



BEGINNINGS OF JIM CROW

Beginning in the 1880s, Jim Crow laws (named after a black character in minstrel shows) enforced segregation. These laws affected many aspects of life, including marriage, education, work, travel and commute, and recreation.



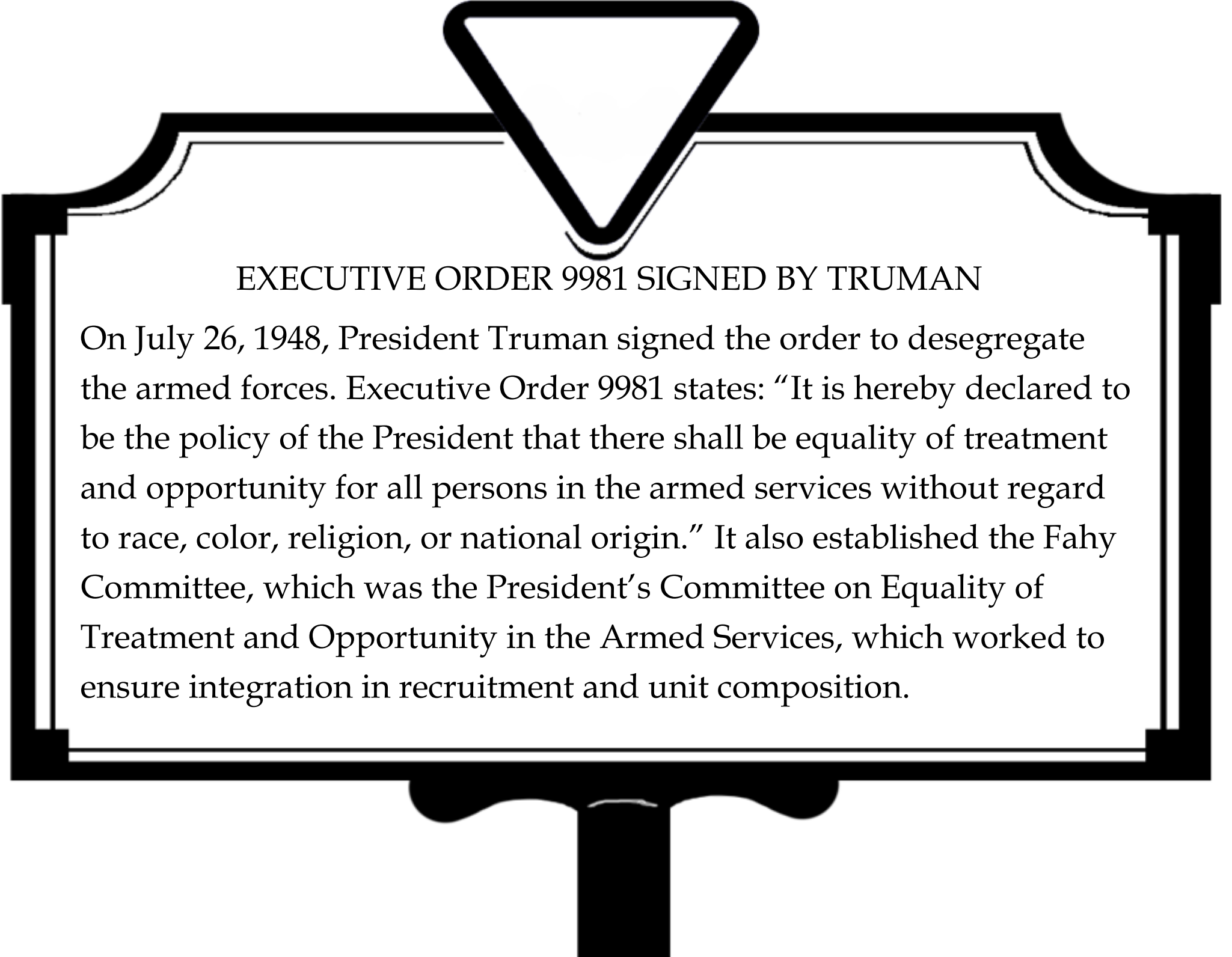
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KU KLUX KLAN (KKK)

There have been three different establishments of the KKK. It was initially founded in 1865 in Pulaski, TN, and were responsible for segregationist white Democrats regaining political power by 1877. The second KKK was founded in Atlanta, GA, in 1915, and was responsible for expanding out of the south due to increasing immigration and industrialization. The third KKK morphed out of the second in 1946, and forged alliances with police and governments to combat the Civil Rights Movement. Currently, they are considered to be a terrorist/hate group.



ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE (NAACP)

The NAACP is a civil rights organization that formed in 1909, “to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.” It was founded on Abraham Lincoln’s 100th birthday, after a race riot occurred in Abraham Lincoln’s hometown of Springfield, IL in 1908. The early years of the organization revolved around overturning Jim Crow laws.



EXECUTIVE ORDER 9981 SIGNED BY TRUMAN

On July 26, 1948, President Truman signed the order to desegregate the armed forces. Executive Order 9981 states: "It is hereby declared to be the policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin." It also established the Fahy Committee, which was the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services, which worked to ensure integration in recruitment and unit composition.



TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African Americans trained to fly and maintain combat aircraft for the Army Air Corps. They were a part of a segregated unit, and had to overcome racism in order to prove themselves as world class pilots. They were responsible for escorting bombers during World War II.



VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

On August 6, 1965, the Voting Rights Act was signed by President Lyndon Johnson, which enforces the 15th Amendment and outlaws discriminatory voting practices in the South, which included literacy tests. These jurisdictions were appointed special Federal examiners who could register qualified citizens to vote and required pre-clearance to change any voting practices or procedures.



EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066

On February 19, 1942, President Roosevelt signed the order to evacuate persons of Japanese ancestry to ten internment camps in six states. More than half of the 122,000 people evacuated were American citizens, and no charges were ever made, nor were there any opportunities for appeals. Some were drafted for the military, but served in segregated units.



SUFFRAGE FOR NATIVE AMERICANS

In 1831, the Supreme Court ruled that “Indians” were a “domestic dependent nation,” therefore excluding them from American citizenship while they remained within their nation. In 1924, the Indian Citizenship Act granted all Native Americans, regardless of whether or not they lived on a reservation, the rights of citizenship and the possibility for suffrage. Utah was the last state to grant Native Americans the right to vote in 1956.

The image shows a decorative sign with a thick black border. At the top center is a large, inverted triangle with a thick black outline. Below the triangle, the sign has a decorative, slightly curved top edge. The text is centered within the sign. At the bottom, the sign has a thick black base that tapers into a central vertical pedestal.

SUFFRAGE FOR WOMEN

The first major demand for suffrage began at the Seneca Falls convention in 1848. Wyoming was the first state to allow suffrage, which it had allowed since 1869, during its territorial days. The process took many years, but on August 18th, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th State to ratify the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, thereby giving all American women the right to vote.



ESTABLISHMENT OF IMMIGRATION QUOTAS

Beginning in the 1920s, quotas were set to limit immigration to 165,000 a year. With the Immigration Act of 1924 (also known as the Johnson-Reed Act), the quota was set at 2% of each country's population representation from the 1890 census, and excluded immigrants from Asia. This privileged those immigrating from the British Isles and western Europe. The main purpose for the limits to immigration was to "preserve the ideal of American homogeneity."



26TH AMENDMENT

Passed by Congress on March 23, 1971, and ratified on July 1, 1971, the 26th Amendment grants the right to vote to all American citizens who are eighteen years of age or older. Eighteen-year-old men were able to be drafted into the Vietnam War, but were not old enough to vote for their legislators, which drew intense debate. The Voting Rights Act of 1970 initially lowered the age restriction, but the Supreme Court ruled that the law only applied to federal elections in *Oregon v. Mitchell*. The 26th Amendment resolved this problem.



PALMER RAIDS

Between 1918 and 1921 in several major cities, Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer led raids on radical leftists which resulted in arresting thousands and deporting over 500 foreign citizens during that time. The responsibility of leading the investigations was given to J. Edgar Hoover and the Bureau of Investigation (the predecessor to the FBI). However, poor communications, planning, and intelligence plagued the raids, and the constitutionality of the raids was questioned.



ESTABLISHMENT OF HUAC

The House Un-American Activities Committee, formed in 1938 and made up of members of the U.S. House of Representatives, investigated reports of communist activity during the Cold War. The hearings were high profile and controversial in their methods, which included providing names of “Communists” in exchange for a lesser charge. Over 3000 people were subject to these hearings, including several in the entertainment industry.



ANTI-WAR PROTESTS

Protests against the conflict in Vietnam followed many of the similar non-violent protests used in the Civil Rights movement. “Teach-ins” became popular at universities, as well as sit-ins at draft induction locations and at the Pentagon. Other forms of non-violent protest included: sit-ins, occupations, and blockades; conscientious objection, draft resistance and desertion; guerrilla theater; obstruction of military recruiters, arms shipments and personnel; petitioning and letter-writing campaigns; and destruction of draft files.



ENACTMENT OF MISCEGENATION LAWS

Miscegenation laws, or laws about interracial marriage and sex, began in the early years of America. Many of these were considered to be felonies, and banned the marriage of whites and non-white groups (including Native Americans and Asians), and in some locations, between two non-white groups as well. While most associate this with the South, these laws also existed in the plains and western states.



END OF MISCEGENATION LAWS

Miscegenation laws lasted until 1970, with the Supreme Court ruling in *Loving v. Virginia*, which ruled them as unconstitutional due to the Fourteenth Amendment. Many states had repealed the laws before the Loving case, but Southern states were forced to remove those laws after the ruling.



DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL

In the early years of President Clinton's first term, the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy was enacted as a compromise measure under which homosexual servicemen and servicewomen could remain in the military if they did not openly declare their sexual orientation or engage in sexual activity, and commanding officers were not allowed to question service members about their sexual orientation. This policy was removed in September 2011, and homosexual servicemen and servicewomen can serve openly.