

### THE RISE OF SEGREGATION

After the Civil War, the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments gave citizenship to four million black Americans. What rights did these constitutional amendments guarantee?

#### THIRTEENTH AMENDMENT (1865)

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 jurisdiction.

#### FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT (1868)

...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.

#### FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT (1870)

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.

Even though the constitutional amendments were the new "law of the land," they did not bring freedom to black people. After the war, government troops had been sent to the South to keep order and protect the rights of freed slaves. After the last soldiers were withdrawn from the South in 1877, white Southerners soon began to regain control of their states. Slowly, all black men were forced out of state governments. Their right to vote was taken away. Most of their new rights became nothing but words on a piece of paper.

The Southern states passed a number of laws called "Jim Crow" laws. These laws were meant to segregate, or keep separate, black people from white people. They required that public places--such as schools and hotels--set up "separate but equal" sections for blacks and whites.

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Adapted from Law in a New Land (Boston: Houghton-Mifflin Co., 1972).  
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In the late 1800s, black Americans were free, but they weren't treated equally. Look at the cartoon below. It appeared in a New York magazine in 1875.



"Shall we call home our troops?"

Questions for Discussion

1. Look at each figure in the cartoon. What people do each of the figures stand for?
2. Considering what you have just read about "Jim Crow" laws, what prediction do you think the cartoon makes?
3. Do you think the cartoon is accurate?