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Department of English Language and Literature



African American Women and the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s

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Submitted by:

Bouguettaya Louiza

Debbih Zineb

Mr. BERBACHE	University of M'sila	President
Mr. GUEMIDE	University of M'sila	Supervisor
Mr. BENAA	University of M'sila	Examiner

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Dedications

With our humble gratitude to Allah, this work is genuinely dedicated to our beloved parents who have been the source of success and strength, may Allah bless them, sincere thanks and gratitude to our sisters and brothers who were and are always there for us.

We would like to express our appreciation to friends and relatives for their generous support.

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Also, we are deeply indebted to all those who contributed to the success of our present work.

Declaration:

I hereby declare that this thesis is my own original work, which I have created myself.

All the literature I used is properly quoted and is listed in Bibliography.

I declare that I worked on my final master's dissertation on my own using only cited literary sources, other information and sources in agreement with the disciplinary regulations for the Faculty of Letters and Languages at the University Mohammed Boudiaf of M'sila and with the regulations and laws of research of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Algeria.

I agree with the storage of this work in the library of the Faculty of Letters and Languages at the University Mohammed Boudiaf of M'sila and making it accessible for study purposes.

Bouguettaya Louiza

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Debbih Zineb

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Abstract:

Although slavery was abolished in the US after the end of the Civil War (1861- 1865) and African Americans gained some legal status, racial segregation known as Jim Crow arose in the South. The term meant, generally, that Southern blacks would continue to live in conditions of poverty and inequality, while white supremacists denied their political rights and freedoms. African American struggle is best known in the US history as the Civil Right Movement during which African Americans, both men and women, determined to achieve the rights and prerogatives of full citizenship, emphasizing liberty, justice, and equality. In the history of Civil Right Movement, men like Dr. Martin Luther King and Malcom X are generally referred to as heroes who fought racial segregation. However, the figures of African American women activists such as Ella Baker, Diane Nash, Fannie Lou Hamer, Annie Lee Cooper, and Angela Davis still are less mentioned in the civil rights movement; although they rose as brilliant activists in the movement and participated heavily in the struggle for justice and equality. The present research highlights African American women's involvement in the Civil Rights Movement to fight for their rights, and what were their achievements.

Key words: Civil rights movement, African American women, racial segregation.

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List of Acronyms

CORE **Congress of Racial Equality**

HBCUs *Historically black colleges and universities*

NAACP *The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People*

NACW *The National Association of Colored Women*

SNCC *Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee*

SCLC **The Southern Christian Leadership Conference**

General Introduction:

1. Background Information:

The Civil Rights Movement is an umbrella term for countless varieties of activism that sought to shelter full political, social, and economic rights for African Americans. The civil rights movement was a sequence of protests which started in the South of the US in the period from 1955 to 1968.

The overall goal of the civil rights movement was to accomplish racial equality. Generally, protest tactics were acts of civil disobedience. Within the movement, African Americans never intended to be violent. From sit-ins to boycotts to marches, these activists who involved in the civil rights movement were vigilant and devoted themselves to the cause without being hostile. Whilst African American men seemed to be the leaders in the heroic movement, African American women played a massive role at the rear of the scenes and in the protests.

The origins of the civil rights movement date back to the Civil War which ended in formal abolishment of slavery, but, unfortunately, it did not end discrimination against the blacks- they sustained to endure the devastating effects of racism, particularly in the South. By the mid- 20th century, African Americans were subjected to unfairness and aggression. Accordingly, they, along with numerous whites, were mobilized and began an unprecedented wrestle for parity that spanned for two decades.

In the movement, there were numerous women who seemed to be poorly represented, or credited despite the fact that they played an important role in the movement, from leading local civil rights organizations to serving as lawyers on school segregations lawsuits. In addition, they experienced gender discrimination and

sexual harassment within the movement. Substantially, African American women have been the backbone of the entire civil rights movement.

2. Statement of the Problem:

Despite the fact that the civil war ended with the emancipation of the slaves, blacks in the US were perpetuated to experience segregation. Discrimination was imposed in the South between 1880s and 1960s because of the Jim Crow laws, and equal facilities was determined by the supreme court in Plessy Vs. Ferguson in 1896. However, from the early days of the civil rights movement, African American women played an important role in combating racial discrimination and injustice.

According to Deborah Atwater, 'African American women played significant roles in the ongoing struggle for freedom and equality. They have organized and struggles for suffrage, for anti- lynching laws, for full employment, and against Jim Crow Laws'. So, how black female activists contributed in the aforementioned movement so as to hold their rights and to get equal opportunities during 1950s and 1960s.

