

Hispanic/Latinx Timeline

1492

On 12 October 1492 Columbus reached an island in the Bahamas and claimed it for Spain, an event long regarded by Europeans as the “discovery” of the Americas.

1519

In March of 1519, Cortés he landed at Tabasco, Mexico with 11 ships, about 500 soldiers, 100 sailors, and 16 horses.

1565

Saint Augustine brings the first European settlement to the U.S. (Florida) introducing Catholicism and the Spanish language.

1598

New Mexico is settled – making it the largest and oldest Spanish settlement in the Southwest.

1691

Texas is made a separate Spanish province with Don Domingo de Teran as its governor.

1692

Explorer Diego de Vargas leads an expedition in search of salt deposits at the Guadalupe Mountains becoming the first non-Indigenous in this area.

1718

The mission at San Antonio is founded—it becomes a prosperous and important site.

1776 July 4

The Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence.

While the eastern American colonies declare independence from Britain, the Spanish celebrate the founding of San Francisco in the West.

1810

Separatist movements begin in Latin America.

1821

The first Anglo settlers arrive in the Mexican state of Texas – invited by the Mexican government, which had recently declared its independence.

Black/African American Timeline

1619 August

"Twenty and odd" Africans, probably seized from a Portuguese slave ship, were carried to Jamestown, Virginia, and traded for provisions. They were classified as indentured servants.

1640 July 9

When three runaway indentured servants were captured, the General Court of Colonial Virginia gave the white servants additional years to serve while John Punch, a Black man, was sentenced to servitude for life. Punch was the first African in Virginia to be enslaved for life.

1641

Massachusetts became the first North American colony to recognize slavery as a legal institution.

1662

A Virginia law passed in 1662 stated the status of the mother determined if a Black child would be enslaved. Increasingly harsh and restrictive laws were passed over the next 40 years, culminating in the Virginia Slave Codes of 1705.

1676

Bacon's Rebellion in Virginia included poor white and Black people fighting together, with the government's response hastening the transition to Black slavery.

1688 February 18

Pennsylvania Quakers adopted the first formal anti-slavery resolution in American history.

1701

The English Crown charters the Society for Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts of the Anglican Church to convert enslaved people and Native Americans to Christianity. Many slaveholders are unwilling to allow their slaves to receive religious instruction, fearing they cannot claim them as property once they are baptized.

1705

The Virginia Slave Code codified the status of enslaved peoples, limiting their freedom, and

1829

Slavery in Mexico is abolished by the new republican government that emerged after independence from Spain (1821).

1833

The Republic of Mexico challenges the power of the Catholic Church ordering its missions secularized and land holdings broken up.

1834

Mexico's President, Antonio Lopez Santa Anna, dissolves the Congress to rule Mexico with an iron hand. Texans and "Tejanos" unite in opposition.

1835

Texans and Tejanos rise in rebellion against the oppressive Mexican government.

1836

February – Santa Anna takes possession of San Antonio. March – Santa Anna's forces breach the Alamo defenses after a 13-day siege; all 189 Alamo defenders are killed. April – joining forces with Sam Houston's army, Juan Seguin defeats the Mexican army in the Battle of San Jacinto.

1837

Seguin is named Military Commander of West Texas, Senator, and later Mayor.

1842

Seguin flees to Mexico, escaping Anglo threats.

1845

U.S. annexes Texas, which angers the Mexican government. Conflict over the official border rises.

1846

Mexico and the U. S. go to war over disputed territory. June – Military Commander of California Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo is awakened by an angry mob of Anglo settlers— forcing him to sign the Articles of Capitulation to make California an independent republic.

1848

Mexico surrenders to the U.S.

defined rights of slave owners. It included provisions stating that non-Christians brought to Virginia would be slaves, even if converted to Christianity. It allowed slave owners to punish slaves without legal repercussions and specified rewards for the recapture of runaway slaves.

1712 April

A slave revolt in New York City, where nine white men died, led to increased restrictions on slaves.

1750

Georgia legalizes slavery, the last colony to do so.

1758

One of the first recorded Black congregations is organized on the plantation of William Byrd in Mecklenburg, Virginia.

1770 March 5

Crispus Attucks, an ex-slave, became a casualty of the American Revolution when he was shot and killed in what became known as the Boston Massacre. Attucks was credited as leader of the event, but debate raged for over a century whether he was a patriotic hero or trouble-making villain.

1773

*Phillis Wheatley, a freed slave, publishes *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*. Wheatley's former owners in Boston, had provided her with an excellent education, rare for Black people and women at the time, and encouraged her to pursue writing.*

1775 April 14

Society for the Relief of Free Negroes Unlawfully Held in Bondage, which later (1784) becomes known as the Pennsylvania Society for the Abolition of Slavery, is founded in Philadelphia.

1775 December 30

General George Washington, revising an edict, ordered recruiting officers to accept free Black people in the American Army. More than 5,000 Black people, mostly Northerners, fought against the British.

1853

Antonio Lopez Santa Anna returns to power as President of Mexico and during his time in office sells the land between Yuma, Arizona, and the Mesilla Valley, New Mexico, to the U.S.

1859

Cigar factories are built in Florida, Louisiana, and New York, bringing an influx of working-class Cubans to the growing industry in the U.S.

1862

Congress passes The Homestead Act, allowing squatters in the West to settle and claim vacant lands—many of which were owned by Mexicans.

1868

Angered by 300 years of Spanish rule, Cubans rise up in revolt. Many leave for Europe and the U.S. and the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is adopted, declaring all people of Hispanic origin born in the United States as citizens.

1870

The Spanish government frees the enslaved peoples it owns in Cuba and Puerto Rico.

1873

Slavery is abolished in Puerto Rico.

1892

The Partido Revolucionario Cubano is created to organize the independence movements in Cuba and Puerto Rico.

