

The Road to *Plessy v. Ferguson*

1) The 13th Amendment to the US Constitution (1865)--excerpt

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude . . . shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Put the 13th Amendment in your own words:

Did the 13th Amendment represent progress for African Americans?

2) The 14th Amendment to the US Constitution (1868)--excerpt

All persons born or naturalized in the United States. . . are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person. . .the equal protection of the laws.

Put the 14th Amendment in your own words:

Did the 14th Amendment represent progress for African Americans?

3) The Civil Rights Act (1875)—excerpt

All persons within the jurisdiction of the United States shall be entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, and privileges of inns, public conveyances on land or water, theaters, and other places of public amusement; subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law, and applicable alike to citizens of every race and color, regardless of any previous condition of servitude.

Put this excerpt in your own words:

Did the Civil Rights Act of 1875 represent progress for African Americans?

4) The Civil Rights Cases (1883) Supreme Court Ruling—synopsis

The Civil Rights Cases were five similar cases consolidated by the Supreme Court because they all dealt with the rights of African Americans. In the five cases, African-American citizens protested exclusion from a hotel dining room, from an opera performance, from better seats in a theater, and from a train car set aside for women. The Supreme Court decided neither the 13th nor the 14th amendments could prevent “private” discrimination or racism by individuals or businesses. The Civil Rights Act of 1875—which attempted to regulate discriminatory behavior--was ruled unconstitutional. Individuals and businesses could, then, continue to discriminate on the basis of race.

Put this synopsis in your own words:

Did the Supreme Court’s ruling represent progress for African Americans?