

# US History (2016)

(Q5)

What factors led Blacks to start the Civil Rights Movements? Discuss the role of Courts and State in giving rights to the Blacks.

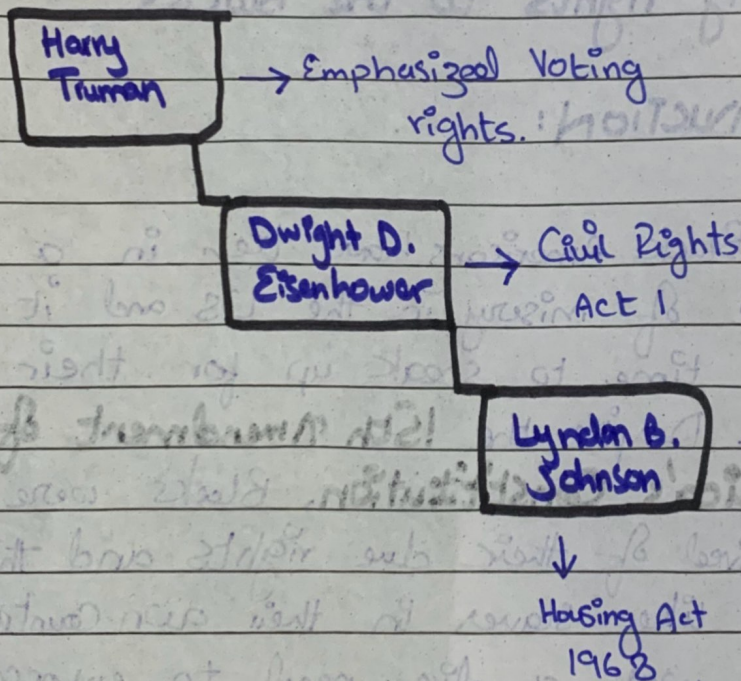
## INTRODUCTION:

The Black Americans have been in a state of misery in the US and it was time to speak up for their rights. Despite the 15th Amendment of America's Constitution, Blacks were deprived of their due rights and they lived like slaves in their own country. There was a dire need to enforce the 15th Amendment along with other legislations to prevent **Black Movements** across the Country. Therefore a few leaders of the United States took measures to take Black Americans out of ~~or~~ misery. At the end of 19th Century, Blacks were given their

rights and civil rights movements came to an end.

Eminent Personalities which took steps to emancipate Black Americans:

There have been three eminent leaders who wanted to help the Blacks out and promote stability in the Country. Following are the Presidents who took actions for civil rights:



## BLACK CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENTS:

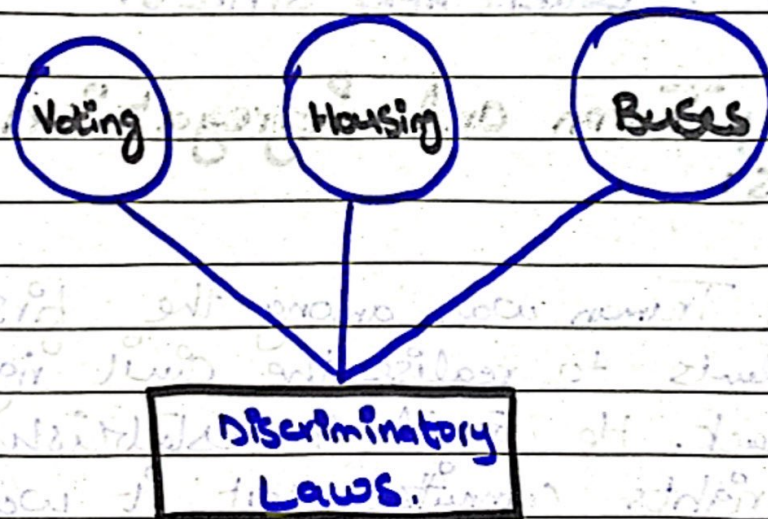
Rosa Parks and the Beginning of Civil Rights Movement:

Civil Rights Movement begin in 1950s

when **Rosa Park**, a black lady refused to give her seat to a white man. According to different scholars she got **arrested**. From this time onward, leaders like **Martin Luther King** emerged as a black leader and vowed to take steps to give Black people their rights.

### • **Laws of Segregation and Discrimination:**

Under the **Jim Crow Laws**, there was segregation between Whites and Blacks with respect to the following aspects:



Such kind of a law was enacted when **Rosa Park** refused to give her seat. Moreover, such laws were not implemented in the So North, but in the South.

- **The Bloody Sunday and Civil Rights Movement:**

When a Black activist was killed by a white police officer, people started to march against the inhumane act. According to the book, "A short History of the United States", around 600 people marched and the dissenting voices were shut by **shelling and violent beating** initiated by the American police.

### **Role of Courts and States:**

- **Harry Truman and Segregation Laws:**

Harry Truman was among the first Presidents to realise the civil rights of Black. He tried to establish a civil rights committee but it was **opposed by Southern Democrats**. However, after the incident of **Rosa Parks**, the **Supreme Court of US** declared the **Segregation law as unconstitutional**.

## • The Little Rock Nine Incident and Supreme Court of the US:

Before the incident, the Segregation laws were ~~made~~ declared unconstitutional. When Black students from a school in Little Rock Nine were nominated to join the Central High School, they were threatened by a mob and then Eisenhower sent federal troops to protect the Little Rock Nine. In case of the school even, the Supreme Court declared the Segregation laws as unconstitutional.

## • Civil Rights Act and Dwight D. Eisenhower:

After the incident, Eisenhower established a Civil Rights Committee to stop Segregation and give voting rights to the Black people. However, even after the incident, Black Civil rights movement continued and people were given rights by the time Cold War's detente period was about to begin.

## • Civil Rights Act 1957:

When Lyndon B. Johnson became the Prime Minister of the US, he signed the **Civil Rights Act** and it aimed to prevent any oppression against equal voting for both **Whites and Blacks**. The Civil rights act also aimed to end discrimination in hotels, as well.

## • Housing Act 1968:

Another step taken to emancipate Blacks was the introduction to **How Fair Housing Act 1968** in the constitution of the US. This prevented **discrimination** for in buying properties and houses. It was the last Act and civil rights movements came to an end.

## Conclusion:

The Civil Rights movement was accompanied by **brutal attacks** as well. However, after **Martin Luther King** got assassinated, **Black** people in the US got their rights back. &

Unluckily, the US sometimes still faces discrimination against the Blacks. In 2020, ~~For~~ George Floyd was humiliated by the police and got killed which triggered the emotions of Black people. Hence, it shows the apartheid system which, to some extent exists in the US. Martin Luther King said:

"I have a dream that my fair children will not be judged by the colour of their skin, but by the content of their character."