1895

Cuban rebels stage an insurrection led by poet Jose Martí.

1897

Spain grants Cuba and Puerto Rico autonomy.

1898

On February 15, an explosion in Havana Harbor destroys a U.S. battleship *Maine* killing 266 men. U.S. declares war on Spain, which lasts 13 weeks. Partido Revolucionario Cubano strikes a deal with Congress; in exchange for rebel cooperation with military intervention, U.S. promises to leave Cuba at the end of the war.

1776 July 4

The Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence.

1787

Richard Allen and Absalom Jones establish the Free African Society, the first Black mutual aid association in Philadelphia. Although non-denominational at its inception, it the first step toward establishing an independent Black church.

1793 February 12

Congress passed the first fugitive slave act, making it a crime to harbor an escaped slave or to interfere with the arrest of a slave.

1793

Eli Whitney receives a patent for the cotton gin. The invention transforms cotton into a profitable crop and reinvents the economy of the Southern states. States need an unprecedented number of slaves to keep pace with production. The enslaved population almost triples between 1790 and 1830.

1800 August 30

Gabriel Prosser, Jack Bowler, and others planned the first major slave rebellion, near Richmond, Virginia. As many as 1,000 slaves were ready to participate - a thunderstorm postponed the revolt and two traitors betrayed the cause. They met under the pretense of holding religious meetings.

1804

Enslaved peoples in Haiti, under the leadership of Toussaint L'Ouverture, revolt, kill their masters, and drive out the French to establish the first independent Black republic in the Western hemisphere. Their actions strike fear into the hearts of U.S. slaveholders and inspire the enslaved. The Haitian revolution leads to an exodus of mixed-race people, mostly Catholic, to the Louisiana territories and eastern shore of Maryland. Vodoun takes hold on the mainland.

1808 January 1

Laws banning the African slave trade went into effect in the United States and all British colonies.

The U.S. acquires Puerto Rico through war and claims it as a territory.

1901

The Federación Libre de los Trabajadores becomes affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, which breaks from its prior policy of excluding non-white people.

The Platt Amendment limits Cuban independence as written into the Cuban Constitution. The U.S. reserves the right to build a naval base on Cuba and enforces that Cuba cannot sign treaties with other countries or borrow money unless it is deemed agreeable to U.S. With these parameters in place, the U.S. government hands the government of Cuba over to the Cuban people.

1902

The Reclamation Act is passed, dispossessing many Hispanic Americans of their lands.

Cuba declares its independence from the U.S.

1903

Oxnard, California, over 1,200 Mexican and Japanese farm workers organize the first farm worker union, the Japanese-Mexican Labor Association (JMLA). It is the first union to win a strike against the California agricultural industry, which already has become a powerful force.

1904

The U.S. establishes the first border patrol as a way to keep Asian laborers from entering the country by way of Mexico.

1905

Labor organizer Lucy Gonzales Parsons, from San Antonio, Texas, helps found the Wobblies, the Industrial Workers of the World.

1910

The Mexican Revolution begins as a revolt against President Porfirio Diaz. The railroads that served as means for trade and development now serve as the main escape from violence. The Mexican Revolution forces Mexicans to cross the border into the U.S., in search of safety and employment.

1816 April 9

The African Methodist Episcopal Church, the first Black U.S. religious denomination was formally organized, Richard Allen was named first bishop.

1816 December 28

The American Colonization Society was founded to transport freeborn Black people and emancipated enslaved peoples to Africa leading to the creation of a colony that became the Republic of Liberia in 1847.

1820 March 3

The Missouri Compromise was approved by Congress. Missouri was admitted to the Union as a slave state, Maine entered as a free state, and slavery was prohibited in western territories north of Missouri's southern border.

1831 August 21-22

Nat Turner leads a two-day rebellion in Southampton County, Virginia – the most brutal slave rebellion in United States history, attracting up to 75 slaves and killing 60 white people.

1839

A slave revolt aboard the Amistad resulted in the 1841 United States Supreme Court decision affirming that the schooner's African captives were free individuals with the right to resist "unlawful" slavery.

1846

Frederick Douglass, a leading Black abolitionist, publishes the Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: an American Slave. Douglass had been born into slavery in 1818 in Maryland. He escapes 20 years later, begins a lifetime of speaking and writing to promote abolition and improved social and economic conditions for African Americans.

1850

The Compromise of 1850 brought California into the U.S. as a free state, banned the public sale of enslaved people in the District of Columbia, opened up lands seized from Mexico to settlement by slave owners, and committed the U.S. government to enforce a new fugitive slave law.

1911

The first large convention of Mexicans to organize against social injustice, El Primer Congreso Mexicanista, meets in Laredo, Texas.

1912

New Mexico enters the union as an official bilingual state, authorizing funds for voting in Spanish and English, and for bilingual education. Article XII of the state constitution also prohibits segregation for children of "Spanish descent." At the state's constitutional convention six years earlier, Mexican American delegates mandated Spanish and English be used for all state business.

1914

The Colorado militia attacks striking coal miners in the Ludlow Massacre. More than 50 people are killed, mostly Mexican Americans, including 11 children and three women.

1917

On April 6, the U. S. declares war against Germany, joining WWI. The Selective Service Act becomes law, obligating Mexican immigrants in the U.S. to register for the draft even though they are not eligible.

Factories in war-related industries need workers. Latinos from the Southwest move north in large numbers and find employment as machinists, mechanics, upholsterers, meat packers, printing press and steel mill workers. "Temporary" Mexican workers are encouraged to enter the U.S.

The U.S. Congress passes the Jones Act, granting citizenship to Puerto Ricans under U.S. military rule since the end of the Spanish-American War.

In February, Congress passes the Immigration Act of 1917, which enforces a literacy requirement on all immigrants.

