

Civil Rights Movement

It's a hot summer day and thousands of people gather around the Lincoln memorial in Washington D.C. They are uncomfortable, sweating but they're out there for a reason, they're out there to see a dream that once appeared in the restless heads of overworked slaves to a dream becoming a reality.

It was the 60s and minorities were sick and tired of being treated beneath the white man so they took to the streets. They marched and protested and some even rioted but it was all fueled by one idea, the idea that one day the white man will shake hands the minorities he looks down upon.

At that time the whites and non-whites were segregated beyond belief, they even had separate water fountains and bathrooms. And due to this treatment a rebellion formed among the second class citizens, and due to such many names appeared over the course of the late sixties but the most famous of them were Malcolm X and of course Martin Luther King Junior.

The entire movement brought upon a race war, where white supremacist groups such as the Klu Klux Klan would go so far as to bomb black schools to halt the Civil Rights movement. The black supremacists would return the favor by rioting and shooting whites.

They lead by Malcolm X's idea of a rebellion, where he wanted the black man to go to war with the white man instead of MLK's idea that called for peace between different skin colors. The most notable of these groups were the Black Panthers who kidnap and torture politicians who supported Segregation.

As said above Martin Luther King's way to gain freedoms was not with violence, but with peace and love. His speeches would include his idea that whites and blacks could live in harmony and how he urged black supremacists violence wasn't the answer.

Among the protests and speeches my grandma was there during the movement and she got to witness the changes surrounding minorities. "It was a crazy time, where one year minorities couldn't work or live next us then the next we were treated the same" My Grandma said.

Due to the movement minorities gained the same privileges as white people, but discrimination and prejudice still ran rampant.

"Even after the movement some people still didn't like blacks, they would curse or yell at them and some even got denied from jobs for being black" Said My Grandma.

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My grandma was in high school at the time and even some of her peers didn't fully support the movement. "Most of My friends and I didn't really pay attention to the movement, it was politics and most high schoolers aren't that intrigued by politics, but there was some people who hated it and some people who loved it. The people that hated would talk about blacks and minorities while using racial slurs and the people who loved never stopped talking about it." My Grandma said.

Even the people close to my grandma didn't like it.

" My parents hated it and they would use slurs and such, but its not their fault. They grew up in a culture which it was ok to say that sort of thing and schools and authority figures taught that it was ok. The book "Little Black Sambo" was a very popular book while showing racial stereotypes and other things that was deemed acceptable back then. If that book was released today it would be all over news and people would be suing the author the hell, but that just shows the dramatic change in culture" said My Grandma.

My Dad and my Uncle lived through the aftermath of the civil rights movement movement and lived through changes seen at schools and colleges.

" Minorities at my school were treated relatively the same as the whites. Sure there was always someone who yelled and insulted them but other than that it was the same. They went to the same classes, we ate at the same lunch and we left and arrived at school the same time". Said My Dad.

Even though the movement passed there was still some discrimination towards minorities.

"Some people would insult them or treat them bad. Some of the older teachers even would be biased towards race and give the minorities a lower or failing grade. Police would go after minorities and pull them over, but even besides that most people learnt from the civil rights movement and started treating minorities as equal instead of second-class citizens" Said my Uncle.

Just like today however Martin Luther King was still celebrated and had his own holiday.

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“In school we had MLK day and the teachers and other school staff would talk about MLK in a presentation. It was always interesting to hear his story, to hear how brave he was even though the entire government was against him” Said My Dad.

The civil rights movement was a big deal and it affected a lot of people. These are some of the lives that were affected and got to live through minorities gaining freedoms.