

“Civil Rights Movement: A Non-violent Revolution that Blurred the Color Line in the U.S.A.”

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Abstract

Civil Rights Movement was one of the epoch making non-violent protest movements in the human history. It was a national wide, mass campaign in the 1950s and 1960s to gain equal social, legal and economic rights for Africans-Americans in the United States of America. Right from the time black people were forcibly brought to America, as slaves, they were treated in the most inhuman way. The history of slavery in the U.S.A. was very horrible. Even after the “Emancipation Proclamation,” issued by Abraham Lincoln, the black people were not free because of the white prejudice. Racism and color line drove them to a marginalized position in the society. Everywhere they were segregated and humiliated. Life in America was becoming unendurable, and their agony was great. Their condition was such that they were rocking like a pendulum between anger and hope. At such a juncture, they could not go back to Africa because they were Americans now, what thought America denied them this right. The only option was assimilation, and that was not easy. The color line was so ossified that it was very difficult to erase. Black people wanted white Americans to accept them as their brothers and sisters. America was reluctant, but, for blacks, it was their mother country. They could not hurt and destroy it. That’s why black people waged a non-violent protest to claim their rights. My attempt in this paper is to explore the causes, forms, techniques, and relevance of this movement along with the major incidents and people associated with it.

Key-Words: Civil-Rights, Non-violence, Race, America, Color-line, Hope, Integration.