

Of all the groups of people studied in this course, it is clear that African Americans had the most difficult time being accepted in America. They came to America by force as slaves for the American economy. They were treated cruelly and unfairly, more as property than actual people. They also had to overcome the marginalization they faced after the civil war. It wasn't until almost 100 years after the civil war and the civil rights movement that they were finally treated as equal citizens to whites. It is for all of these reasons that African Americans had the most difficult time of any group of people being accepted in America.

The African Americans came to America by force. Not only that, but they came to America through the Atlantic slave trade that had horrible conditions. "no sanitary facilities. Mortality rates from flu, dysentery, pleurisy, pneumonia, and smallpox skyrocketed." (Olson & Beal p. 96). As horrible as the trip west was, things didn't get much better once they landed in America. They were treated cruelly and unfairly. They were taken advantage of by their owners and could be sold and separated from their families. "White men sometimes sexually exploited black women...and family members could be sold separately at any time." (Olson & Beal p. 102). The conditions African Americans faced at the prior to the Civil War were awful, and the era after the Civil War and the freedom of slaves put hopes of a life of equality and freedom. Unfortunately, these hopes wouldn't be achieved until nearly 100 years later.

After the the Civil War, African Americans desired a life of equality and freedom. They desired to be not only accepted by whites in American society, but seen as equals. This wasn't seen almost 100 years after the Civil War. "One day in 1955, Rosa Parks...sat down on a city bus and refused to move back, where law requires blacks to segregate." (Olson & Beal p. 252). Her decision was demonstrative of the equality that African Americans had longed desired. Fortunately, equality was soon to come. Only one year earlier *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* and stated segregation in schools was unconstitutional. The desegregation of many public facilities soon followed. Many cases followed the example of *Brown v. Board of Education*. Cases such as *Baltimore v. Dawson* 1955, *Holmes v. City of Atlanta* 1955, and *Gayle v. Browder* 1956, integrated "public beaches, golf courses, and city bus lines." (Packet, p. 19). Finally, American society was headed in the direction of creating an equal life they had desired for so long. Finally the old life were "black Americans were considered less than human beings and faced discrimination in every aspect of their lives." (everyculture.com: African Americans: Acculturation and Assimilation), had ended.

African Americans had the most difficult time of any group in American being accepted. They were immigrated to America by force through the slave

trade, and once they were bought by slave owners in the South, life didn't get any better. They were cruelly discriminated against as they were used by their owners. This discrimination and marginalization continued after the Civil War through the form of segregation, even though Africans desired a life of equality and freedom. It wasn't until the 1950's, almost 100 years after the civil war and the African Americans were made citizens of the United States, that the integration of society began and blacks finally began enjoying a life where they were equal to whites and enjoyed the liberties of being American Citizens. All of these are the terrible and unique challenges African Americans faced, and why they had a harder time than any other group of people in America being accepted in American society.

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