 1965, Date Accessed: December 8, 2019, Website: <https://home.bt.com/news/world-news/march-7-1965-civil-rights-campaigners-beaten-on-first-selma-march-11363966337014>

This picture displays nonviolent peaceful protesters experiencing police brutality. This picture relates to my topic on inequality because after reconstruction the changes made to the south began to disintegrate. The Black Freedom movement used civil disobedience to address issues of segregated facilities, unequal housing, and voting discrimination ([The Black Freedom Movement, October 21, 2019](#)). The use of nonviolent protest led to African American being beaten, attack by police dogs, and water hoses. However, since they were using these nonviolent tactics this brought more public attention and more protesters wanting to join the marches. Also, during this time period there was a lot of children joining these marches and seeing children being arrested and beaten in a peaceful protest led to

more media coverage, allowing public opinion to change. One of the biggest victories was Lyndon B Johnson decided to become an advocate for civil rights and he was an advocate for the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Gavin Mackenzie and Robert Weisbrot, *The Liberal Hour: Top Down Determination*). However, this victory was short lived because of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. This led to a shift from civil disobedience to Black Power. The frustration of African Americans had built up over the years leading them to the message that they needed to fight back (Carmichael & Hamilton, *Black Power 1967*). Furthermore, all the violence, hatred, and frustration had led to the African American class to always be viewed by their race as they continue to face injustices and intimidation practices in modern day America.

2. After the occupation of the South, African Americans were arrested for frivolous crimes because of a loophole in the thirteenth amendment.

Mass Incarceration. November 25, 2019.



Dan Banger, "Mass Incarceration and its mystification: A Review of the 13th amendment", Date Accessed: December 8, 2019, Website:<https://www.aaihs.org/mass-incarceration-and-its-mystification-a-review-of-the-13th/>

In this picture an African American male is being depicted as never being free from the slavery system, because of a loophole in the thirteen amendment. This picture relates to

my topic because the thirteen amendment is viewed as a liberating amendment that saved African Americans from slaves, however this amendment just allowed for African American to be jailed into a massive prison system as another form of slavery. This picture represents my topic of inequality, because African American since 1877 to present modern times have never been able to escape their tragic lives of being held captive as the rich class makes a profit from their labor ([The 13th October 24, 2019](#)). In the thirteen amendment there is a loophole clause that states a person is free, except in the case of punishment for a crime ([The 13th amendment](#)). After reconstruction, African Americans were arrested by the masses for minor crimes. Also, because of African American being arrested at an increasing rate, this allowed for Jim Crow to take place, and started the idea of African Americans being viewed as a second-class rate. Also, the first block buster film *Birth of a Nation* was shown to further display African Americans as animal-like creature ([Birth of a Nation, October 24, 2019](#)). Ricard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, and Bill Clinton all contributed to the increases of mass incarceration. Nixon and Reagan started the idea for “law and order” to further deprive African Americans to their basic rights. These highest rates of Mass Incarceration are shown during the “war on drugs” era throughout American History. The war on drugs further contributed to African Americans being sentenced to jail for longer sentences. Mass Incarceration has taken on another form of slavery as one and three African American males will be sent to prison in their lifetime.

3. During the 1920s women had to fight against social constructs of traditional gender votes, by demanding their right to vote.

Feminism and Women’s Movement October 28, 2019.



”Picketing the White House”, Library of Congress/Records of the National Women’s Party, Date Taken: 1916, Date Accessed: December 8, 2019. Website:

<https://www.whitehousehistory.org/picketing-the-white-house>

In this picture women are picketing to criticize the Wilson administration by demanding their right to vote. This picture represents the struggles women went through to receive the right to vote. Furthermore, women were not just protesting the right to vote, but they were also fighting for equal pay, shared housework, and for housework to be legitimized to receive pay ([Declaration for Women's Independence](#)). During this time the suffrage movement was being criticized in the media for picketing a war time president ([She's Beautiful When She's Angry, October 28, 2019](#)). However, the suffrage movement did not let negativity defer them as they continued to voice their opinions. Suffragist leaders like Alice Paul went on hungry strikes to show the public how serious women were about moving away from traditional ideas that a woman was just supposed to be a mother and wife ([Women's Suffrage October 28, 2019](#)). Although, during this time period when women were going on hungry strikes, they were often force fed in prison. This inhuman act towards women gained serious media attention, and because of the backlash President Wilson was forced into influencing congress about the women's right to vote. Ultimately, women gained the right to vote because of the 19th amendment. However, women are still demanding to be more than sexual objects and be treated as equal to men in the workplace.

4. The Gay Rights Movement had to fight against police raids and sodomy laws in the 1960s.

Social Movements of the late 20th century, October 23, 2019.



