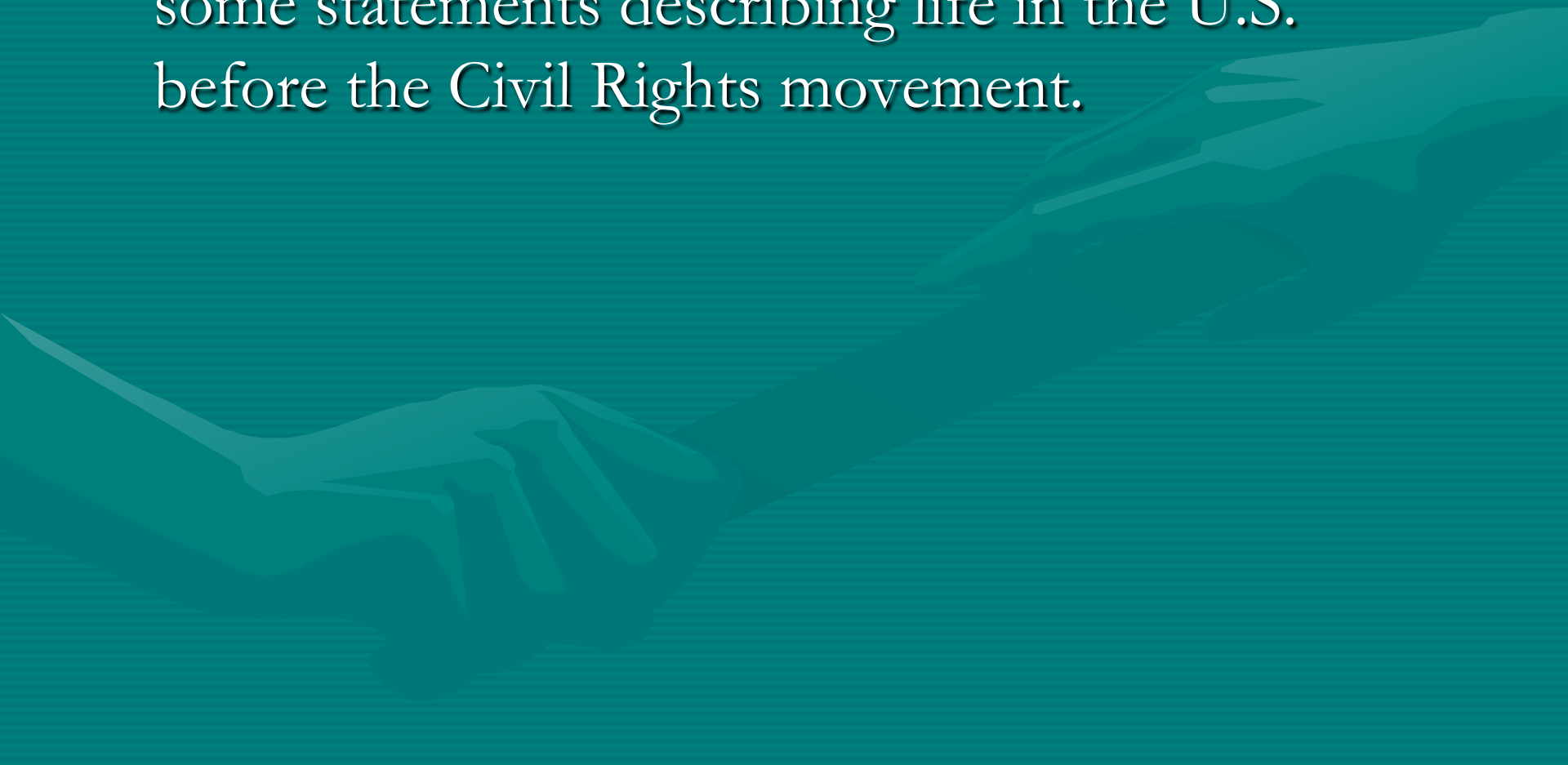


# The Civil Rights Movement



# What was life like before the Civil Rights movement?

- Use the pictures in the following slides to make some statements describing life in the U.S. before the Civil Rights movement.







WE SERVE  
WHITE'S *only*

NO  
SPANISH<sup>or</sup> MEXICANS













# What is segregation?

- **Segregation** is the separation of people according to race or ethnicity.
- Segregation can be about separating African-Americans from Whites, or about separating Hispanics from Whites.
- Before 1950 segregation was common and normal in the U.S.A. Segregation **deprived minorities** of their rights.

# Two kinds of segregation

- **de jure** segregation
  - Segregation by law
    - Common in the South
- Laws **forbid** African-Americans from attending the same church, using the same swimming pool, eating in restaurants, or marrying White people.
- **de facto** segregation
  - Segregation **without laws**
    - Common in the North
- **Housing discrimination** made segregation in the North. White community groups did not allow non-Whites to live in White neighborhoods. Every **ethnic group** had its own part of town.

Why was the Civil Rights movement  
successful in 1954? Why not earlier or  
later?



