

US History

Turn of Century America

Learning Target:

I can identify sources of racial discrimination at the turn of the century examine the impact of Plessy vs. Ferguson on discrimination.

6. Segregation & Discrimination

Racial Discrimination

Voting Restrictions

- All southern states put restrictions of voting for blacks
- Literacy tests were administered often in foreign languages; impossible to pass
- Poll taxes issued so blacks and poor whites could not afford to vote
- Grandfather clause stated if you failed test or could not afford to pay poll tax you could vote if your father or grandfather voted before Jan. 1, 1867

Jim Crow Laws

- Developed in 1870s and 1880s in the South
- Racial segregation laws to keep blacks & whites separate in public and private facilities
- Used in schools, hospitals, parks, and transportation systems

Plessy vs. Ferguson

- 1896 the Supreme Court heard this case to rule on segregation
- Homer Plessy refused to get up from a whites only seat on a train in New Orleans
- Established the doctrine of "separate but equal" to legalize segregation for 60 years

Racial Relations

Racial Etiquette

- Informal rules and customs on interaction between the races
- Never shake hands, blacks yield sidewalk, blacks remove hats for whites

Violence

- Blacks who did not follow the etiquette faced serious consequences
- 1882-1892 – 1400 blacks were lynched (shot, burned, or hanged without trial)

Northern Discrimination

- Forced into segregated neighborhoods
- Unions discouraged black membership, blacks hired last and fired first