
Social Movements and Equal Protection

Protecting All Americans

(Rights under the 14th & 15th Amendments)



The Constitution



Later...

- Amendments and court rulings made the Bill of Rights apply to all people and all levels of government.
- The Civil War amendments—the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth—extended civil liberties to African Americans.

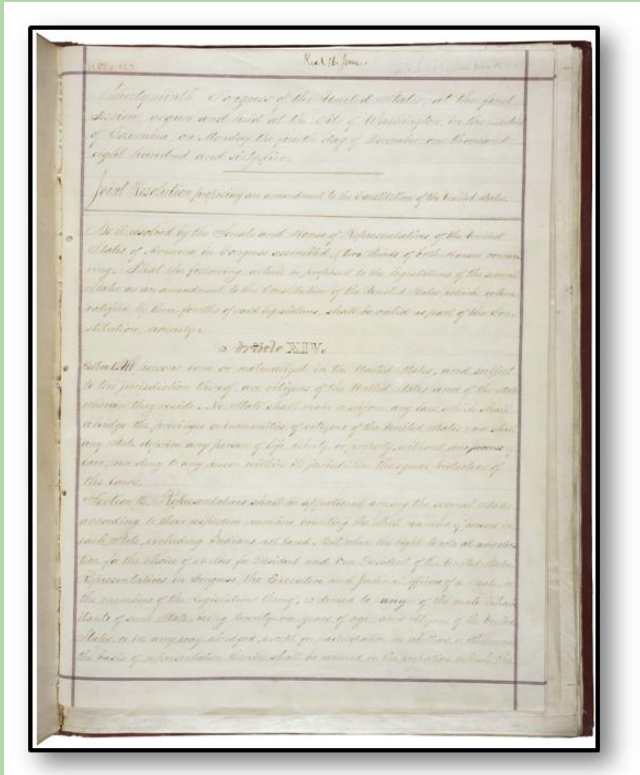


Protecting All Americans



- The greatest social effect of the Civil War was the creation of a new class of people—freed slaves.
 - Congress realized that some changes were needed to the Constitution, or else the Civil War would have been for nothing.
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14th Amendment (Original)



14th Amendment

- The 14th Amendment remedied this situation by defining citizens as anyone born or naturalized in the United States, which included African Americans.
- It required all states to grant citizens equal protection of the laws.

14th Amendment



- In order to be readmitted to the Union, Southern states had to accept two new amendments.
 - In 1868, the Fourteenth Amendment made all former slaves citizens of the United States.
 - It granted citizenship to all persons born in the United States, and it guaranteed all citizens equal rights under the law.
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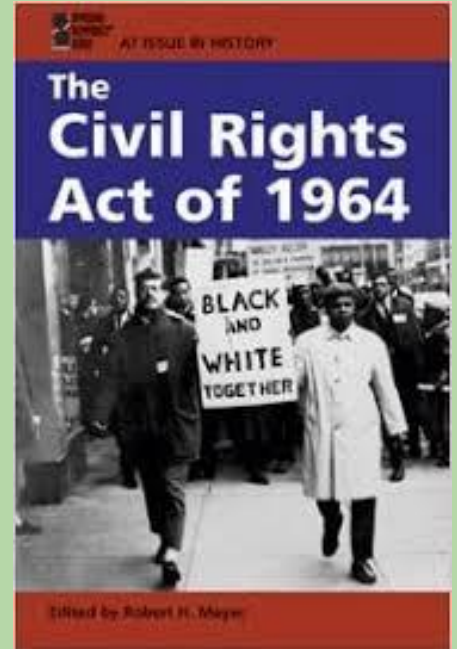
Civil Rights

Rights of individuals against discrimination based on race, national origin, religion, sex, ability, sexual orientation, age, or pregnancy.



Civil Rights Act of 1964

Legislation passed by Congress prohibiting segregation of public facilities, as well as discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, or national origin. The Civil Rights Act also created the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to enforce these provisions.



Protecting All Americans



Who benefits from the “equal protection” clause of the Fourteenth Amendment?



Movements for civil rights and social equality for African Americans, women, LGBTQ people, and other groups have based their challenges to discriminatory practices on the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.





