

9.4

Federal Civil Rights Laws



As a Young Political Scientist, I will be able to...

- **Outline the history of civil rights legislation from Reconstruction to today.**
- **Explore the issues surrounding affirmative action.**

History of Civil Rights Laws

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Martin Luther King Jr. said “Judicial decrees may not change the heart, but they can restrain the heartless.”

1870s-1950s very little civil rights legislation passed due to majority of population unaware of the plight of minority groups

In 1957, the civil rights movement began to bring a number of issues to light

The background of the entire slide is a stylized, painterly representation of the United States flag. The stars in the upper left are white on a blue field, while the stripes in the lower right are red and white. The overall style is soft and artistic.

Civil Rights Act of 1964*

1. No person may be denied access to or refused service in public accommodations

2. No discrimination against any person on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, or physical disability

3. Forbids employers & labor unions to discriminate in job related matters

Civil Rights Act of 1968 said you cannot discriminate housing or rental matters & allowed criminal charges to those who violated civil rights laws

Government Policies

Title IX- Forbids discrimination on the basis of gender in any education program or education activity

How do you fix the scars of discrimination from the past?

Affirmative Action- Approach that employers take towards positive steps to remedy past discrimination

This applies to Government operations such as court juries or government offices

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Government Policies

Many institutions implement a quota system saying an establishment must have a % of a certain group

Reverse discrimination- Discrimination against the majority group

Many states now have laws that ban affirmative action programs

Does Affirmative Action fix problems we see today?