# Reason #1 – World War II and the Korean War

- During World War II and the Korean War, racial minorities such as African-Americans, Hispanics, or Native Americans had made many gains. The U.S. military had needed their help and had allowed them to fight. Many came home heroes and earned respect.



## Reason #1 – World War II and the Korean War

- Most people believed America had fought those wars for democracy and freedom. Racial segregation started to seem un-American to many. People remembered that Hitler and the other “bad guys” had been racists.



## Reason #2 – The Cold War

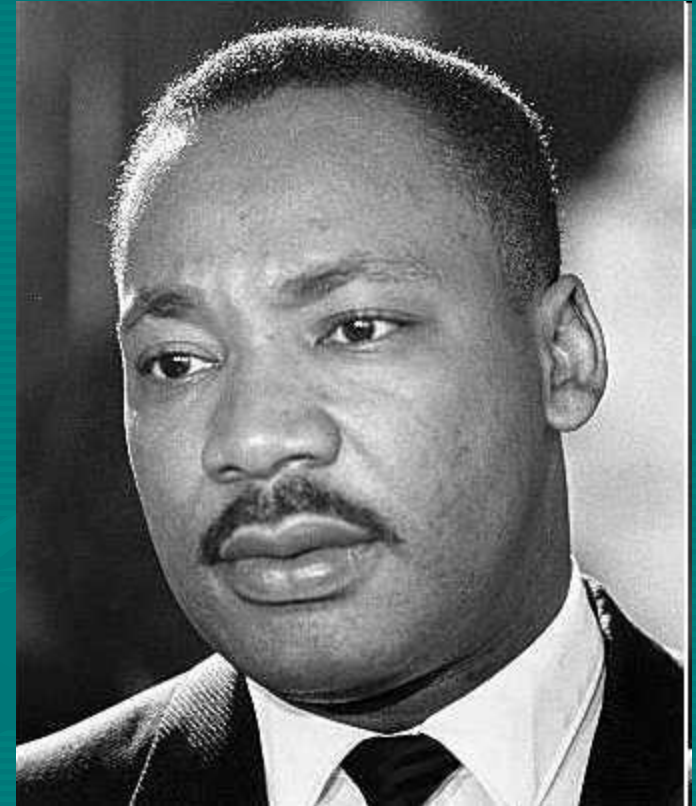
- During the Cold War, America was trying to convince the world that it was better than the Soviet Union, racism made America look bad to the rest of the world.
- Communists could use America's racism as an example showing that the U.S. was evil.





# Reason #3 - television

- With the arrival of television, Americans could watch the news every day. The non-violent civil disobedience used by King made the civil rights protesters look like good people and made their opponents look hateful, violent, and ugly. People could also hear Dr. King's inspiring speeches. He was a powerful speaker who knew how to change people's hearts and minds.



# How did they do it?

- Civil rights leaders used **non-violent protests, civil disobedience, and legal action** to change the U.S.



# non-violent protest

- **Boycotts**
  - Refusing to buy goods or services from a business in order to force it to change its policies
- **Hunger strikes**
  - Refusing to eat anything in order to get attention for your **cause**
- **Petitions**
  - Writing a letter to ask the government or a company to change its policy, and then getting as many people to sign it as possible.
- **Marches and demonstrations**
  - Getting as many people as possible to gather in one place to get attention to your cause
- **Strikes**
  - Refusing to work in order to force your managers or government to change their policies

# Civil disobedience

- Breaking the law or causing a **disturbance** in order to get attention for your cause.
- **Sit ins**
  - The **protesters** come into a place, sit down, and refuse to move.

# Legal action

- Lawyers can challenge a law or policy in court. If they convince the judge that the law or policy is **unconstitutional**, then the judge will order them to change.
- People can speak at government hearings or meetings and try to convince **legislators** to make new laws or **repeal** unfair ones.

As you watch the next part of the presentation,  
try to classify each action taken by the  
people in the civil rights movement.



# Linda Brown

- In 1951, a girl named Linda Brown wanted to go to school. The white school was very close by, but the African-American school was far away. Her parents **sued** the Board of Education to try to force them to allow Linda to attend the white school.



# Linda Brown

- In 1954, in the case of *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Supreme Court decided to hear Linda's case. Chief Justice Earl Warren said that segregation in public schools is **unconstitutional**. He ordered all the schools to end segregation.





# Rosa Parks



- In Alabama, the bus company had a rule that said all African-Americans had to sit in the back of the bus.
- In 1955, Rosa Parks, an African-American woman, was coming home from work and was very tired. The seats in the back were full, but the front seats were empty. She sat down in the front. When the bus driver ordered her to move, she refused. He called the police and they arrested her.

# Rosa Parks



- The minister of Rosa's church, Martin Luther King, decided to get involved. He told the African-Americans to stop riding the bus. For months, African-Americans walked or gave each other rides. The bus company was losing a lot of money because most of their passengers were African-Americans. Eventually, they were forced to change their rule. Then, in 1956, the Supreme Court **declared** segregation on public transportation unconstitutional. This success made King famous across the U.S.