1921

The Immigration Act of 1921 restricts the entry of southern and eastern Europeans. Agricultural businesses oppose efforts to limit the immigration of Mexicans. Limits on the number of immigrants allowed in the U.S. are imposed for the first time in history.

1850

Born into slavery in New York, Sojourner Truth (then Isabella), is taught that slavery is part of God's natural order. At 30, she hears the voice of God instructing her to be free. In 1843, she takes the name Sojourner Truth, and travels the U.S. preaching abolition, women's suffrage, and the Gospel. She rose to prominence meeting Lincoln and Grant. Her memoirs are published in 1850.

1852 March 20

The anti-slavery novel Uncle Tom's Cabin was published. By year's end, 300,000 copies were sold in the U.S. "Tom shows," dramatizations of the novel, were widely performed by traveling companies into the 20th century, spreading common stereotypes of African Americans.

1854

The Kansas-Nebraska Act mandated a popular vote of settlers would determine if territories became free or slave states. The new Republican Party vowed to prevent new slave states and became the majority party in most of the north.

1857 March 6

In Dred Scott v. Sandford, the United States Supreme Court ruled that Black people were not citizens of the U.S. and denied Congress the ability to prohibit slavery in any federal territory.

1860-1861

Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States, southern states seceded, and the Civil War began. The 1860 census showed the Black population of the U.S. to be 4,441,830, of which 3,953,760 were enslaved and 488,070 free.

1863 January 1

President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which made it clear that a Union victory in the Civil War would mean the end of slavery in the U.S.

1863 July 18

The 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry led a heroic attack on Fort Wagner in South Carolina. The 54th was the first all-Black regiment recruited in the North for the Union army. As many as 185,000 Black soldiers fought with the Union.

San Antonio's Orden Hijos de América (Order of the Sons of America) organizes Latino workers to raise awareness of civil rights issues and fight for fair wages, education and housing.

1925

The "Border Patrol" is created by Congress.

1927

Los Angeles - *Confederación de Uniones Obreras Mexicanas* (Federation of Mexican Workers Union-CUOM) becomes the first large-scale effort to organize and consolidate Mexican workers.

1928

Octaviano Larrazolo of New Mexico becomes the first Latino U.S. Senator.

1929

Several Latino service organizations merge to form the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). The group organizes against discrimination, segregation, promotes education among Latinos. It's the largest and longest-lasting Latino civil rights group in the country.

1931

The country's first labor strike incited by a cultural conflict happens in Ybor City (Tampa), Fla., when the owners of cigar factories attempt to get rid of the lectores, people who read aloud from books and magazines as a way to help cigar rollers pass the time. The owners accuse the lectores of radicalizing the workers and replace them with radios. The workers walk out.

1932

Benjamin Nathan Cardozo, a Spanish-Sephardic Jew, becomes the first Latino named to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The U.S. government begins to deport Mexicans. Between 300,000 and 500,000 Mexican Americans would be forced out of the United States in the 1930s.

1933

Cuban dictator Gerardo Machado is overthrown.

1865 December 6

The 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified, outlawing slavery.

1866

The 14th Amendment passes. It grants citizenship to the formerly enslaved peoples, changing them from 3/5 of a man to whole men (and women).

1869

The 15th Amendment guarantees the right to vote to Black men. Southern states respond with "Black Codes," state laws that regulate day-to-day life of ex-slaves and sharply restrict their new freedoms.

1870

A Virginia law made it illegal for Black and white children to attend the same schools.

1875 March 1

Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1875, which prohibited discrimination in public accommodations, including, inns, transportation, theaters, and "other places of public amusement."

1877 March 2

Republican Rutherford B. Hayes was elected President by the Electoral College after a deal was worked out with leading southern Democrats. The withdrawal of federal troops from the South marked the effective end of Reconstruction.

1879

Thousands of southern Black people frustrated with discrimination and poverty in the South emigrated to the West. They met hostility from western white and Native American people. This is sometimes called the Exodus of 1879.

1882

In 1882, at least 49 Black people were lynched. According to Tuskegee Institute data, 3,438 Black people were lynched between 1882 and 1951.

1883 October 15

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Civil Rights Cases of 1883 that the Civil Rights Act of 1875 was unconstitutional. The Court ruled that the 14th Amendment prohibited states, but not

Latino unions in California lead the El Monte Strike, the largest agricultural strike at that point in history, to protest the declining wage rate for strawberry pickers. By May, wages dropped to nine cents an hour. In July, growers agreed to a settlement including a wage increase to 20 cents an hour, or \$1.50 for a nine-hour day of work.

1934

The Platt Amendment, which restricted the Cuban government, is annulled.

The Roosevelt Administration reverses the policy of English as the official language in Puerto Rico.

1938

December – *El Congreso del Pueblo de Habla Española* holds its first conference in Los Angeles. Founded by Luisa Moreno and led by Josefina Fierro de Bright, it's the first national effort to bring together Latino workers from different ethnic backgrounds: Cubans from Florida, Puerto Ricans from New York, Mexicans and Mexican Americans from the Southwest.

1939

Novelist John Steinbeck publishes *The Grapes of Wrath*, calling attention to the plight of migrant workers in the California grape-growing industry.

1940s

As WWII sets in, many Latinos enlist in the U.S. military—as a proportion, the largest ethnic group serving in the war.

The Fair Employment Practices Act is passed, eliminating discrimination in employment.

1941

The U.S. government forms the Fair Employment Practices Committee to handle cases of employment discrimination. Latino workers file over 1/3 of all complaints from the Southwest.

1942

The Bracero Program begins, allowing Mexican citizens to work temporarily in the U.S. Growers support the program as a source of low-cost labor. The program welcomes millions of Mexican workers into the U.S. until it ends in 1964.

citizens, from discriminating. This civil rights reversal was devastating for African Americans.

1890-1908

Southern states adopted new constitutions and voting laws to disenfranchise Black voters.

