Africans- brought unwilling to US as slaves. No civil rights because they were considered property. **Dred Scott v. Sandford** (1857) never to be citizens.

After Civil War-

13th A- abolished slavery

14th A- granted former slaved citizenship and this is the “due process clause too”

15th A- gave former slaves (men) right to vote.

The closest approach to a literal statement of equality is to be found in the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause. It declares:

"No State shall.....deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

-United States Constitution

It forbids the States and their local governments to draw unreasonable distinctions between any classes of persons.

Supreme Court applied strict scrutiny to **Korematsu v. United States**- claiming internment of Japanese Am people during WWII was unfair racial discrimination. Court supported US- US does have a compelling interest to protect the public from sabotage while at war with Japan.

In 1896, the Supreme Court provided a constitutional basis for Jim Crow laws by creating the **separate-but-equal doctrine**. In **Plessy v. Ferguson**, it upheld a Louisiana law requiring segregation in rail coaches. The Court held that the law did not violate the Equal Protection Clause because the separate facilities provided for African Americans were equal to those for whites.

In **Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka**, it struck down the laws of four States, requiring or allowing separate public schools for white and African American students. Unanimously, the Supreme Court held that segregation by race in public education is unconstitutional.

Civil Rights Act of 1964- real change starts-

This banned discrimination based upon race, color, religion, sex or national origin regarding voting, employment, and public accommodations. Age added in 1967. Passed using the commerce clause of the Constitution. Bans discrimination by any person or business that engages in interstate commerce.

De jure segregation is segregation by law, with legal sanction.

De facto segregation is segregation in fact, even if no law requires it. Housing patterns have most often been its major cause.

The need for a constitutional definition of what is a citizen was finally met in 1868 by the 14th Amendment, which begins with these words:

"All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside."

Thus the 14th Amendment declares that a person can become a citizen by birth or by naturalization.

Citizenship by **birth** is determined by either **jus soli** or jus **sanguinis.**

**Jus soli** is the law of the soil, or where one is born. The 14th Amendment confers citizenship according to the location of a person's birth: "All persons born...in the United States..."

Jus sanguinis is the law of the blood, or to whom one is born.

Naturalization is the legal process by which a person becomes a citizen of another country at some time after birth. Congress has the exclusive power to provide for naturalization. No State may do so.

To become a naturalized citizen, a person must:

·Be at least 18 years old

·have entered the country legally, lived in the United States for at least five years (for husbands or wives of citizens, three years)

·file a petition for naturalization with the clerk of a Federal district court or a State court of record

·be literate in the English language

·be "of good moral character," "attached to the principles of the Constitution," and "well disposed to the good order and happiness of the United States"

have a "knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of the history, and the principles and form of government of the United States"

·take an oath or affirmation in which he or she absolutely renounces any allegiance to any foreign power and

·promises to "support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic."

Expatriation is the legal process by which a loss of citizenship occurs.

**Civic Responsibilities**

* Respect and obey law-accept consequences of your actions.
* Respect rights of others
* Loyal to the government/principles
* Serve in armed forces if called to do so
* Pay taxes and participate in political system by voting and being informed about issues
* Serve on a jury when called