3. The Literature Review:

The civil rights movement was capable of overthrowing the Southern Jim Crow Laws due to the successful measures and means used by the African American leaders. For, they were able to mobilize mass into nonviolent straight action.

Prior to the civil rights movement, social movement scholars formulated cooperative behaviour and related theories to elucidate social movement phenomena. Concerning the role of women, African American women played a key role in the civil rights movement, under historical conditions, these women suffered greatly, and the

brutal oppression against them created a strong willpower to make a difference for their own lives, racial discrimination had a massive influence and they made up their minds to get involved in the movement. They were exhausted of being treated unfairly when searching for jobs and houses and being segregated in public facilities with white, black women took for granted that it was their responsibility to look after and protect the whole community, so they joined the movement without any wavering for the sake of all African Americans.

In the three decades following the civil rights movement, a rich body of literature have been amassed by scholars in detailing the battle for racial and political equality. However, even black women were leaders and activists in crusades against lynching, poll taxes, and Jim Crow statutes, only a few studies document the main role played by them in the modern movement for social change. An assay of the literature covering the decades of the 1940s and the 1950s bears out this point.

Whereas the majority reports of this period emphasis on male leaders and organizations they led, very little is known about the immeasurable black women who were the backbone of the civil rights struggle in local communities across the country. These women not only were supporters, fulfilling traditional female roles as caretakers, but also were major leaders, organizers, and strategies. They determining the destination the movement would take.

Historians of the civil rights movement have required to develop the list of relevant participants. In addition to that they have also started to explore organizations that were involved in the civil rights movement such as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

(SNCC), and the National Association For The Advancement Of Coloured People (NAACP). White and predominantly white organizations that contributed to the movement have much less publications.

This review provides an analysis of the political and intellectual contributions made by the civil rights movement and women predominantly, how black women were responded to such segregation and racism and then presented the image of African American women.

4. Research Questions and Hypotheses:

African Americans have a cheerless history in the US because the civil rights movement of 1950 and 1960 had been rooted as one of the major events that marked the US historical memory.

The present paper addresses to the following questions:

- What were the major causes of the civil rights movement?
- How did African Americans respond to the movement?
- Did the civil rights movement succeed in achieving its desired change?
- How female political activism was perceived within the civil rights movement and within the American society in general in the 1950s and 1960s?
- What were the achievements of African American women in the struggle for civil rights movement?

In the light of these questions, it is hypothesised that:

Because of their skin colour, blacks did not have the same rights that white people, there was so much prejudice against blacks. This injustice on African Americans led to the civil rights movement . The Civil Rights Movements succeeded in a variety of ways, especially in the resulting lawful, legislative, and social changes.

5. Objectives of the Study:

The present research seeks to reach the following objectives:

- ✚ To have a comprehensive overview about African American civil rights movement,
- ✚ To know the contributions and the role played by African American men and mainly women,
- ✚ To illustrate strategies used by leaders of the movement in this struggle,
- ✚ To indicate the impact of civil rights movement on Americans and the achievements of this movement.

6. Significance of the Study:

What makes this paper significant is the truth that it demonstrates the value of African American in the racist world and how the female started to realize their value and believes in themselves to make equality. Thus, Americans society created a better world whether to female or male and for that reason it is important to analyse the content of the civil rights.

7. The Research Methodology:

Since the present research is a purely historical research, the nature of the study employed the use of descriptive approach in order to explore: First, the issue of civil rights movement, Second, how African American women lived the experience. Next who were the most prominent leaders of the movement? Then, what were the strategies they used, and finally what successful contributions did they have in the movement. This approach seems appropriate, and it seeks to answer questions raised about the aforementioned issue.

8. The Structure of the Dissertation:

The present dissertation is basically divided into three chapters. The first chapter introduces general background of the civil rights movement in term of racial segregation and the Jim Crow laws, early protests and the growth for white and colored convicts.

The second chapter generally presents the role of African American women in the struggle of the civil rights, throw light on the contribution of African American women in civil rights movement. The civil rights movement creates challenge to women too in order to represent themselves as equal to men.

The last chapter deals with the achievements of African American women in the struggle of the civil rights.

Chapter One: Background of the Civil Rights Movement:

Introduction:

The most important events in the history of the US are the civil rights movement. It was a struggle against racial segregation that took place in 1950s and 1960s. Even though slavery had officially been abolished after the Civil War, but discrimination against African Americans still existed in the South. In the mid of twentieth century, colored people were patient against aggression that had been opposed to them. However, they were with a lot of whites and started an unprecedented struggle to sustain equality that lasted for two decades (“Civil Rights Movement”).