1892

Ida B. Wells began writing articles and campaigning against lynching. At least 161 Black people were lynched in 1892, probably the highest number in a single year.

1896 May 18

In Plessy v. Ferguson, the U.S. Supreme Court established the "Separate but Equal Doctrine," holding that legal racial segregation does not violate the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment.

1869-1877

Between 1869 and 1877, 14 African Americans serve in the House of Representatives. Two serve in the U.S. Senate. African American political leadership continues until 1877, the end of Reconstruction.

1903

*The Souls of Black Folk by W.E.B. DuBois was published. Manning Marable, author of a biography of DuBois, said *The Souls of Black Folk* "helped to create the intellectual argument for the Black freedom struggle in the twentieth century."*

1909 May 31- June 1

The National Negro Conference met in New York City and founded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Two years later in 1911, the Urban League is founded.

1913-1921

Woodrow Wilson institutionalized segregation in the federal civil service. By the end of WWI, the District of Columbia was thoroughly segregated.

1914

Every southern state and many northern cities had Jim Crow laws that discriminated against Black people.

1942

Hundreds of thousands of Latinos serve in the armed forces during World War II.

1943

LA erupts in the Zoot Suit Riots, the worst race riots in the city to date. For 10 nights, American sailors cruise Mexican American neighborhoods in search of “zoot-suiters”, hip, young Mexican teens dressed in baggy pants and long-tailed coats. Military men drag kids, some as young as 12, out of movie theaters and cafes, tearing their clothes off and viciously beating them.

On August 23, Macario Garcia becomes the first Mexican national to receive a U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor yet is refused service at the Oasis Café near his home in Texas.

Prompted by the WWII labor shortage, the U.S. government launches an agreement with Mexico to import temporary workers (braceros), to fill a void in agricultural work.

1944

D-Day invasion of Europe on June 6.

The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 is passed, providing settlements for veterans. Mexican American veterans, however, have trouble receiving these benefits.

Operation Bootstrap, a program initiated by Puerto Rico to encourage industrialization and to meet U.S. labor demands, fuels a large wave of migrant workers to the U.S.

Senator Dennis Chávez of New Mexico introduces the first Fair Employment Practices Bill, which prohibits discrimination because of race, creed or national origin. The bill fails but is an important predecessor for the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

1945

Latino veterans seek equal rights in the U.S. They use G.I. benefits for personal advancement, college education, and buying homes. In 1948, they organize the American G.I. Forum in Texas to combat discrimination and improve the status of Latinos; branches form in 23 states.

Marcus Garvey established the United Negro Improvement Association in Jamaica, which promoted Black nationalism and pan-Africanism. Later, Garvey moved his headquarters to New York City and the UNIA became a large grassroots movement.

1915

The movie Birth of a Nation, based on Thomas Dixon's The Clansman, popularized anti-Black caricatures especially the Brute. The film glorified the Ku Klux Klan and led to its resurgence.

1915-1930

During the Great Migration, rural southern Black people moved to northern cities, to the West, and to southern cities. Between 1915 and 1920, .5 to 1 million moved to the North; another 700,000 to 1 million moved to the North and West in the 1920s.

1917

The U.S. entered WWI. Approximately 370,000 Black people served during the conflict, including about 1,400 officers. Three black regiments received the Croix de Guerre for valor.

1917 July

At least forty Black people were attacked and killed during a race riot in East St. Louis, Illinois. Three weeks later, 10,000 Black people participated in a silent march down Fifth Avenue in New York City to protest racial oppression and riots directed against Black communities.

1919

Many white people were resentful of Black demands for equality. Chicago, Houston, Little Rock, D.C., New York, Baltimore, New Orleans, and other cities had riots and Black people were attacked. This was called Red Summer.

1920 August 18

The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, giving women the right to vote.

1920-1935

The Harlem Renaissance - artistic awakening among African-Americans. Key figures included Claude McKay, Jean Toomer, Jacob Lawrence, Langston Hughes, and Zora Neale Hurston.

Mexican American parents sue California school districts, challenging the segregation of Latino students in schools. The California Supreme Court rules in their favor in *Mendez v. Westminster*, arguing segregation violates children's constitutional rights. The case is a precedent for *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954.

1947

Puerto Rico gains political autonomy when it becomes a commonwealth.

1948

Dr. Hector Garcia, witnessing racial injustice, begins holding meetings for Mexican Americans to voice concerns. They establish a new Mexican American movement: the American GI Forum.

1950

Congress advances Puerto Rico's political status from protectorate to commonwealth.

1951

The Bracero Program is formalized as the Mexican Farm Labor Supply Program and the Mexican Labor Agreement and will bring an annual average of 350,000 Mexican workers into the U.S. until its end in 1964.

After a Latino soldier killed in action, Pvt. Felix Z. Longoria, is refused burial in Texas. Senator Lyndon B. Johnson, appalled by blatant bigotry, makes arrangements for Longoria to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

1954

Hernandez v. Texas is the first post-WWII Latino civil rights case heard and decided by the U.S. Supreme Court. The Hernandez decision strikes down discrimination based on class and ethnic distinctions. This is the first Supreme Court case argued by Mexican American attorneys.

1953 to 1958

Operation Wetback is put into place by the U.S. government. The initiative is an effort to locate and deport undocumented workers—over the four-year period, 3.8 million people of Mexican descent are deported, including political activist Luisa Moreno and other community leaders.

1921

The Tulsa Race Massacre and mob destruction of Greenwood, OK aka "Black Wallstreet" occurred.

1925

The Ku Klux Klan had 3 million members in the early 1920s. Half of its members lived in metropolitan areas, while it enjoyed considerable support in the South, the Klan was strongest in the Midwest and Southwest. On August 8, 1925, 35,000 members of the Klan marched down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C.

1928 November

Oscar DePriest, a Chicago Republican, was the first African American elected to Congress from a district north of the Mason-Dixon Line.

