


Unit Resources - Glossary Terms from "Civil Rights"

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Glossary Terms from: 

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Bay of Pigs invasion

failed U.S.-led attempt to overthrow Cuban leader Fidel Castro's government in April 1961

Berlin Wall

a guarded wall built by East Germany to cut off access between West Berlin and East Berlin and other parts of East Germany, symbolizing the divide between Soviet-dominated eastern Europe and free western Europe

Black Panther Party

a political group founded in 1966 that fought against both capitalism and white racism

Black Power

a movement focused on the power of African Americans to unite as a political force

boycott

to protest by refusing to buy goods from or work with others

César Chávez

union leader who helped organize a boycott to help migrant farmworkers

Civil Rights Act of 1964

federal law that banned discrimination in public accommodations, aided schools in desegregation, prohibited federal funding of programs that permitted segregation, and barred certain kinds of discrimination in employment

Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)

civil rights organization that helped sponsor "freedom rides" in 1961

Congressional Bloc of Southern Democrats

a group of 18 southern Democratic senators and one Republican senator who attempted to block the Civil Rights Act of 1964

counterculture

a culture that develops in opposition to the dominant culture of a society

Cuban Missile Crisis

13-day standoff between the United States and the Soviet Union in October 1962 over the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba

Dixiecrats

conservative southern Democrats who opposed integration and the other goals of the African American civil rights movement

feminism

the idea that women and men should be treated equally in all areas of public life

flexible response

the Kennedy administration's military strategy that allowed for the possibility of responding to threats in a variety of ways, including counterinsurgency, conventional war, and nuclear strikes

freedom riders

volunteers who rode buses in the South to challenge segregated seating

George Wallace

governor of Alabama who ran for president in 1968 on a platform of segregation

Gideon v. Wainwright

landmark 1963 Supreme Court ruling that defendants in criminal trials who are unable to afford their own attorney have the right to a government-paid attorney

Great Society

Lyndon Johnson's plan to eliminate poverty and racial injustice in the United States and to improve the lives of all Americans

Immigration and Nationality Act (1965)

a law that significantly changed immigration policies, including lifting restrictions on origin countries, job skills, and family ties to the United States

James Meredith

African American student who attempted to enroll at the segregated University of Mississippi in 1962, leading to riots

John Fitzgerald Kennedy

the 35th president of the United States; served from 1961 until his assassination in November 1963

Lyndon Baines Johnson

the 36th president of the United States; served from November 1963 (after Kennedy's assassination) to January 1969

Malcolm X

civil rights leader who focused on African American empowerment

Mapp v. Ohio

landmark 1961 Supreme Court decision that evidence obtained illegally (without warrant or due process) cannot be used against a defendant in a court of law

Martin Luther King Jr.

civil rights leader who promoted peaceful change

Medicare

a federally funded health insurance program primarily for retired citizens older than 65

Miranda v. Arizona

landmark 1966 Supreme Court case that established Fifth Amendment protection against self-incrimination

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

civil rights organization formed in 1909 to fight for justice for African Americans

New Frontier

John F. Kennedy's vision of a new future of social and economic freedoms led by a younger, more energetic administration that challenged Americans to contribute and volunteer for the public good

Peace Corps

a federal volunteer program founded by the Kennedy administration that provides humanitarian aid throughout the world

Silent Spring

Rachel Carson's 1962 book that exposed the dangers of agricultural pesticides

sit-in

peaceful demonstration that involves sitting quietly in businesses that deny services based on race

Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)

organization led by Martin Luther King Jr. that mounted peaceful protests against segregation

space race

the Cold War competition between the United States and the Soviet Union in which each side rushed to develop a stronger space program than the other

Stokely Carmichael

advocate of Black Power and black separatism in the 1960s

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)

An organization that focused on student-led, peaceful demonstrations to protest segregation

Tinker v. Des Moines

landmark 1969 Supreme Court case that upheld the First Amendment rights of free speech and freedom of expression for public school students

Twenty-fourth Amendment

constitutional amendment that prohibited poll taxes for voters

United Farm Workers (UFW)

labor organization that helped fight for migrant farmworkers' rights

University of Mississippi

university where riots broke out in 1962 when an African American student attempted to enroll

Voting Rights Act of 1965

a federal law that prohibited states and local governments from passing laws that discriminated against voters on the basis of race

War on Poverty

Lyndon Johnson's plan to end poverty in the United States through the extension of federal benefits, job training programs, and funding for community development