Since the Civil War, African Americans struggled for their rights. However, equality was achieved in the 1960s by the civil rights movement. In fact, there was an opposition between African American ideals, and the treatment of the Blacks in the US after the Second World War era. African Americans faced inequity in the military, social services, and the labor force sector. Accordingly, twelve million African Americans left the Southern granges for Northern cities in order to seek for better standards of living.

In the 1950's, the Blacks in the US South were deprived of most of their essential rights. The right to vote was not available for all the Blacks. If an African American tried to subscribe in voting, he would lose his job, shrift from his land, and violently treated, or killed. Although the US became a powerful and wealthy nation in the 1950's, the US was divided by the issue of racial segregation which was manifested in buses, trains, hotels, hospitals, and employment during Jim Crow Laws. So, the baby

boom was the result of WWII and the civil rights movement was the most pressing apprehension for Blacks (Benghalia 18).

African Americans wanted to restore full citizenship, social justice, and equality as well. In its entirety, the civil rights movement emerged as a reaction to years of white supremacy in the US. However, in the Chesapeake region where the first Africans were traded and in the same time the Blacks began to rise in the US society. This; in fact, led to the political mass movement in which African Americans struggled to weaken and turn over the mortifying and cruel system of racial segregation; namely, Jim Crow Laws, throughout the US (Wilson 1).

As a matter of fact, the second reconstruction is a term that denotes the civil rights movement which emerged in the US in the 1960s. When reconstruction, after the Civil War, ended in 1877, the Whites, living in the US Southern states, had taken control of the South; and a variety of laws were passed by which discrimination was based on race. These laws, commonly known as Jim Crow Laws, separated African Americans from the Whites in public accommodations and in private facilities. In general, the emergence of the civil rights movements was best manifested in the famous black figure of Rosa Parks who refused to give her seat to a white man (“Civil Rights Movement”).

1.1. Racial Segregation and the Jim Crow Laws:

Racial segregation was a vital part of Jim Crow because it separated the blacks from the rest of human beings and classified them as lower class. Jim Crow as a trilateral structure of control for the reason that Blacks had been controlled politically, socially and economically exploited (Morris 517- 8).

Since 1960, living, schooling and earnings developed favorably for African American. So, the racial segregation was the essence of Jim Crow, and the adoption of explicitly racist laws marked the Jim Crow era intended to keep blacks and white away from each other everywhere from ballparks to cemeteries. African Americans were limited in public accommodations such as restaurants, buses, and trains. Moreover, blacks attended separate and inferior schools (“the truth about Jim Crow” 6-13).

Since 1960, living, schooling and earnings developed favorably for African American. So, the primary goal and the destruction of the legal foundations of the Jim Crow system in the US had been accomplished during the civil rights movement in the mid 1960’s. The civil rights act 1964 and the voting rights act 1965, marked the end of the discrimination that African Americans struggled for (“The New Jim Crow” 51).

The period of Jim Crow Laws had been started and it would stay at it was before till the period of modern the civil rights movement. Thus, African Americans protested in the North within and following the era of slavery against the domination of racial segregation in public conveyance and public services. There were some precursors that encouraged the modern civil rights movement like the March on Washington by the end of 1940’s and the Brown Vs. Board of Education Supreme Court of 1954 (Hill 44).

The beginning of 1960's witnessed social protests which made Jim Crow Laws too hard to sustain locally. Jim Crow was dropped by people's authority from the bottom. All forms of racial segregation and discrimination had prohibited by the civil rights act of 1964, and the Southern African Americans had enfranchised by the voting rights act of 1965 The prohibition of racial segregation and discrimination were under the civil rights act of 1964. Moreover, the national legislation that dismantled the legal underpinning of Jim Crow had constituted by the voting rights act too (Hill 50).

By the mid- of 1960s, the persecution of African Americans in the South had derived from the domination of post Jim Crow system. The peaceful civil rights movement created a new stage of political awareness between blacks in the North, and it annoyed them to observe their southern views imprisoned, lamed, and murdered by racist whites .

1.1.1. The Loss of Voting Rights for African Americans:

The civil rights movement demanded voting rights for African Americans. African Americans protested, marched, did petitions, etc. They acted against many segregation laws and were compacted and nearly beaten to death for better rights. Most African Americans voters in the South were disenfranchised. After the Second World War, the Blacks did hard work in order to get access the voting right, but the Whites disagreed, and prevented the Blacks from their right. So, Blacks reacted and organized summer project of 1964 that known as Freedom Summer ("Civil Rights Movement").