1936 August 9

Jesse Owens became the first American to win four gold medals in one Olympics. His athletic success was a direct refutation of Adolph Hitler's ideology of Aryan supremacy.

1940-1960

The coming of WWII signaled the beginning of another wave of Black migration from rural areas to urban areas, and from the South to the North and West. By 1960, 40% of African Americans lived in the North and West, and nearly three-quarters lived in cities.

1941

Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802, which eliminated hiring discrimination in the defense industry and established the Fair Employment Practices Commission. In response, Black leaders, including A. Philip Randolph, canceled a planned march on Washington.

1942

The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) was founded in Chicago.

1944 April 3

In Smith v. Allwright, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the "White primary," which excluded Black people from voting, was unconstitutional.

1956

Nearly a dozen bills are introduced into the Senate to preserve segregation. Henry B. Gonzalez, determined to stop them, stages an effective filibuster, speaking for 22 straight hours. He would later represent San Antonio in Congress.

1957

West Side Story premieres on Broadway, chronicling the racial tensions of the '40s and '50s. In 1961, West Side Story is made into a film; the role of Anita goes to a Puerto Rican, Rita Moreno, who takes home an Academy Award.

1959

Fidel Castro and his revolutionaries march into Havana, following an armed revolt that ends in the overthrow of military dictator Fulgencio Batista.

1960

John F. Kennedy runs for President, with Lyndon B. Johnson as his running mate. Johnson enlists in the help of Dr. Hector Garcia to help carry the Latino vote. Garcia forms "Viva Kennedy" clubs, greatly aiding Kennedy's narrow victory.

October – a ship the City of Havana ferries Cubans fleeing Fidel Castro's reign. Over the next 3 years, more than 200,000 Cubans flee to Miami.

1961

April 17 - 1,400 U.S. trained Cuban exiles invade Cuba. Within 72 hours, Castro's forces defeat the Bay of Pigs Invasion

Aspira (Aspire) is founded to promote the education of Hispanic youth and acquires a national following, serving Puerto Ricans wherever they live in large numbers.

Rafael Leonidas Trujillo, Dominican Republic dictator is assassinated in a C.I.A.-backed plot.

1962

After the Community Service Organization turns down President Cesar Chavez's request to organize farm workers, he and Dolores Huerta resign. They form the National Farm Workers Association.

1945

WWII ended. 1,150,000 Black people were inducted into the military, with most serving in support units.

1947 April 10

Jackie Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers, thereby breaking the modern color line in major league baseball.

1948 May 3

In *Shelley v. Kraemer*, the United States Supreme Court ruled that lower courts could not enforce restrictive housing covenants.

1948 July 26

Harry Truman signs Executive Order 9981, "It is declared to be the policy of the President there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin."

1950

Gwendolyn Brooks won the Pulitzer Prize for *Annie Allen*, a volume of poetry. She was the first African American to win the award.

1952

The Tuskegee Institute reported 1952 as the first year with no reported lynching since it began keeping records.

1953

Malcolm X became minister in the Nation of Islam

1954 May 17

Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal". The decision outlawed segregation in all public schools in the U.S.

1955 August

Emmett Till, a 14-old Black youth, was brutally murdered for allegedly flirting with a white woman in Mississippi. Two white men charged with the crime were acquitted by an all-white jury. The public outrage generated by the case helped spur the civil rights movement.

Flights between the U.S. and Cuba are suspended following the Cuban Missile Crisis. More than 200,000 of Cuba's wealthy professionals fled fearing Fidel Castro's communist regime. Many believed Castro would be overthrown and they would soon return. U.S. reconnaissance planes discover Soviet missiles in Cuba. Travel to and from Cuba is prohibited. The U.S. blocks a Soviet plan to establish missile bases in Cuba. The Soviet Premier withdraws missiles on the condition that the U.S. publicly declares it will not invade Cuba.

1963

November - JFK is assassinated, leaving Lyndon B. Johnson as successor. President Johnson appoints more Mexican Americans to positions in government than any president before; he passes landmark legislation advocating desegregation.

Miami's Coral Way Elementary School offers the nation's first bilingual education program in public schools, with a grant from the Ford Foundation. This provided reform and an increased college enrollment among Latino youth.

1964

Congress passes the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It establishes affirmative action programs, prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender, creed, race, or ethnic background: "to achieve equality of employment opportunities and remove barriers that have operated in the past" aka Title VII. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is established through Title VII to prevent job discrimination.

The Bracero Program, put in place during WWII to bring Mexican laborers into the U.S. to replace American men who were fighting overseas, ends.

1966

Striking workers are subjected to physical and verbal attacks during peaceful demonstrations. March 16, the Senate Sub-Committee on Migratory Labor held hearings in Delano. March 17, following the hearings, Cesar Chavez sets out with 100 farm workers to begin his pilgrimage to the San Joaquin Valley. After 25 days, their numbers swell from hundreds, to thousands.

1955 December 1

Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery, AL for violating a Jim Crow ordinance. Her arrest led to a successful citywide bus boycott, which brought Martin Luther King, Jr. to national prominence.

1955

The Maryland legislature passed a law that imprisoned any white woman who birthed a mixed-race child. The white woman would be incarcerated up to five years. The law was renewed in 1957.

1956

An Alabama law barred Black and white people from playing cards, dominoes, checkers, or sports together. A North Carolina law required factories and plants to maintain separate bathrooms for Black employees. A Louisiana law mandated that movie theaters and all places of public entertainment separate white and Black patrons.

1957

Congress passed, and President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed, the Civil Rights Act of 1957. This law was largely ineffective.

1957 January

A group of 60 African American ministers formed the Southern Leadership Conference on Transportation and Nonviolent Integration, which was renamed The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). Martin Luther King, Jr. was the organization's first president. The SCLC, founded on the principles of nonviolence and civil disobedience, became a major force in organizing the civil rights movement.