Equal Protection Clause

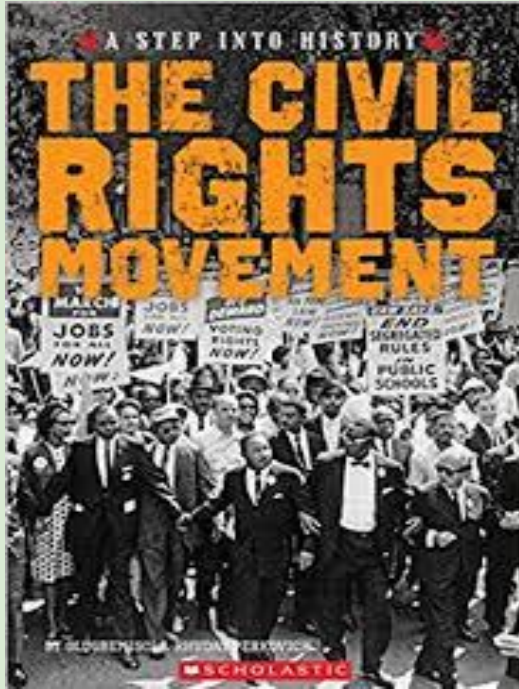
A clause of the Fourteenth Amendment stipulating that no state shall “deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.” The equal protection clause has served as the basis for most legal challenges to discrimination.

Due Process Clause

A clause of the Fourteenth Amendment stipulating that no state shall “deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law.” This clause aims to ensure that neither states nor the federal government infringe upon the rights of individuals without following proper legal procedures.



Protecting All Americans



Civil Rights Movement (1960s)

A movement, led by both grassroots and national civil rights organizations, to end segregation and other forms of discrimination against African American citizens.

Protecting All Americans

LGBTQ Movement

A civil rights movement which emerged in the 1970s, dedicated to combating legal restrictions on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transexual, and queer citizens on the basis of Fourteenth Amendment protections. Note that some advocate for using alternative acronyms, such as LGBTQIA+ and GSRM.



Protecting All Americans

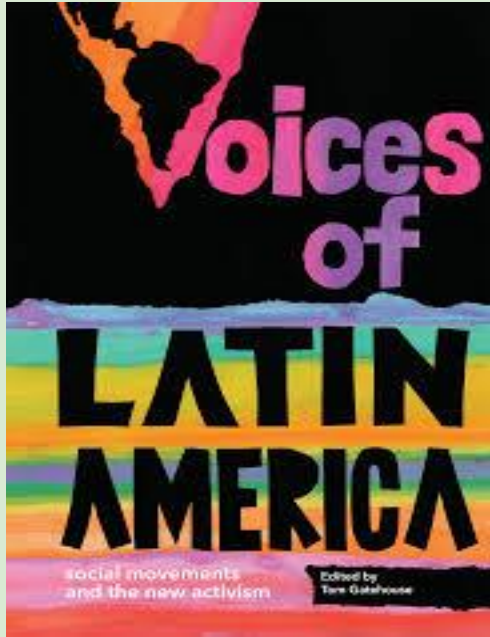
National Organization for Women (NOW)



An organization founded in 1960 with the goal of advancing the rights of women through legislative and legal challenges to sex discrimination.

Protecting All Americans

Latin American independence movements



A series of independence movements in the Americas in the late 1700s and early 1800s are sparked by the Enlightenment and conflict in Europe. This includes revolutions that will lead to the United States, Haiti, Mexico, Venezuela, Columbia, Panama, Bolivia, Peru, Equador, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil and Argentina.

Protecting All Americans

- The 15th Amendment says that no state may take away a person's voting rights on the basis of race, color, or previous enslavement.
 - It was intended to guarantee **suffrage**—the right to vote—to African Americans.
 - It applied only to men.
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15th Amendment



- In 1870, the Fifteenth Amendment declared that no citizen of the United States could be denied the right to vote on account of race, color, or previous servitude.
 - It granted the right to vote to all male citizens.
 - African Americans could now vote and run for office.
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Freedmen Voting in New Orleans, 1867



Protecting All Americans

The equal protection clause benefits not only African Americans for whom it was intended, but in recent years it has also been used to benefit women, people with disabilities, and other groups whose rights have not always been recognized.



It is important to remember that these amendments apply to all citizens.

They ensure equal protection of the law for people of all racial, ethnic, and religious groups.



Today, there are still struggles for equal protection. It is up to the courts to uphold the Constitution and the Bill of Rights as they hear cases dealing with discrimination

