

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Unmasking the Echoes of Justice: 9th Grade Civil Rights Analysis

Students deconstruct the strategic nuances of the Grassroots movement, analyzing the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer and the legal doctrine of 'interposition'.

1. Which specific tactic was primarily utilized by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) during the 1964 'Freedom Summer' to challenge the disenfranchisement of Black voters in Mississippi?

Answer: A) The establishment of 'Freedom Schools' to provide academic and political literacy

Freedom Schools were a critical part of the Freedom Summer strategy, designed to empower Black Mississippians to bypass literacy tests and engage in the political process.

2. The 'Southern Manifesto' of 1956, signed by over 100 Southern politicians, argued that the Supreme Court's intervention in education was an example of:

Answer: B) An unconstitutional abuse of judicial power that violated States' Rights

The Southern Manifesto was a document written in opposition to racial integration of public places; it framed the court's decision as a 'clear abuse of judicial power' and encouraged legal resistance.

3. The 1948 Executive Order 9981 officially desegregated the _____, serving as a significant federal precursor to the grassroots activism of the 1950s.

Answer: C) United States Armed Forces

President Harry Truman's Executive Order 9981 abolished racial discrimination in the U.S. Military, setting a federal precedent for civil rights progress.

4. The 1963 'Letter from Birmingham Jail' was specifically written as a rebuttal to white clergymen who advocated for a 'more patient' approach to racial justice.

Answer: A) True

The letter was a direct response to a statement by eight white Alabama clergymen who criticized the protests as 'unwise and untimely,' arguing that legal changes should happen in courts, not the streets.

5. In the context of the 1960 Greensboro sit-ins, how did the principle of 'economic withdrawal' function as a tool for social change?

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Answer: B) By pressuring retail owners through lost revenue and bad publicity

Nonviolent direct action like sit-ins caused immediate financial disruption for Woolworth's and other retailers, forcing them to choose between maintaining segregation or maintaining profit.

6. Ella Baker, a pivotal organizer, helped found the ____ to encourage young activists to develop their own leadership rather than relying on a single charismatic figure.

Answer: C) Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)

Baker was wary of top-down leadership and mentored the students who formed SNCC, prioritizing 'group-centered leadership' over 'leader-centered groups.'

7. The 'Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party' (MFDP) successfully unseated the all-white regular Democratic delegation at the 1964 National Convention.

Answer: B) False

Despite Fannie Lou Hamer's powerful testimony, the MFDP was only offered two at-large seats as a compromise, which they rejected, highlighting the rift between grassroots activists and the political establishment.

8. How did the 1947 'Journey of Reconciliation' differ from the 1961 'Freedom Rides'?

Answer: C) It occurred earlier and was less publicized, testing the Morgan v. Virginia ruling

The 1947 Journey of Reconciliation was a precursor to the Freedom Rides, organized by CORE to test the Supreme Court's ban on segregation in interstate travel.

9. The concept of 'Black Power', popularized by ____ in 1966, signaled a shift from integration toward self-determination and racial pride.

Answer: B) Stokely Carmichael

Stokely Carmichael (Kwame Ture) introduced the 'Black Power' slogan during the March Against Fear, marking a more militant and self-reliant phase of the movement.

10. The 'Double V Campaign' during World War II stood for Victory over fascism abroad and Victory over racism at home.

Answer: A) True

Launched by the Pittsburgh Courier, this campaign emphasized that Black Americans fighting for democracy abroad should also enjoy democracy and equality within the United States.

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