1957 September 25

Dwight D. Eisenhower ordered federal troops into Little Rock, after unsuccessfully trying to persuade Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus to give up his efforts to block desegregation at Central High. Faubus and a mob of white people were forced to allow nine Black children to attend school.

1958

The Virginia legislature voted to close any school that enrolled both Black and white students.

1967

With Martin Luther King, Jr. organizing in the South and Cesar Chavez organizing in California, East L.A. high school teacher Sal Castro begins looking for ways to organize students.

1968

The Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund opens, becoming the first legal fund to pursue the protection of their civil rights.

On March 6, 10,000 East L.A. high school students peacefully walk out of four schools and are joined by parents and supporters. Following the police riot, on March 7 the students walk out again. The walkouts continue for two weeks until the demands are met.

After opening HemisFair, Chicano high school students stage walkouts in San Antonio, then in 39 towns across Texas, spreading to nearly 100 high schools in 10 states. Jose Angel Gutierrez is the organizer of much of this activism.

1968 - 1969

Faced with slum housing, inadequate schools and rising unemployment, Puerto Rican youth in Chicago form the Young Lords Organization, inspired in part by MLK and Malcolm X. The YLO becomes a vibrant community organization, creating free breakfast programs and community health clinics. Modeled after the Black Panthers, the YLO used direct action and political education to bring public attention to issues affecting their community. The group spreads to NYC.

Throughout the 1970s

Progressive organizations based in Mexican, Filipino, Arab and other immigrant communities begin organizing documented and undocumented workers. Together, they work for legalization and union rights against INS raids and immigration law enforcement brutality.

1970

The U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare issues a memorandum saying students cannot be denied access to educational programs because of an inability to speak English.

1959

An Arkansas law required all state buses to designate whites-only seating areas

1960 February 1

Four Black students from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College staged a sit-in at a segregated Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro. The event triggered nonviolent protests throughout the South, inspiring the founding of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, giving young Black people a vital role in the civil rights movement.

1960 May 6

President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Civil Rights Act of 1960, which prohibited intimidation of Black voters and gave judges power to appoint referees to oversee voter registration.

1961 March 6

President John F. Kennedy issued Executive Order 10925, which created the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity and mandated that projects financed with federal funds "take affirmative action" to ensure that hiring and employment practices are free of racial bias.

1961 May 4

CORE sent student volunteers on bus trips to test new laws prohibiting segregation in interstate travel facilities. One group of "freedom riders" encountered a problem weeks later when a mob in Alabama set the riders' bus on fire. The program continued, and by the end of the summer 1,000 volunteers-Black and white-had participated.

1963 Spring

Martin Luther King, Jr. was arrested in Birmingham and wrote his seminal Letter From Birmingham Jail, arguing that individuals have the moral duty to disobey unjust laws.

1963 June 12

Medgar W. Evers, NAACP field secretary in Mississippi and WWII veteran, was shot and killed by a sniper in Jackson. The assailant, a white segregationist, was acquitted by a hung jury. In 1994, Byron De La Beckwith was convicted of killing Evers.

Herman Badillo is elected into the U.S. House of Representatives, making him the first Puerto Rican to serve in Congress.

Crystal City, Texas, Jose Angel Gutierrez forms a political party, La Raza Unida/“The United Race”

Elections in April see an unprecedented victory for Chicanos. Gutierrez is elected county judge and La Raza Unida controls not only the school board, but city and county government as well.

1973

Miami officially becomes bilingual, following a referendum sponsored by its growing Cuban community.

1974

Willie Velasquez of San Antonio organizes voter registration drives across the Southwest, encouraging Latinos to vote. He notices, however, that the problem is not the number of Latino voters, but the electoral system. He later would file voting rights lawsuits—never losing a case.

The first major Latino voter registration organization, the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project begins, registering more than two million Latino voters in the first 20 years.

Congress passes the Equal Educational Opportunity Act of 1974 to make bilingual education widely available in public schools.

1975

Maurice Ferre becomes mayor of Miami, becoming the first Puerto Rican to lead a major city in the mainland United States.

1980

In the spring, Fidel Castro announces that any Cuban who wishes to leave may do so. Shortly after this declaration, a ramshackle armada sails from South Florida to the port of Mariel.

Over five months, more than 125,000 Cubans arrive in South Florida. They are branded as mentally ill or criminal, following a CBS News story. Although only 4 percent are from mental hospitals, more than 25,000 have criminal records.

1963 June-August

Civil rights demonstrations, protests, and boycotts occurred in every major urban area in the U.S.

1963 August 28

The civil rights movement reached its peak when 250,000 Black and white people gathered at the Lincoln Memorial for the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, which included the demand for passage of meaningful civil rights laws. MLK delivered his famous I Have a Dream speech.

1963 September 15

Four young girls (Denise McNair, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson, Addie Mae Collins) attending Sunday school were killed when Robert Chambliss and members of a white supremacist group ignited a dynamite bomb at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, a popular location for civil rights meetings in Birmingham. Riots erupted, leading to the deaths of two more Black youths.

1963 November 22

President John F. Kennedy, a supporter of civil rights for African Americans, was assassinated.

1964 January 23

The 24th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolished the poll tax, which had been instituted in southern states after Reconstruction to make it difficult for poor Black people to vote.

1964 July 2

President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, making segregation in public facilities and discrimination in employment illegal.

1964 July 3

Lester Maddox and a throng of supporters wielding axe handles forcibly turned away three Black activists who tried to eat at Maddox's restaurant, the Pickrick. Maddox was elected Governor of Georgia in 1966.

1964 August 4

The bodies of three civil rights workers, two white and one Black-Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner, and James E. Chaney were discovered buried near Philadelphia, MS. They had been

The English-only campaign comes back with Emmy Shafer at the helm. In 1980, voters approve the ordinance to end official bilingualism.

