Civil Rights Movement

Name

Omar Alkhathami

Civil Rights Movement

A series of political movements have happened but the civil rights movement was a mass popular movement that was aimed to rescue the African American from the oppression of the Whites Supremacy. It is a movement whose roots go back to the 19th Century though it was also witnessed in the 1950s and 1960s. It is also called the American Civil Rights Movement. The African Americans were treated harshly and mishandled brutally. They were denied the right to vote, barred from associating themselves to any public facilities such as schools, hospitals, and any public place. The civil rights movement made important progress and change was attained as a result of the movement.

The Supreme Court ruling in 1954 desegregated public schools education. The degree of oppression and racial discrimination in public schools had gone up and was unconstitutional. Leaders of the day in the south were not pleased with this ruling, and they termed it as a violation of state rights in the system of public education. This made desegregation to progress slowly. However, liberal reformers rose in support of the Supreme Court’s decision. These protests included; Martin Luther King Jr, and President Dwight D. Eisenhower who pushed the abolition of harsh treatment in Little Rock High School in Arkansas with the help of the National Guard troops (Washington, 2017). This protest did not do much, and other states remained untouched. But later, the tactic that shocked many worked; the use of sit-in by college and campus students. They would remain seated till they got served.

The presidential campaign and the election of Kennedy were as a result of the Civil Rights Movement in 1960. The arrest of Martin Luther Jr during the protest and the intervention of Kennedy to Coretta Scott King made the public to accept Martin Luther Sr as the man of influence. It moved more African American to join and vote for Kennedy, and this enabled him to win in several key states. His leadership qualities such as being cautious and goal oriented pushed him to performance. He appointed some African American in top level positions to help administer on civil rights and help in different areas of leadership. He encouraged desegregation during his visits and put African American officials of Equal Employment Opportunities (Wild, 2005). All these people radicalized the administration of civil rights and integration of schools even more than the President himself.

The desegregation in the interstate transportation and any other public means of interaction commenced. It was brutally welcomed, and the freedom riders were beaten both in South and North Carolina. Buses were burnt, and protestors attacked. The whites wanted the African American to pay for public transportation and sit on the back of the buses. However, the African Americans responded by confidently sitting next to the whites and paying nothing. Though the Commerce Commission ordered for desegregation in public transportation, these worked for a while (Wild, 2005). In the long run, there was the establishment of the black church and social organizations. The nonviolent demonstrations had won and this became the only way of pressing for their rights.

The integration of universities fiercely denied African American students a chance to enroll together with the Whites. The denial of registration by James H Meredith in 1962 in the University of Mississippi, Ole Miss was an example of racial discrimination. Also, in the University of Alabama, African-American students were prevented from enrolling and securing admissions. In the University of Mississippi, a federal Marshal enabled James H. to register and attended his first class that same day. However, riots erupted and led to many injuries and a few deaths. In Alabama University, civil rights were defined again as a moral tool and were therefore legal. Kennedy introduced civil right registration that put an end to educational segregation and an offer to equal federal protection.

 The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was successful in advocating for equal rights in the United States. This Act banned all social discrimination in places of work and any public places. Sadly, this Act did not address African American discrimination against voting and brutal address by police officials. The protests commenced with their usual way of a nonviolent walk from Saloma to Montgomery, Alabama. This irritated the police, and they brutally chased them using violence and tear gas. It is this move that made President Johnson gather the people and pass the Voting Rights Act. The issue of accumulation of wealth and resources was now addressed, the federal government turned attention to the economic questions that faced the Blacks such as poverty (Washington, 2017). Through the Civil Rights Act, African-American got access to aid that helped their families and children that depended on them. There were also Community Action Programs that helped the African Americans.

In conclusion, we see that the battle was won because of the efforts of the Civil Rights Movement. Both the Southern and the Northern people had full experience that encompassed the fight for freedom. The selfless individuals had the interest of people at heart, and collectively had ways of doing non-violent actions in the streets. The vision of African American freedom movement was fully understood by them and is yet to be fully realized.

References

Washington, B. (2017). *Civil Rights Movement - Black History - HISTORY.com*. *HISTORY.com*. Retrieved 24 April 2017, from http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/civil-rights-movement

Wild, M. (2005). Thinking About the Civil Rights Movement in a Conservative Age. *History Compass*, *3*(1). http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1478-0542.2005.00135.x