

Study Guide



Chapter 29, Section 3

For use with textbook pages 881–886

NEW ISSUES

KEY TERMS AND NAMES

racism prejudice or discrimination toward someone because of his or her race (page 882)

Chicago Movement a plan by Martin Luther King, Jr., and other civil rights leaders to improve the economic conditions of African Americans in Chicago’s poor neighborhoods (page 883)

Richard Daley the mayor of Chicago (page 883)

black power a movement that called for African American control of the social, political, and economic direction of the struggle for equality and stressed pride in the African American cultural group (page 884)

Stokely Carmichael the leader of the SNCC in 1966 (page 884)

Malcolm X the most visible spokesperson of the Black Power movement (page 884)

Black Panthers a militant African American group that preached black power, black nationalism, and economic self-sufficiency (page 885)

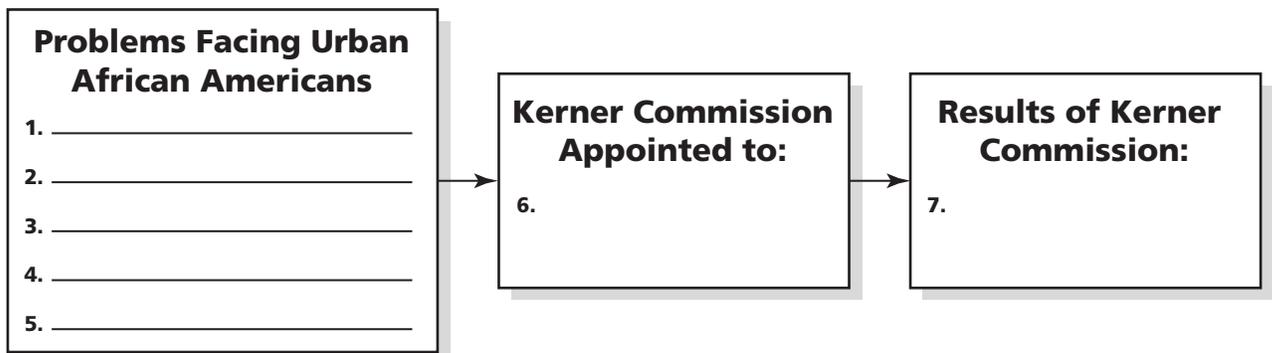
DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Do you think the civil rights movement is active today? What kinds of issues do you think still need to be addressed? Why do you think so?

The last section described the political gains made by the civil rights movement. This section discusses the efforts of the civil rights movement to gain economic equality for African Americans.

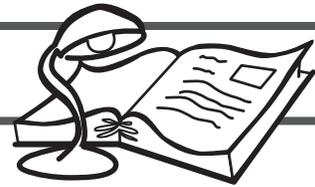
ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the diagram below to help you take notes. African Americans faced many economic problems even after civil rights laws had been passed. In the diagram, list those problems and describe the Kerner Commission and its results.



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READ TO LEARN

- **Problems Facing Urban African Americans** (page 881)

Although several civil rights laws had been passed by the 1960s, **racism**, or prejudice or discrimination toward someone because of his or her race, was still common in the United States. In 1965 the majority of African Americans lived in large cities. Many had moved from the South to cities in the North and West, where they faced the same prejudice and discrimination that they did in the South. Many whites refused to live with African Americans in the same neighborhoods. Landlords refused to rent to African Americans. Those African Americans who moved into cities were often trapped by poverty in the inner city. Whites moved to the suburbs. Many African Americans found themselves in low-paying jobs. In 1965 only 15 percent of African Americans held professional or clerical jobs, compared to 44 percent of whites. Half of all African American families lived in poverty.

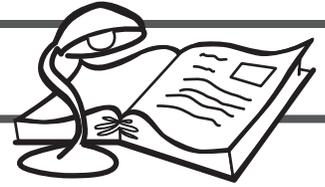
Poor neighborhoods in the nation's cities were dirty and overcrowded. Crime rates were high. These kinds of problems existed in all poor neighborhoods. A greater proportion of African Americans lived in poverty, so a greater percentage of their neighborhoods faced these problems. The African Americans who lived in poverty were aware of the gains made by the civil rights movement. They were also aware that the gains did not address their problems, which were social and economic. Their anger at the situation erupted into violence.

A race riot broke out in Watts, an African American neighborhood in Los Angeles. Allegations of police brutality had started the riots, which lasted six days. Thousands of National Guard troops and law officers were needed to bring back order. Rioters burned and looted entire neighborhoods. Thirty-four people were killed and hundreds were injured.