1985

National religious organizations provide support for the first “National Consultation on Immigrant Rights” and calls for a National Day of Action for Justice for Immigrants and Refugees, “to call attention to issues and to dramatize the positive role of immigrants in shaping U.S. society.” More than 20 cities participate in the event.

1986

President Ronald Reagan signs the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) providing legalization for certain undocumented workers, including agricultural workers. The Act sets parameters for border security and places employer sanctions in place, making it illegal for employers to hire undocumented workers.

1987

The National Hispanic Leadership Institute addresses the underrepresentation of Latinas in the corporate, nonprofit and political arena.

1988

Voter rights advocate Willie Velasquez dies and is posthumously honored the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the highest civilian peacetime award.

President Ronald Reagan appoints Dr. Lauro Cavazos as Secretary of Education. He becomes the first Latino appointed to a presidential cabinet.

1989

Miami's Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, a Cuban American, becomes the first Latino woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

1990

The California Delegation Against Hate Violence documents the increasing human rights abuses by INS agents and private citizens against migrants in the San Diego-Tijuana border area.

President George Bush appoints the first woman and first Hispanic surgeon general of the United States: Antonia C. Novello.

registering Black voters in Mississippi and had gone to investigate the burning of a Black church. The FBI accused two-dozen white segregationists of complicity in the murders including law officers

1965 January - March

A Voter Registration Drive, led by MLK., was launched in Selma, AL and throughout the state. March 7, Black voting-rights activists began a 50-mile march from Selma to Montgomery. They were viciously attacked by police. National response to violence against the marchers contributed to the passing of the Voting Rights Act.

1965 February 21

el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz, previously Malcolm X, is assassinated while speaking to the Organization of Afro-American Unity in New York City.

1965 June 4

In a commencement speech at Howard University, President Johnson framed the philosophy underlying affirmative action, asserting that civil rights laws alone were not enough to remedy the effects of past discrimination.

1965 August 11

Watts in LA exploded in violence following the arrest of a young Black motorist. After 6 days of unrest, 34 people had been killed, more than 1,000 were injured, and 3952 were arrested. The National Guard assisted in quelling the disorder.

1966 October

The Black Panther Party for Self-Defense was founded in Oakland, CA, by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale.

1967

Thurgood Marshall became the first African American to serve as Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

1967 May 1-October 1

The worst summer of racial disturbances in United States history occurred. More than forty outbreaks were recorded; the most serious were in Newark, New Jersey and Detroit.

1991

The proposed North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between Canada, the U.S., and Mexico expands and exploits the maquiladora concept, offering tax reductions to U.S. businesses

1992

The LA Police Department cracks down on Latino immigrants during the “Los Angeles rebellion,” after the “not guilty” verdict in the Rodney King police brutality case.

1993

Ellen Ochoa becomes the first Hispanic woman to go to space aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery.

President Bill Clinton names Federico Peña as Secretary of Transportation and Henry Cisneros as Secretary of HUD, making them the first Latinos to hold those positions. He appoints Norma Cantú, former Director of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund to Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights in the Department of Education. 25 Latinos are appointed to positions needing Senate confirmation under Clinton.

1994

NAFTA takes effect, eliminating tariffs between Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. within 15 years. Imports from the maquiladoras become duty-free.

November - California passes Proposition 187 with 59% of the vote. This bans undocumented immigrants from receiving public education and benefits like welfare and subsidized health care; makes it a felony to manufacture, distribute, sell, or use false citizenship or residence documents; and requires any city, county, or state officials to report suspected or apparent illegal aliens.

1996

Proposition 187 is ruled unconstitutional on the grounds that only the federal government has the authority to regulate immigration. Eliseo Medina spearheads the movement to file lawsuits against Proposition 187. Medina becomes the first Mexican American Vice President of the Service Employees International Union.

1967 June 12

In Loving v. Virginia, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that prohibiting interracial marriages was unconstitutional. Sixteen states that banned interracial marriage at the time were forced to revise their laws.

1968 April 4

Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, where King was speaking in support of striking sanitation workers. The assassination was followed by a week of violent disturbances in at least 125 cities across the nation, including Washington, D.C.

1968 April 11

President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Fair Housing Act, prohibiting racial discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of most housing units in the country.

1968 November 5

Shirley Chisholm, the first Black congresswoman, was elected by New York's Twelfth Congressional District.

1970 May 14

Mississippi law enforcement officers killed two young Black Americans at Jackson State College, a historically Black institution.

1970 October 5-November 8

Violent racial clashes connected with school desegregation occurred in northern and southern cities. In Pontiac, MI, tensions were high after a court ordered desegregation of public schools. A car near Pontiac Central High School struck a Black student in October; white and Black students continued a two-day battle with rocks and bottles.

1971 April 20

The U.S. Supreme Court, in Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education, upheld busing as a legitimate means for achieving the integration of public schools. Largely unwelcome (and violently opposed) in local school districts, court-ordered busing in cities such as Charlotte, Boston, and Denver continued until the late 1990s.

1999

After 60 years of U.S. Navy exercise-bombings on the island of Vieques, civil rights leaders in Puerto Rican and African American communities respond with a non-violent protest of 9,300 residents.

Triggered by the accidental death of Puerto Rican naval base employee during ammunition exercises Puerto Ricans protest the proximity of exercises to civilians, environmental destruction and health problems. The protests culminate in lawsuits and the arrest of more than 180 protesters, some serving unnecessarily harsh sentences. The Navy promises to stop bombing the island by 2003.

The Immigration Law Enforcement Monitoring Project coordinates nationwide activities on Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead. Public displays of crosses, representing those who died crossing the border, capture public and media attention.

2001

Following 9.11, Arab Americans and Middle Eastern peoples experience a backlash in the U.S. Hate crimes, harassment and police profiling sharply increase. With fear over "border security" politicians call for building a wall between the U.S. and Mexico. Latino immigrants face a surge in discrimination and bias.

