

BLACK DISCRIMINATION

Historical facts:

The Apartheid was a system of institutionalized racial segregation that existed in South Africa from 1948 until the early 1990s. South Africa was dominated politically, socially, and economically by the nation's minority white population. Nelson Mandela fought all his life against the Apartheid and won by becoming president of South Africa.

Nelson Mandela: After several years of struggle against apartheid, arrests and trials, Nelson Mandela was sentenced in 1964 with seven of his companions to life imprisonment for sabotage, treason and conspiracy. Throughout his captivity, he refused to be released against the public renunciation of the anti-apartheid struggle. Nelson Mandela was finally released on February 11, 1990 after spending 27 and a half years in prison.

In 1993, he received the Nobel Peace Prize.

Black Lives Matter is a political and social movement protesting incidents of police brutality and all racially motivated violence against black people. The movement began in 2013 after George Zimmerman was acquitted in the shooting death of an African-American teenager. BLM came back and gained more international attention during the 2020 global George Floyd protests after he was killed in Minneapolis by a police officer. It is estimated that around 25 million people took part in the 2020 Black Lives Matter protests in the United States, making it one of the largest movements in the country's history.

Jim Crow laws were state and local laws that enforced racial discrimination in the South of the US. All were enacted in the late 19th and early 20th centuries by white Democratic-dominated state legislatures. (ex: *"It shall be unlawful for a negro and white person to play together or in company with each other at any game of pool or billiards."*)

1861-1865: the US civil War between the North (Union) and the South (the confederacy)

1965: abolition of slavery by the 13th amendment to the constitution adopted by Abraham Lincoln

1955: Rosa Parks refuse to give up her seat: civil rights movement by Martin Luther King a black minister and activist (nonviolence)

1963: "I have a dream" speech by MLK

1964: The civil rights act: banned discrimination based on "race, sex color or national origin"

2014: The Ferguson Riots: a series of protests began after the fatal shooting of a young black man, Michael Brown.

2020: The death of Georges Floyd: "I can't breathe": universal fear (lack of air) units all human being (sentence very important)

Examples of Black discrimination today:

Systemic racism: it's a type of racism that appears across institutions and society it can be found in sector such as employment, housing... That is embedded as normal practice within society or an organization.

Criminal justice:

Police and criminal justice systems are still heavily biased against Afro-Americans:

- 1/3 black baby born today is expected to go to jail during his lifetime

- Black men are 6 times more likely to go to jail than white men for committing the same offense

-BLM and George Floyd. Minneapolis police officers arrested George Floyd. footage of the arrest shows a white police officers kneeling on Floyd's neck while pinned to the floor. He was dead: this unjustified murder led to a wave of riots in the country. Some went to demonstrate at the White House. D. Trump, who was then President, took refuge in a bunker.

- During the BLM demonstrations: people took down the statu of a 17th century slave trader in Bristol.

Employment:

African Americans Face Systematic Obstacles to Getting Good Jobs. They continue to face systematically higher unemployment rates, fewer job opportunities, lower pay, poorer benefits, and greater job instability.

Housing:

Most still live-in disadvantage inner-cities such as the notorious Watts neighborhood in LA and South Side in Chicago where underemployment, drug abuse and violence are endemic

Health care:

Infant mortality rates are higher among African-American

Black Americans died of Covid-19 at 3 times the rate of white people in the US: they are more affected by diabetes, obesity because they cannot afford healthy food and a good health coverage.

Political power:

Until 2009, Black personalities were underrepresented in the US political system while they represent 12% of the American population. First women vice president: Kamela Harris. America will have as its first Black and South Asian-American vice president.

Colin Powell: Former Chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff He died on October 18, 2021. He will be remembered as the first African American to have served as National Security Advisor, Chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and head of American diplomacy.

Education:

Many are still uneducated largely because of underfunded education system

Culture:

In 2018, Marvel released its first movie putting forward a black superhero, embodied by Chadwick Boseman.

In 2022: The black poet Maya Angelou depicted on the 25 cent coins, the most widely-used coins in the United States. This is the first time that a non-collectible American coin or banknote has depicted an African American woman.

Other facts:

Single-parent families are disproportionately common among them

Has racial discrimination disappeared?

Are Laws the most efficient tools to protect Black people's rights?

Is post racial America still a dream today?

How can companies work in the fight against racism?

Vocabulary:

Systemic racism

Apartheid

Segregation

Police blunder

Protests

Demonstrations

Drug abuse

inner-city areas: quartier défavorisés

choke: étouffer

segregation

to demonstrate

a manslaughter = un homicide volontaire

white supremacy

a minority

to be biased

bias: prejudice, préjugé

minister: Pasteur

polls: sondage