Race riots broke out in other cities. The worst riot occurred in Detroit in 1967. The United States Army had to send in tanks and armed soldiers to bring an end to the riot. More than 1,300 buildings were damaged.

President Johnson appointed the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders to study the causes of the riots. Governor Otto Kerner of Illinois headed the Commission. The Kerner Commission studied the problem. It agreed with what many African American leaders had been saying for years. The Commission blamed white society and white racism for most of the problems in the inner city. The Commission recommended that two million new jobs and six million new housing units be created in the inner city. However, at the time, the United States was spending massive amounts of money on the Vietnam War. As a result, the report of the Kerner Commission produced no changes for African Americans.

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8. On what did the Kerner Commission blame the problems of the inner city?

- **The Shift to Economic Rights** (page 883)

By the mid-1960s, some African American leaders were critical of Martin Luther King's nonviolent strategies. They believed the strategies were not successful in improving the economic positions of African Americans. As a result, Dr. King began to focus on economic issues. In 1965 Dr. King was invited to Chicago by a group of community organizations that worked to improve conditions for the poor in Chicago. To call attention to the poor housing conditions that many African Americans faced, Dr. King and his wife moved into a slum apartment. He hoped to work with local leaders to improve economic conditions for African Americans in poor neighborhoods. The so-called **Chicago Movement** was unsuccessful.

When Dr. King led a march through a Chicago suburb to demonstrate the need for open housing, he was met with angry white mobs like those he met in the South. Mayor **Richard Daley** ordered the police to protect the marchers. He then met with Dr. King and suggested a program to clean up the slums. Under the plan, mortgages and rental property would be available to everyone regardless of race. However, very little changed.

9. Why were some civil rights leaders critical of King's nonviolent strategies?

- **Black Power** (page 884)

Dr. King's failure in Chicago seemed to show many African Americans that nonviolence could not change their economic problems. Many young African Americans living in poverty in urban areas began to turn away from King's movement. They turned to more aggressive forms of protest. African Americans began to place less emphasis on interracial cooperation. Many young African Americans called for **black power**. A few believed that the term meant that self-defense, even violence, were acceptable when defending one's freedom. Most African Americans, including **Stokely Carmichael**, the leader of the SNCC in 1966, believed black power meant that African Americans should control the social, political, and economic directions of the struggle for equality. Black power stressed pride in African American culture. It rejected cultural assimilation, or the philosophy of incorporating different racial or cultural groups into the dominant society. Black power was very popular in the poor urban neighborhoods where many African Americans lived.

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By the early 1960s, a man named **Malcolm X** became the symbol of black power. As a young man, Malcolm X was convicted of burglary and sent to prison. There he began to educate himself and joined the Nation of Islam, or Black Muslims. The group was led by Elijah Muhammad. The Black Muslims did not hold the same beliefs as Muslims. The Black Muslims believed that African Americans should separate themselves from whites and form their own communities.

The Black Muslims viewed themselves as a nation. They tried to make themselves self-sufficient. They ran their own businesses and published their own newspaper. Malcolm X was a dynamic speaker. He gained national attention for the Nation of Islam.

By 1964 Malcolm X had broken with the Black Muslims. He was upset with the scandals involving the Nation of Islam's leader. Malcolm X visited the Muslim holy city in Saudi Arabia. There he saw many different races worshipping together. He started to believe that an integrated society was possible. After he left the Nation of Islam, Malcolm X continued to criticize the organization and Elijah Muhammad. In February 1965, members of the Nation of Islam killed Malcolm X while he was giving a speech in New York. Malcolm X's speeches pointed out to African Americans that although they were victims in the past, they did not have to continue being victimized. He encouraged African Americans to believe in their ability to make their own way in the world.

Malcolm X's ideas continued to influence a new generation of militant African American leaders. One group, the **Black Panthers**, preached black power, black nationalism and economic self-sufficiency. The Black Panthers believed a revolution was necessary. They urged African Americans to arm themselves and confront white society to force whites to grant them equal rights.

10. What did the Black Muslims believe African Americans should do regarding white society?

• **The Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.** (page 885)

By the late 1960s, the civil rights movement was divided into competing organizations that were at odds with one another. The call by some African Americans for violent action angered some white supporters of the civil rights movement.

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In 1968 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., went to Memphis, Tennessee, to support a strike of African American sanitation workers. On April 4, 1968, King was assassinated as he stood on his hotel balcony. The assassination touched off riots in more than 100 cities. After Dr. King's death, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1968. The law banned discrimination in the sale and rental of housing. After Dr. King's death, the civil rights movement continued but lacked the vision that Dr. King had given it.

11. What happened to the civil rights movement by the late 1960s?