From 1940 and 1960, the number of black voters registered increased in the South. Local leaders; such as, Fannie Lou Hamer in Mississippi, and national leaders, like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. emerged in the 1960s set into motion the voting rights in massive campaigns in the South. In fact, many African Americans were under pressure after the victimization, tantalization and martyrdom during the movement. The voting rights act in 1965 had passed by congress under the President Lyndon Johnson in order to spread voting equality in the Southern states (Cox 1).

Although the 15th Amendment, made in 1870, gave the right to vote to US citizens, laws that restricted African Americans' right to vote had been passed by the Southerners in 1871 and 1889. From 1880 to 1888, negro voting was stopped in Georgia and South Carolina. Despite the fact that African Americans voted in several elections, their votes had not been counted. However, in 1960, these laws were abolished when Lyndon Johnson became a US President who; accordingly, signed the voting rights act in 1965 ("Teacher's Guide" 2).

When the civil rights movement started, and with more violent lawsuit, the Blacks voter registration was increased by 6 percentage points from 1947 to 1950 in the South; whereas in the mid of 1950's only 25 percent of Africans Americans were registered to vote. In Mississippi there were less than 5 percent of black citizen who were registered. While in Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, and Texas there were trimerster. The consideration of the federal legislation had begun congress in order to forbid state actors from passing and applying racially discriminatory limitations on voting ("Voting Rights Access in the US" 19).

1.1.2. Setting Separate Public Accommodations:

Public accommodations are places where people took a seat. It contains restaurant, jail, and hotel. However, the Jim Crow laws stated that separation and racial segregation should remain in public places. In restaurants, the Blacks could not eat in the same dining room with the Whites. In circuses and theatres, there were different ticket booths, doorways, and seats (“Teachers’ Guide” 1).

Racism existed in public accommodations and African Americans were offended by inequality. Setting separate public accommodations in theatre, hotels, and buses was insulted inconvenience in the daily life. Although the Blacks defended to get their rights in services, the white business owners refused to serve African Americans. So, federal intervention, through the pressure made by civil rights movement, had forced in order to destroy the legal foundations of racism and race relations which had transformed the US south as hotbed of tensions (Hornsby).

Before the 1960s, the struggle for equality in public accommodations existed in the history of momentary developments precipitate protest, ensued by legal decreases at the hands of legislators and the tribunals. The Civil Rights Bill of 1875 secured equal enjoyment to US citizens in public accommodations, whereas the U.S. Supreme Court declared it unconstitutional in 1883. From the 1880s to the 1890s, the lack of freedoms of the Blacks in the south was limited by the issued of Jim Crow Laws .

By the end of 19th century, the southern race relations were determined by the Supreme Court in 58 years after the decision of 1896 in Plessy Vs. Ferguson authorized the policy of separate but not equal. However, the direct procedures and legal challenges were continued till the end of the decision of the Supreme Court in

Brown v. Board of Education of 1954, that increased the thrust to carry on the fight against the unwavering racist policies of the South (Hornsby).

In 1960s, legal segregation in public schools was ended by the decision of Brown Vs. Board of Education, and the Montgomery bus boycott and further anti-discrimination protests got again. The new generation seized direct action against African Americans and against segregationist Jim Crow laws. That is why the sit-in movement which started in Greensboro in 1961 .

1.1.3. Setting Separate Schools for the Whites and Blacks:

In 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of colored people had been founded and organized by a small group of activists. They wanted to change the living standards of African Americans by fighting against racial discrimination and segregation that existed in the US society. However, in the middle of 20th century, they emphasized on official challenges to separate public school. In 1950s, two victories succeed in Supreme Court and Plessey had assault by the NAACP (“Brown Vs. Board” 1).

Unlike black children, white children were provided with nice schools. However, African Americans children and blacks one did not use the same textbooks. Moreover, white bus drivers wanted to drive only white children to schools because of the same race with whom they shared (“Teacher’s Guide” 2).

The beginning of equality in schools in the US started in Brown Vs. Board of Education of 1954 when African Americans protested against schools’ inequality. They declared that separation of black children from whites would hurt pupils of

another race. Thus, the Supreme Court had voted that segregation in schools would be ended (“Jim Crow Laws and Racism Go Hand and Hand” 2- 3).

