

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Shattering the Silence: 12th Grade Civil Rights Analysis Blitz

Challenge students to dissect legal precedents and grassroots movements with this high-stakes formative assessment focused on systemic shifts.

1. The 1948 Executive Order 9981 is considered a pivotal precursor to the 1960s movement because it established which precedent?

Answer: A) The desegregation of the United States Armed Forces

Issued by President Truman, Executive Order 9981 abolished racial discrimination in the military, serving as a critical federal move toward integration before the landmark court cases of the 1950s.

2. Bayard Rustin's primary contribution to the 1963 March on Washington was his expertise in logistics and nonviolent strategy despite facing marginalization for his personal identity.

Answer: A) True

Rustin was a brilliant strategist and mentored Martin Luther King Jr. in Gandhian nonviolence, though he often worked behind the scenes due to being an openly gay man in that era.

3. The _____ was a grassroots organization founded in 1960 that empowered young activists to utilize 'jail-no-bail' tactics and community organizing.

Answer: B) Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)

SNCC emerged from the sit-in movement and gave a voice to younger Black activists who often felt the SCLC moved too slowly or was too hierarchy-dependent.

4. Beyond the quest for integration, the 1966 'Meredith March Against Fear' is historically significant because it served as the birthplace of which ideological shift?

Answer: B) The 'Black Power' slogan popularized by Stokely Carmichael

During this march, SNCC leader Stokely Carmichael first used the phrase 'Black Power,' signaling a shift from integration toward self-determination and racial pride.

5. The 1947 'Journey of Reconciliation' was the first organized attempt to challenge segregation on interstate buses by CORE members.

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Answer: A) True

While the 1961 Freedom Rides are more famous, the Journey of Reconciliation in 1947 laid the tactical groundwork for testing Supreme Court rulings on interstate travel.

6. Fannie Lou Hamer delivered a powerful testimony regarding voter suppression at the 1964 Democratic National Convention on behalf of the ____.

Answer: B) Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP)

The MFDP challenged the legitimacy of the all-white regular Democratic delegation from Mississippi, highlighting the lack of political representation for Black citizens.

7. How did the 1946 case Hernandez v. Texas expand the legal framework for civil rights in the United States?

Answer: B) It established that the 14th Amendment protected more than just 'two classes' of citizens

The Court ruled that the 14th Amendment protection against discrimination applied to people of Mexican descent and other groups, not just Black and white citizens.

8. The 'Southern Manifesto' of 1956 was a document signed by over 100 members of Congress to pledge their support for the immediate enforcement of school integration.

Answer: B) False

The Southern Manifesto was actually a document of 'massive resistance' that condemned the Brown v. Board decision and urged states to resist integration.

9. Intersectional activism was modeled by the _____, a Black feminist organization that authored a 1977 statement highlighting the interplay of race, gender, and class.

Answer: B) Combahee River Collective

The Combahee River Collective expanded the scope of civil rights by arguing that liberation must address all interlocking forms of oppression simultaneously.

10. Which Cold War context most directly incentivized federal support for civil rights legislation in the early 1960s?

Answer: B) Global Soviet propaganda pointing to American racial violence as proof of democratic hypocrisy

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The U.S. government was concerned that segregation damaged America's international image and moral authority during the ideological battle against communism.