

For All the World to See: Visual Culture and the Struggle for Civil Rights

Glossary

Black Nationalism/Black Muslims – Black leaders emphasized separatism and identification with Africa. One of the most important expressions of the separatist impulse during the 1960s was the rise of the Black Muslims, which attracted 100,000 members. Founded in 1931, in the depths of the depression, the Nation of Islam drew its appeal from among the growing numbers of urban blacks living in poverty. The Black Muslims elevated racial separatism into a religious doctrine and declared that whites were doomed to destruction. The most controversial exponent of Black Nationalism was Malcolm X.

Digital History, Black Nationalism and Black Power
http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/database/article_display.cfm?HHID=370

Boycott – A campaign of withdrawal of support from a company, government or institution which is committing an injustice, such as racial discrimination.

Boycott. Glossary of Nonviolence. The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change.
<http://www.thekingcenter.org/history/glossary-of-nonviolence/>

Brown v. Board of Education – *Brown v. Board of Education*, 347 U.S. 483, 47 S. Ct. 686, 98 L. Ed. 873, was the most significant of a series of judicial decisions overturning segregation laws—laws that separate whites and blacks. Reversing its 1896 decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, 163 U.S. 537, 16 S. Ct. 1138, 41 L. Ed. 256, which established the “separate-but-equal” doctrine that found racial segregation to be constitutional, the Supreme Court unanimously decided in *Brown* that laws separating children by race in different schools violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, which provides that “[n]o state shall ... deny to any person ... the equal protection of the laws.” In making its decision, the Court declared that “separate educational facilities are inherently unequal.” Moreover, the Court found that segregated schools promote in African American children a harmful and irreparable sense of inferiority that damages not only their lives but the welfare of U.S. society as a whole.

Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas. The Free Dictionary by Farlex (Legal Dictionary). <http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Brown+v.+Board+of+Education>

Civil Disobedience – The act of openly disobeying an unjust, immoral or unconstitutional law as a matter of conscience, and accepting the consequences, including submitting to imprisonment if necessary, to protest an injustice.

Civil Disobedience. Glossary of Nonviolence. The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change.
<http://www.thekingcenter.org/history/glossary-of-nonviolence/>

Civil Rights – “Civil rights” are the rights of individuals to be free from unfair or unequal treatment (discrimination) in a number of settings, when that negative treatment is based on the individual's race, gender, religion, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, age, or other protected characteristic.

Civil Rights. Civil Rights and Discrimination Glossary. FindLaw. <http://public.findlaw.com/civil-rights/civil-rights-basics/civil-rights-glossary.html>

Civil Rights Act of 1964 – A federal law that prohibits discrimination in a number of settings: Title I prohibits discrimination in voting; Title II: public accommodations; Title III: Public Facilities; Title IV: Public Education; Title VI: Federally-Assisted Programs; Title VII: Employment.

Civil Rights Act of 1964. Civil Rights and Discrimination Glossary. FindLaw. <http://public.findlaw.com/civil-rights/civil-rights-basics/civil-rights-glossary.html>

Civil Rights Movement – Historically, the term “Civil Rights Movement” has referred to efforts toward achieving true equality for African Americans in all facets of society, but today the term “civil rights movement” is also used to describe the advancement of equality for all people regardless of race, sex, age, disability, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or other protected characteristic.

Civil Rights Movement. Civil Rights and Discrimination Glossary. FindLaw. <http://public.findlaw.com/civil-rights/civil-rights-basics/civil-rights-glossary.html>

Demonstrations – Gatherings and protest activities organized to build support for peace, justice or social reform.

Demonstrations. Glossary of Nonviolence. The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change. <http://www.thekingcenter.org/history/glossary-of-nonviolence/>

Desegregation – The breaking down of imposed racial separation. Desegregation has always been a fundamental aim of the civil rights movement in United States and was given special impetus by the Supreme Court's 1954 decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* that ruled segregated schools unconstitutional.

Desegregation. Civil Right Glossary. Civil Rights 101. <http://www.civilrights.org/resources/civilrights101/glossary.html>

Discrimination – Discrimination is unfair or unequal treatment of an individual (or group) based on certain legally-protected characteristics—including age, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation. Federal and state laws prohibit discrimination against members of these protected groups in a number of settings, including education, employment, government services, housing, lending, public accommodations, transportation, and voting.

Discrimination. Civil Rights and Discrimination Glossary. FindLaw. <http://public.findlaw.com/civil-rights/civil-rights-basics/civil-rights-glossary.html>

Ghetto Comedy – Television sitcoms that emerged during the 1970s featuring all black casts and set in urban impoverished areas like Washington D.C., Watts, and Chicago. These shows offered mainstream viewers a humorous view of working class African American inner city life. While some of ghetto comedies attempted to make social commentary on race relations, many reverted to black stereotypes for comic effect.