1.1.4. Segregation in Passengers’ Stations and Windows Tickets:

Transportation is very important. The right to travel had recognized by the Supreme Court as one of the basic rights assured by the fourteenth amendment to the U.S. constitution. The importance of transportation to people of color showed by the history of the civil rights movement. The refusal of Rosa Parks to let her seat on a bus to a white passenger glowed the Montgomery bus boycott in 1955 (Sanchez and Brenman 1).

African Americans and white people did not sit together in buses. Blacks’ seat used to be in the back, meanwhile whites stayed in the front of public cars and train as well. The well- known Supreme Court case Plessey Vs. Ferguson stressed that public setting could be separate, but equal. The case of 1896 opened the stage for many state and local laws demanding from whites and blacks to live separated in society (“Teacher’s Guide” 2).

Violent attacks were held by freedom riders in order to stress the rights of colored people to travel on incorporated buses moving interstate. The US society had become progressively aware and dependent on cars to do their travel journeys, in order to the broader transportation policies implemented after World War II which focused on the enlargement of public transportation (Sanchez and Brenman 1).

In the South, African Americans usually struggled from segregation on buses. Therefore, in Alabama any motor transportation company operate all passenger

stations which should have separate waiting accommodations and separate ticket windows for the white and African Americans (Bevel 117). However, some accommodations for the races should be the same. every motor transportation institutions or operative cars transporting travelers for rent in that state should at all times give equal but separate accommodations on every bus for the white and people of color (Murray 32).

1.2. Early Protests and the Growth of the Civil Rights' Movement:

The long history of social protest had emerged in the era of civil rights movement. Despite the fact that any protest in the South had threatened violent revenge, community leaders, from 1900 to 1950, protested against racial segregation in several Southern cities. Racism had been battled by NAACP and the leading civil rights organization of that era by compressing for federal anti-slavery legislation and defying segregation laws in court (Costly 1).

From the 1950s to the 1960s, Martin Luther King, Jr. became the essential leader of the civil rights movement. The Montgomery Bus Boycott organization had been assisted by him, as he wished to end up segregation in public transportation in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955. In fact, Martin Luther King supported peaceful protests, and he thought that the movement could be favorably looked by people of all races to support non-violence. Thousands of supporters of all races had attracted by the peaceful message of the king who settled that segregation and losing rights of the African Americans had to finish. Protest, rallies, boycotts, sit-ins and marches were totally organized by him ("Civil Rights Movement").

1.2.1. The Brown Vs. Board of Education:

In 1951, black students made a strike against unjust circumstances that occurred in their school. However, on May, 1954, the decision in Brown Vs. Board of Education generally annulled racial segregation in public schools. The court emphasized much on the significance of public education, and rejected the ideas of the writers of the fourteenth Amendment (Klarman 55- 7).

Only in the state, Negro children were separated from the whites one in public schools based on their skin color. According to states' laws, which allowed or demanded such isolation, African Americans' children were deprived from the same equal protection as the Whites, since this was stated in the laws of the fourteenth amendment. Nevertheless, the corporal services and concrete aspects of the Blacks and the Whites might be the same ("Brown Vs. Board of Education" 374).

The question raised by the Supreme Court was as follows:

Does segregation of children in public schools solely on the basis of race, even though the physical facilities and other 'tangible' factors may be equal, deprive the children of the minority group of equal educational opportunities? (Alexander and F. D. Alexander 896).

In his answer, Chief Justice Warren declared that:

To separate them (children of 'Negro' race) from others of similar age and qualifications solely because of their race generates a feeling of inferiority as to their status in the community that may affect their hearts and minds in a way unlikely to ever be undone .

The conclusion of the Court in the domain of public education stated that there was no principle the doctrine of racial separation, but to equality. As a matter of fact, disconnect educational facilities was not equal. Thus, the Court witnessed that the candidates were barren from equal security in breaking of the equivalent safety clause of the fourteenth amendment. For this reason, segregation in public schools was declared to be unconstitutional .

1.2.2. The Emmett Till Murder:

On July 1941, Emmett Louis Till was born near Chicago. His father Louis Till was murdered while he was four years old. Mamie Till Bradley had taken the responsibility of raising her son. She was from Mississippi and by the end of 1930s, she moved to Chicago with her son and with 214,000 blacks (Stocker 4).

There were differences in relations in Mississippi. A law had been enforced the state to make division between black and white society on every sides was total law. Unlike the whites, the blacks lived in special neighborhoods, attended separate schools, worked in different jobs, and eating in assorted restaurants (5).

In 1955, Emmett Till, being an African American, he was brought up in south of Chicago. When he was adult, he had gone to see his relatives in Mississippi after a long time of waiting. Accidently, he was murdered and kidnapped by two white men. So, the death of Emmett Till assisted the development of the civil rights movement (Toth 4- 5).