2003

Latinos are pronounced the nation's largest minority group surpassing African Americans after Census figures show the U.S. Latino population at 37.1 million.

CHLI is the premier organization founded by members of Congress to advance the Hispanic Community's Economic Progress with a focus on social responsibility and global competitiveness.

2004

Anti-immigrant sentiment reaches a tipping point when Arizonans organize a group of volunteers known as "The Minutemen" to patrol the border. The group considers itself a citizen's border patrol, but known white supremacists are members. During the next two years, the Minuteman gain widespread press coverage. Immigrant rights supporters conduct counter-rallies in public opposition to the Minuteman tactics and beliefs.

1972

The "Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male" ended. Begun in 1932, the United States Public Health Service's 40-year experiment on 399 Black men with syphilis was described by news anchor Harry Reasoner as an experiment that "used human beings as laboratory animals in a long and inefficient study of how long it takes syphilis to kill someone."

1978 June 28

In Regents of the University of California v. Bakke, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against fixed racial quotas but upheld the use of race as one factor in making decisions on admissions for professional schools.

1988 March 22

Congress passed the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, which expanded the reach of non-discrimination laws within private institutions receiving federal funds.

Congress votes to expand the U.S. Voting Rights Act to require language assistance at polling stations. Native Americans, Asian Americans, Alaska Natives and Latinos benefit most from this provision. The original Act, passed in 1965, applied only to Black people and Puerto Ricans. The Voting Rights Act leads to the increasing political representation of Latinos in U.S. politics.

1992 April 29

On March 3, 1991, LA Police Department officers were videotaped brutally beating Rodney King as they arrested him; the videotape was broadcast on local television. When a jury failed to convict four white police officers of assault and using excessive force, Los Angeles residents took to the streets in violent protest. Widespread civil unrest followed. Approximately 3,600 fires were set, there were thousands of injuries and arrests, and estimates of property damage ranged up to \$1 billion. There were smaller disturbances in other cities.

On September 12, 1992, Mae Jemison became the first African American woman to go into space.

2005

Antonio Villaraigosa becomes the first Mexican American mayor of L.A. in more than a century.

2006

May 1 - hundreds of thousands of Latino immigrants and others participate in the *Day Without Immigrants*, boycotting work, school and shopping, symbolizing contributions immigrants make to the American economy and to protest resentment toward undocumented workers. High school students stage walkouts in LA, Houston and other cities in support of immigrant rights. Schools issue suspensions and truancy reports to students; several students are arrested.

In August, President George W. Bush will reauthorize the Voting Rights Act, even though English-only conservatives oppose its renewal because of the expense of bilingual ballots. The reauthorized Act will be named the “Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King, and Cesar Chavez Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006.”

Congress debates legislation to criminalize undocumented immigrants. Immigrant rights organizations support legislation offering pathway to citizenship. The legislation stalls, and Congress holds hearings across the country to gain public input on how to handle the immigration issue.

2008

The Freedom Tower is designated a National Historic Landmark, considered the “Ellis Island of the South” for its role as the Cuban Assistance Center in Miami during 1962–1974, offering nationally sanctioned relief to Cuban refugees.

2009

Puerto Rican Sonia Sotomayor is sworn in as the first Latina Supreme Court Justice.

2010

Arizona Governor Jan Brewer signs the toughest anti-illegal immigrant law in U.S. history. The legislation, SB-1070, cracks down on anyone harboring or hiring undocumented immigrants and gives local police unprecedented powers.

1991 November 21

The Civil Rights Act of 1991 was signed by President George H. W. Bush, who had previously vetoed a stronger version. This law was designed to counter Supreme Court decisions that made it more difficult for plaintiffs to prove employment discrimination and strengthened the rights of those who experienced intentional discrimination.

1996 November 5

Proposition 209 was approved in California, amending the state constitution. This ban on forms of affirmative action declared, "The state shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting."

2001

Colin Powell becomes the First African American U.S. Secretary of State.

2003 June 23

The U.S. Supreme Court, in Grutter v. Bollinger, upheld (5-4 vote) the University of Michigan Law School's admissions policy, ruling that race can be one of many factors considered by colleges when selecting their students because it furthers "a compelling interest in obtaining the educational benefits that flow from a diverse student body."

2003

Oprah Winfrey becomes the First African American Female Billionaire, February 27, 2003.

2005

Condoleezza Rice becomes the First African American Woman Secretary of State.

2007 June 28

In Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School Dist. No. 1 and Meredith v. Jefferson County Board of Education, affirmative action suffered a major setback when a divided Supreme Court ruled (5-4 vote) that programs in Seattle and Louisville trying to maintain diversity in schools by considering race when assigning students to schools were unconstitutional.

With no new comprehensive federal immigration policy in place, states began to enact their own.

Marco Rubio, a second-generation Cuban American, is elected U.S. Senator from Florida.

2011

Georgia enacts its own version of Arizona's SB-1070—anyone stopped without a driver's license or proof of residency can be handed over to the immigration authorities.

2013

Hispanics make up about one-sixth of the U.S. population—nearly 51 million people. By the middle of the century, the Latino population is expected to reach 127 million—nearly 30 percent of the projected population of the country.

2008

On November 4, Senator Barack Obama became the first African American to be elected president of the United States, defeating Republican candidate Senator John McCain.

2013

The Black Lives Matter movement began following the death of Trayvon Martin, an African American teenager who was shot while walking to a family friend's house, and the subsequent acquittal of George Zimmerman, the man who shot him.

2016

Black Lives Matter organize more protests against police brutality towards Black people. Early July saw over 100 protests take place across America following Alton Sterling's death on July 5th, and Philandro Castile's shooting the next day.

Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia

Jim Crow Museum
Educational Programming
2020

Jim Crow Museum
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