Hate Crimes – A hate crime is an act of violence or threat of violence that is intended to injure and/or intimidate the victim(s) because of their race, ethnicity, national origin, religious, sexual orientation, or disability.

Discrimination. Civil Rights and Discrimination Glossary. FindLaw. <http://public.findlaw.com/civil-rights/civil-rights-basics/civil-rights-glossary.html>

Invisibility – The notion explored in Ralph Ellison’s book *Invisible Man* that African Americans are rendered voiceless and unseen in mainstream culture. His words advocate a freedom from invisibility and to be recognized as “a man of substance, of flesh and bone, fiber and liquids and I might even be said to possess as mind. I am invisible, understand, simply because people refuse to see me.”

Jim Crow – The name that was given to the de jure or legal segregation of blacks from whites before the civil rights movement. The name itself comes from a black minstrel caricature popularized in song during the 1830s. Thus, laws restricting African Americans to the back of a bus or creating separate restrooms, drinking fountains or eating facilities were known as “Jim Crow” laws.

Jim Crow. Civil Right Glossary. Civil Rights 101. <http://www.civilrights.org/resources/civilrights101/glossary.html>

Lynching – The term is derived from the "vigilante justice" practiced by Captain William Lynch and his neighbors in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, in the late 18th century. In the 19th century, lynching—usually associated with hanging but also including tar and feathering, burning and other methods of killing—became increasingly directed against African Americans. In the last 16 years of the 19th century, there were some 2,500 reported lynchings. The quest for federal laws against lynching was among the first crusades of the NAACP in the early decades of the 20th century.

Lynching. Civil Right Glossary. Civil Rights 101. <http://www.civilrights.org/resources/civilrights101/glossary.html>

“Mainstream” – Popular culture, visual media and their perspectives, produced by and for the majority. Publications represent the highest readership and largest audience. In this case, mainstream can also be equated with the trends and behaviors of the white middle class.

Mass March – A large number of people walk in a group to a place of symbolic significance to protest an injustice.

Mass March. Glossary of Nonviolence. The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change. <http://www.thekingcenter.org/history/glossary-of-nonviolence/>

Media – The means of communication that reach large numbers of people, such as television, newspapers, radio, and the Internet.

Media. Collins English Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged. HarperCollins Publishers, 2003.
<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/media>

Passive Resistance – Challenging an injustice by refusing to support or cooperate with an unjust law, action or policy. The term “passive” is misleading because passive resistance includes pro-active nonviolence, such as marches, boycotts and other forms of active protest.

Passive Resistance. Glossary of Nonviolence. The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change.
<http://www.thekingcenter.org/history/glossary-of-nonviolence/>

Picketing – A group of individuals walk with signs bearing protest messages in front of a site where an injustice has been committed.

Picketing. Glossary of Nonviolence. The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change.
<http://www.thekingcenter.org/history/glossary-of-nonviolence/>

Pictorial Magazines – A print publication containing many pictures; viewpoints are often expressed through visual material as well as text. Pictorial magazines had the ability to evoke life-like images within the mind.

Racial Nostalgia – An emotional longing for times when race relations were simplistic and clearly hierarchical, as during the enslavement of Africans in the American South. This term includes both public and private expressions of nostalgia.

Segregation – Separation or isolation of a race or class from the rest of the population. In the United States, segregation has taken two forms: de jure and de facto. De jure segregation is where a set of laws mandates separation, like those that prevailed in the South from the end of Reconstruction. De facto segregation prevailed in the North after Reconstruction and is enforced by cultural and economic patterns rather than by law, especially in housing.

Segregation. Civil Right Glossary. Civil Rights 101. <http://www.civilrights.org/resources/civilrights101/glossary.html>

Sit-ins – Tactic of nonviolence in which protesters sit down at the site of an injustice and refuse to move for a specified period of time or until goals are achieved. Examples include Flint (Mich.) sit-down strike of 1936-37 in which auto workers sat down on job for 44 days in protest for union recognition and the student sit-ins to desegregate lunch counters in Greensboro, NC in 1960.

Sit-ins. Glossary of Nonviolence. The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change.
<http://www.thekingcenter.org/history/glossary-of-nonviolence/>

Status Quo – The existing state of affairs, especially in regard to social and political issues. In exploring the evolution of media alongside civil rights, there was a general trend for the majority to maintain the status quo and resist change. This meant continuing to represent African Americans through a mainstream, white lens.

Strikes – Organized withholding of labor to correct injustice.

Strikes. Glossary of Nonviolence. The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change.

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