The death of Till had sparked the civil rights movement, in addition to that the political, legal, and social upheaval had been caused the economic development in America (Chermak 243).

1.2.3. Montgomery Bus Boycott:

The Montgomery Bus Boycott is considered as an important protest event during the civil rights movement. In that protest, riding city buses in Montgomery, Alabama, had refused by African Americans in order to protest separation seating. However, the boycott started in December, 5, and ended in December, 20, 1956, and it was considered as a great protest in US expression against segregation. As a result of the refusal of Rosa Parks to let her seat to a white man, the Montgomery bus boycott started after this event (“History Editor”).

In fact, the refusal of Rosa Parks to quit her seat to a white man sparked the civil right movement. Thus, in the 1960’s, black women became the backbone of the civil rights movement. They have been established their personal organizations to show their existence as equal to whites. Moreover, Rosa Parks declared that the Montgomery Bus Boycott was a landmark in the history of Blacks in the US, since it yields African Americans a chance to uncover their excruciation (Bouabdallah and Yassine 27- 8)

During the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Martin Luther King emerged as a noteworthy leader. The worst aspect of racism was witnessed by him and for that reason he decided to assist black people to eradicate Jim Crow Laws. He lived in the time when blacks were faced such discrimination. Martin Luther King excelled in

defying such laws. He did his paramount to be friend for blacks and whites, he made a great work because he is both Southerner and reverend. He did a dialogue in the first night of the boycott and declaring:

I'm happy it happened to a person like Rosa Parks, for nobody can doubt the boundless outbreak of her integrity, nobody can doubt the height of her character, nobody can doubt the depth of her Christian commitment, but there comes a time that people get tried. We are here this evening to say to those who have mistreated us so long that we are tired, tired of the being segregated and humiliated When he was 26 years old, he had become a leader of the Montgomery Improvement Association in order to organized the bus boycott. ("US Civil Rights Movement" 36)

At the beginning, the bus drivers were asked to treat African Americans well in black commuters (Kissi and Belkaid 13). King declared in his first dialogue to MIA that:

For a long time, we have been patient. The protests were the only way to restore our rights. It's true that our white friends felt that we are liking their aggressive treatment. But we were here tonight to make an end to these bad treatments and to restore our freedom and justice. (Friedman 36)

The youngest Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks contributed to end the segregation of the Montgomery bus boycott and the civil rights movement passed on to other struggles (Friedman 36). The bus segregation was ended in June, 4, as a result of ten thousand of complaint steered by Martin Luther King during the movement. The victory of African Americans was celebrated on November, 13, 1956, and the decision of the federal court was confirmed by the Supreme Court by which the lives of African Americans were changed within 381 day along the boycott (Kissi and Belkaid 14).

1.2.4. The Little Rock School Crisis:

In 1957, Segregation in public schools had been outlawed by Board Vs. Board of Education. However, lots of students, especially in Southern school systems, were often frightened by their colleague students, tutors, and school administrators. The continuation of practicing segregation was defied at central high school on Little Rock, Arkansas, at the beginning of the school year in 1957. However, a group of nine black student preserved in registering and attending the whole white school. Those students were known as “The Little Rock Nine” (Bennett 6- 4).

The local NAACP backed the little rock nine. Officers from the state’s National Guard were ordered by Arkansas’s governor to avert black students from going to school. Dwight D. Eisenhower, the US president, was needed by the mayor of Little Rock in order to assist him to impose the Supreme Court ruling mandating integration. After 20 days of aggression and threatening, the US Army protected the students in order to go to the central high school .

Although a major milestone had been marked by victory in this crisis, but the Little Rock Nine were frightened inside the school, and only three of them stood there. The crisis led Arkansas Governor to pass legislation allowing him to postpone desegregation and to make the four schools of Arkansas private instead of the public ones .

1.2.5. Sit- ins:

A new sense of pride and power had produced by the sit- in movement for African Americans. People of color protested against segregation that was still existed in their society. However, African Americans communities were able to change by them with local coordinated action. The sit-in movement confirmed the disapproval of blacks on the Jim Crow system (Hohenstein 1)

The sit-in movement of 1960 was a protest of African American youths. They were lived the protest of the Montgomery bus boycott and Brown Vs. Board of Education that had been made by their elders in 1950s. However, those young blacks were affected and puzzled by the little changes that had been made. So, the Blacks were still facing and living in discrimination, segregation, and inequality still existed in schools. Like previous generations, young African Americans navigated the same Jim Crow rules. The newest generation of 1960 decided to act against the actual situations (Herr 1).

