

We Are Not Yet Equal – Questions by Chapter

CHAPTER 1: “Original Sin”

What did President Madison consider America’s original sin? How long did it take for the United States to end this practice?

CHAPTER 2: “But for Your Race”

What was President Lincoln’s rationale for writing the Emancipation Proclamation?

What are some examples of anti-black sentiments that states put in their State Constitutions?

What did the 13th Amendment to the Constitution state?

CHAPTER 3: “Forty Acres and a Mule”

What seemingly positive things were happening for black people in 1865?

What were the differences between the Republican and Democratic parties during the nineteenth century?

How did the death of President Lincoln and the presidency of President Andrew Johnson set black people back? What examples of anti-black sentiments did President Johnson engage in?

CHAPTER 4: “Black Codes”

What were the Black Codes and what were they designed to do?

When did Mississippi ratify the 13th Amendment? What does this say about modern sentiments on race, in particular in the southern states?

CHAPTER 5: “We Showed Our Hand Too Soon”

A Mississippi planter was quoted as saying, “We ought to have waited until the troops were withdrawn, and our representatives admitted to Congress; then we could have had everything our own way”. This was an accurate quote and what did he mean by it?



What are some examples to how southern courts used their power to subjugate black people?

CHAPTER 6: "Johnson Is with Us!"

What violence was done to black people in 1866? What did the White House do about it?

What did the 14th Amendment to the Constitution state?

What did the 15th Amendment to the Constitution state?

CHAPTER 7: "Courting Justice"

The United States Supreme Court ruled time and time again ruled in favor of cases that harmed black people. Two examples are given in this chapter. What transpired in:

- a) United States v. Reese (1875)
- b) United States v. Cruikshank (1876)
- c) Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)

CHAPTER 8: "Derailing the Great Migration"

Lynching became a common practice in the south. What made the lynching of Mary Turner particularly gruesome and symbolic of the hatred directed toward black people?

What did the practice of, "whitecapping" entail?

What was the Great Migration?

What steps did the southern states take to prevent the Great Migration from happening?

What were the final results of the Great Migration from 1915-1940 in terms of number of people who had moved?

CHAPTER 9: "The Sweet Ordeal"

Provide a synopsis to what transpired in the Dr. Ossian Sweet case.



How was the Sweet story representative of what black people from the south faced when they arrived in the north?

CHAPTER 10: "Building Toward Brown"

What were some examples of disparities in white schools, compared to black schools during the Jim Crow Era?

Provide a synopsis to what transpired in the case of Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka Kansas (1954)

Read Chief Justice Earl Warren's opinion on the Brown case. Summarize what his rationale was.

CHAPTER 11: "Beating Down Brown"

What was the, "Southern Manifesto"? What did it attempt to do?

Provide some examples of how states attempted to disregard the Brown ruling and keep their schools segregated.

CHAPTER 12: "The NAACP and Sputnik"

How did the Cold War cause changes on how the United States viewed the educational system? Was this beneficial, or detrimental to black students?

What were the long-term effects faced by the parts of the country that fought Brown v. Board of Education ruling?

CHAPTER 13: "Rolling Back Civil Rights"

What were the key areas the Civil Rights Act of 1964 covered?

What were the key areas of the Voting Rights Act of 1965?

What was the pushback against these two acts? What were the complaints to those who opposed both measures?



CHAPTER 14: "Like Your Whole World Depended on it"

What was Richard Nixon's, "Southern Strategy"? Was it effective?

CHAPTER 15: "In the Crosshairs: The VRA"

What was the VRA and why was it targeted by those who wanted to impede black advancement?

What violence was done to individuals working to ensure people were voting?

What was the ruling in the South Carolina v. Katzenbach case?

CHAPTER 16: "Beating Down Brown (Again!)"

What was the ruling in the case of San Antonio Independent School District v. Rodriguez?

What did Justice Marshall state about the ruling?

What was the ruling in the case of Milliken v. Bradley?

What was the ruling in the case of University of California v. Bakke?

What do these three supreme court rulings reveal about the state of race relations in the United States during the 1970's?

CHAPTER 17: "The Reagan Revolution"

How did President Reagan portray the Great Society?

In what ways did the Reagan Administration lessen growth for the black community? Provide examples.

CHAPTER 18: "Crack"

What was the connection between the fighting in Nicaragua and the drugs that entered the United States in the 1980's?

What damage did crack cocaine cause to the black community?



What was the difference in sentencing between crack and powder cocaine? Why do you feel this sentencing discrepancy was put in place?

CHAPTER 19: "Streets Cleared of Garbage"

What occurred in Tulia, Texas in 1999? Was the justice system fair in this case?

Do you feel Tulia was an exception, or is this the norm in this country?

CHAPTER 20: "Obama"

Which demographics supported President Obama during the 2008 election? Which demographics supported Senator McCain?

What strategies did the GOP implement in order to prevent this from happening again?

CHAPTER 21: "Shelby County v. Holder: Gutting the VRA"

What transpired in the case of Shelby County v. Holder? What was this such a significant ruling?

CHAPTER 22: "Why Would They Try to Make People Hate Us"?

What examples of hatred and violence have been committed since President Obama's first year in office?

These acts of white rage have increased in recent years? Do you feel they will increase, or decrease in the years to come? What is your rationale?