New York Public Library, Date Published: 1969, Date Accessed December 8, 2019, Website: <https://allthatsinteresting.com/gay-rights-movement#5>

This picture displays how the gay liberation movement was protesting openly that it's okay to be gay. During this time period many Americans felt that being gay was not socially acceptable. For Example, a lot of people thought being gay was an emotional illness ([Chicago Gay Liberation Front "A leaflet for the American Medical Association, 1970](#)). This picture represents how the gay liberation movement refused to conform to societies standards. However, this was often meet with force such as, the stonewall cafe riot ([Social Movement, October 23rd, 2019](#)). This led to the police breaking up gay bars to oppress the gay power movement ([Crash Course #40: The 1960s in America](#)). Also, society tried to further oppress the gay power movement by stating being gay would ruin future generations and make it harder for gays to be happy in society. With many Americans believing that being gay was a psychiatric illness and that being gay would corrupt the youth many Americans did not support the gay power movement. However, the gay power movement continued to march and protest these events to commemorate the stonewall riot. Even though, the gay liberation movement has had some victories they continue to face job discrimination and continue to hide their sexuality because of the fear of being judge by society.

5. During the Industrialization Era many workers lost their lives to unsafe working conditions that caused a need for social reform.

Social Reform September 16, 2019.



Hulton Archire, Date Published: March 25, 1911, Date Accessed: March 25, 1911, Website: <https://time.com/4259728/triangle-shirtwaist-factory-fire-photos/>

This picture shows the aftermath of the Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire. This factory most had young teenage girls working for the company. A fire broke out at the end of the workday and five hundred workers became trapped, because the managers locked the doors to keep the union workers out (Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire). After, the fire one hundred and forty-six teenage girls as young as fourteen had been killed in the fire. The managers of the company failed to take responsibly for their actions because the workers were just immigrant girls. The managers were not held responsible by the city because there were no laws to ensure workers safety. They young girls died because they worked in unsafe conditions just to be able to provide for their families. These young girls died because they had no choice but to work in these conditions for low wages (Conditions at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company, Pauline Newmart et al, 1911). During, this time period many factory bosses only cared about how richer they were getting and failed to value their workers. This further contributed to the gap between the upper class and the lower class. Workers often must deal with barley making enough to provided for their families, low wages, layoffs, workplace accidents, and early deaths because of these inhuman working conditions (Michael McGerr, Class, Gender, and Race at Home: The American Birthplace of Progressivism).

6. After the Bargain of 1877, the south reverted back to inhumane tactics against African Americans such as, Jim Crow and lynching practices.

The New South & Lynching September 4, 2019.



“Miss Jane Pittman Gets A Drink,” CBS Photo Archive/Getty Images, Date Published: 1974, Date Accessed: December 8, 2019. Website: <https://www.gettyimages.com/detail/news-photo/american-actress-cicely-tyson-takes-a-drink-from-a-whites-news-photo/53017191>

This picture shows an African American woman defying segregation laws by drinking out of a white only water fountain. Also, in the picture you can see police standing behind her ready to act and put her in jail. After, reconstruction the redeemers wanted to take back the south and justified this by stating they were saving the south from “misrule and corruption” ([The New South and Lynching, September 4th, 2019](#)). The redeemers enacted Jim Crow laws and put disenfranchisement practices in place to keep African Americans from voting. Also, during this time many southerners came up with the rape myth that led to lynching in the south becoming an acceptable social norm ([Anti-Lynching Cartoon on the Costigan Wagner Bill, 1930s](#)). As the rape myth continued many innocent African Americans were found guilty and terrorized by angry white mobs ([Whose History? The Reckoning over Confederate Monuments and Racial Terror of Lynching](#)). Many lynchings during this time period went undocumented as African Americans faced the horrors of angry white men. The racial prejudice of the south remains today as almost seven hundred confederate statues remain standing. The inhuman acts of lynching and Jim Crow still surround that south as many struggle to accept that these practices took place and many African Americans still struggle with this grief.

7. Native American children were ripped away from their families and tribal lands to be assimilated into American culture at boarding schools.

Immigration September 11, 2019.



Thomas Moore, National Public Radio, Date Published: 1945, Date Accessed: December 8, 2019, Website: <https://joshuastruth.com/2018/08/10/a-look-in-history-native-american-boarding-schools/>

This picture represents how America ripped Native American children away from their homes and tribal lands. This picture shows how Native American children were forced to give up their lifestyles to assimilate into American culture. The Native American children were forced into boarding schools away from their parents. They were forced to go to church every day and had to learn to speak English ([Rules for Indian Boarding Schools, 1890](#)). Also, there were forced to give up their clothes, tribal names, and family connection to join white American societies ([Crash Course #24, Westward Expansion](#)). The Government forced Native Americans from their lands and onto reservations so they could expand the economy westward ([Native Americans & The West, September 9th, 2019](#)). While the government was ripping families apart, they justified their actions stating that they just wanted Native Americans to assimilate to America's socially acceptable standards. They wanted Native Americans to accept Christianity and become a part of American society. America failed to recognize these tactics would be so damaging to Native American Culture. Native Americans were forced to leave their homes and watch their children be taken away just because America was greedy for more land and money.