Students had a great impact in the civil rights movement. The movement started in February 1,1960, when the four students, Ezell Blair Jr, Franklin Eugene McCain, Josef Alfred McNeil and David Leinail entered the Greensboro store, they were

rejected services and ordered to let the store, but the students kept calm till the store locked. The next day 25 students decided to take revenge on their camps. But the white patrons heckled them, and the police take a seat behind them to control the situation. The movement was surrounded by a lot of students who determined to join it (“Greensboro four lesson” 6).

On the third day black students had occupied sixty-three seats. However, on the fourth day all sixty-six lunch counter seats had occupied by the whites. On the fifth day students were waited coffee without doing anything (Kissi and Belkaid 15).

On May 10, 1960, the secret negotiations had started without clutter and Negro consumers had served by downtown lunch counters. After few times, Nashville became the first city in south and racism was finished (“US Civil Rights Movement” 38). So, the power of direct action had been discovered by Greensboro students who presented the newest generation that renovated the civil rights movement (“The Sit-Ins: A Counter Revolution in NC” 9).

1.2.6. Freedom Rides:

Freedom rides played an important role in a pivotal moment of history. Freedom rides consisted of groups of both Whites and Blacks. In 1961, freedom rides were launched by the Nashville sit-In activists who associated with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (Friedman 38).

In 1946, the Supreme Court banned segregation in interstate and it became unconstitutional, however, the decision of Morgan Vs. Virginia was applied. Buses were riding by black and white CORE employees through the upper south facing only

little oppression. Blacks and Whites wanted to test if the decision of the Supreme Court was applied by making a journey on interstate buses to the profoundly south. Despite, they predicted the bad treatments from the whites but they sought to the federal government to perform through the conduction of the freedom rides (“Freedom Rides”).

From the earliest, Attorney General Kennedy was against the freedom rides but, he upheld the civil rights conflict and he favored peace instead the freedom rides because he was scared about the purpose of the freedom rides which obliged him to perform (“Freedom Rides”).

On May, 1961, the thirteen African Americans and whites who were skilled by CORE were traveled from Washington, D.C to Anniston and Birmingham by two buses. Whenever they get close toward the black belt, the situation would be breakneck because they were waited by outraged mobs at every station. Despite the buses were at stake and freedom stirrups injured, the journey was continued. The voyage was finished in the two burgs where no bus could allow them to move to Montgomery.

Another freedom rides that were acted by 21 students and these one was safeguarded by the police. But when they arrived to Montgomery, they did not found neither the policemen, nor buses at the stop. Mass media and the public were attracted by the freedom rides. The portrait that was showed in the television was dismayed. This led the President to react and pledged federal protection to the freedom rides although he refused that before (Kissi and Belkaid 19).

Further freedom rides oriented to Jackson and Mississippi where the stirrups were stopped which valeted as a security against the aggression mob. Rather than give guaranties, the prisons were filled by the students. A huge number of the and students became voluntary man and went crossways the south. A thousand of freedom rides appeared by the end of the summer (20).

1.2.7. The Birmingham Campaign:

Because of the failure of nonviolent campaign in Albany, Georgia and the rising question of the nonviolence as a strategy vis-à-vis the segregationists., Martin Luther King and his colleagues in the fall of 1962 faced difficulties. So, the civil rights movement had weakened by the defeat of the nonviolent campaign in the Dixie states. In fact, the king did not refuse the nonviolence ideas' and in the same time he made an effort to acclimate with those who criticize him (Chakrabary 175).

The SNCC activists required "the position of the king should be negotiated, in this manner blacks' anger would be expressed, dissatisfaction and disappointment cannot be sent and this made the local authority doubtless to comprise the movement rapidly. Later on, when the movement won strength, the feeling of dissatisfaction vanished (176).

The number of volunteers was increased and the SCLC extended its area processes with some additional plans. Calm had remained by the local police nevertheless according to separation laws the rioters located at the rear bars in public steads. So as not to permit the movement to expand, a court injunction had obtained by

the city government guiding the rioters to stop every works till the court had approved them .

Martin Luther King was detained, and the movement came in its essential stage. High school students participated in the movement as well as the whites. Due to the feeling of racial equality, the emotional attachment shaped the victory of the Birmingham campaign. The king was argued by those teenagers who were seriously worked (177).

