

Segregation between 1877 and the 1960s in the USA



This document is a black and white picture, a photography. It's entitled "Segregation Water Fountain". It was taken by Elliot Erwitt in 1950, in North Carolina, USA.

The scene probably takes place in public toilet, during the day. There is a Black man who is drinking. You can also see two water fountains, a pipe, and two signs on which it's written "white" and "colored".

The water fountains for the Black people are dirtier than the water fountains for the White people.

Before we begin here is a small definition: segregation is the discrimination between two groups, here we talk about discrimination between White people and Black people.

First of all, in the 1870s, Jim Crow voted and enforced segregation laws. Therefore, Black people weren't longer allowed to enter the same restaurants, schools, universities, churches, toilets, buses, cemeteries, theaters as White people. They obviously didn't have civil rights (right to vote or to be elected). For example an article of this law was saying

"Black passengers were not allowed to sit in the same waiting room as white passengers". The best-known people who fought against segregation are: Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King

Then Rosa Parks took place the bus back from work, and she sat down in order to rest since she was very tired. More white passengers stepped in, that's why the bus driver asked her to stand up. However, Rosa Parks remained seated. Therefore, the bus was stopped and the police was called. She was sent to prison.

Because of this scene, the black community organized a boycott of buses. Following all this, Martin Luther King joined this fight who was for the peaceful.

During the struggle, some of the houses of black people were bombed.

Finally they won their fight, it was a victory. So the fight for national civil rights has begun

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