

Media's role in integration of baseball

Jim Crow

- Name of racial caste system, primarily in Southern and border states
- 1877-1960s
- Relegated blacks to second-rate status
- Even Christian ministers taught that Whites were 'Chosen' people and blacks were 'cursed' to be servants – and that blacks were intellectually, culturally inferior
- Included anti-Black laws

Jim Crow

Some beliefs among those who supported the Jim Crow laws

- Sexual relations between whites/blacks would create a 'mongrel' race that would destroy America
- Treating blacks as equals would encourage interracial sexual unions
- Any activity that suggested social equality encouraged interracial sexual relations
- Violence should be used to keep Blacks in their social hierarchy

Jim Crow etiquette

Some Jim Crow etiquette included the following

- A black male could not offer his hand to shake hands with a white male (this implied being socially equal).
- Blacks/whites could not eat together. If this did occur, whites should be served first (plus, a partition should be placed between them.)
- Blacks hold not offer to light a white women's cigarette (this implied intimacy)
- Blacks could not show public affection to one another (because it offended whites)
- Blacks were introduced to whites, not vice-versa

Jim Crow

Three amendments granted blacks the same legal protections as whites

- **Amendment 13 - Slavery Abolished.**
Ratified 12/6/1865. 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Jim Crow

- **Amendment 14 - Citizenship Rights.** Ratified **7/9/1868**. 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. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Jim Crow laws

- **Amendment 15 - Race No Bar to Vote.**
Ratified **2/3/1870.**
- 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.
- 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Challenges to amendments

- Some states started to deny these rights soon after these amendments passed.
- In 1890, Louisiana passed “Separate Car Law” that essentially created a separate but equal provision for railway cars.
- In 1892, Homer Adolph Plessy, who was seven-eighths Caucasian, took a seat in a "whites only" car of a Louisiana train. He refused to move to the car reserved for blacks and was arrested.

Plessy v Ferguson

- **Question** – Is Louisiana's law mandating racial segregation on its trains an unconstitutional infringement on both the privileges and immunities and the equal protection clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment?
- **Conclusion** – No, the state law is within constitutional boundaries. The majority (7-2), in an opinion authored by Justice Henry Billings Brown, upheld state-imposed racial segregation. The justices based their decision on the *separate-but-equal doctrine*, that separate facilities for blacks and whites satisfied the Fourteenth Amendment so long as they were equal. (The phrase, "separate but equal" was not part of the opinion.) Justice Brown conceded that the 14th amendment intended to establish absolute equality for the races before the law. But Brown noted that "in the nature of things it could not have been intended to abolish distinctions based upon color, or to enforce social, as distinguished from political equality, or a commingling of the two races unsatisfactory to either." In short, segregation does not in itself constitute unlawful discrimination.

Racial violence

- Public lynchings – 4,770 ‘known’ lynchings between 1882-1968 (3,440 were Blacks)
 - Some burned at stake, castrated, beaten with clubs and dismembered. Clearly, there were real reasons for ballplayers to be intimidated. Most happened in Southern and border states.
 - Lynchings used to instill fear
 - In 1919, race riots in 26 cities
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- Source: Jim Crow Guide (David Pilgrim)