On April 3, 1963, several patrols of lunch counters sit- ins were launched by the activists. After three day, a march on Birmingham's City Hall was started. The boycott of downtown business had begun by African Americans in the city. On April 1963, Connor and Pritchett had got an order from a court which forbidding King, Fred Shuttlesworth and 134 other leaders from joining countries, sit-ins, and other protest activities. However, on April 12, 1963. A protest march was permitted to move toward Birmingham by Martin Luther King (Friedman 41).

The victorious Birmingham campaign became a model for many other communities. A wave of massive protest swept through the south in the succeeding weeks and month. The strategy of the Birmingham campaign also succeeded with regard to its national goals. On June 11, President Kennedy told a national television audience that he would submit a strong civil right act of 1964 (Kolb 120).

1.2.8. The March on Washington:

On June 11, 1963, John F. Kennedy, the US President, addressed the nation, and told the population that he intended to urge Congress to pass a legislation by which

racial segregation had to be prohibited in all privately services. This; in fact, this asserted that Negro leaders' efforts to make change did not fade away, as civil rights legislations could be considered by members of the congress. ("US Civil Rights Movement" 44). On August, 28, 1963, around 250,000 people participated on the March to Washington D. C. A lot of them suffer from racial discrimination whereas few of them did not (Crompton 4).

Searching for jobs and freedom in the march on Washington was considered to be one of the largest political demonstration which had never seen before. The March on Washington for jobs and freedom designed to continue the challenge struggle for achieving social justice and equality. According to the protestors, violent, discrimination, and bloody event could be ended by making the march on Washington (Doak 10- 1).

Comotions preparation was organized by police and military. Hundreds of thousands of people were traveling to Washington, D.C. in spite of the fear. They sought to transmit their letter: Laws must be passed by US Congress in order to protect African Americans from discrimination, racial segregation, and violence. According to the marchers, racism was illegal; thus, they asked for more efforts to be done by the government about it in Washington (Doak 11)

The march on Washington for jobs and freedom highlighted by the speech of Martin Luther king "I have a dream" in which a lot of people were affected by his words. Thus, the speech considered the most influential speech in the history. Many civil rights protestors were motivated by the speech and Martin Luther King, the leading figure of the civil rights movement. However, Martin Luther said:

When we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speech up that when all of God's children- black men or white men...will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, 'Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!' (Doak 14)

The March on Washington had been watched by millions of US citizens on TV, and was the first protest which showed black demands. Although it is difficult to change the minds of committed segregationists, the population did their best to restore their dignity, and the protest had a great effect on the US citizens. So, the civil rights movement was strengthened by the March on Washington (Doak 15).

1.2.9. The Mississippi Freedom Summer:

It is worth to mention that the Blacks wanted to end racial segregation in schools and public facilities. A lot of the Whites, in the South of the US, were afraid of the African Americans because Jim Crow Laws could be overturned by the black populations if they were permitted to vote. The Freedom Summer started in 1964 in the disreputable states which denied the right of the Blacks to vote. CORE, the NAACP, and SNCC volunteers chose Mississippi to assist African Americans with voter registration. Moreover, the foundation of schools was capable of making a well-educated people (Cassity 1).

In spite of the fact that the 15th amendment of 1870 granted African Americans, especially men, the right to vote, but after one century, they lost the right to vote. The significance of voting had been understood by the civil rights officials. African Americans could be able to incur social and political change. In 1961, the climax of intensive voter registration had been marked by freedom summer in the South. Because of the bad voting rights record, organizers preferred to emphasize on Mississippi; however, there were only 6,7% of the Blacks who were enlisted to vote. In addition, the Blacks outnumbered the Whites by 4 to 1 in southern counties. Every one of them was deprived from voting rights (“Freedom summer” 2- 3).

Developing voters’ rights project in Mississippi was supervised by civil rights organization and SNCC since 1960. In that year, the number of the Blacks that comprised the total population in Mississippi was few. Thus, in the following year, small voter registration projects were enacted by SNCC. Hundreds of youths were called by SNCC to squall the state the next summer for the Mississippi freedom project (Felix 11- 2).

During the civil right movement in the 1960’s, the Freedom Summer was considered as an important event in the US history of civil rights movement. In the civil rights movement of 1960, the focus was on registering the Blacks’ voter in order to reduce the effect of white representatives in the southern democratic party. NAACP, SNCC, and CORE cooperated to make a strategy that encouraged people of race voter and to increase the interest of media across the issue (“Civil Rights Movement”).

Freedom summer had organized by civil rights workers in Mississippi in 1964. It is a movement to register the colored people to vote, and it was a time of great racial

aggression and change (Wiles 1). The summer project was organized by the multiple civil rights organizations in which the students of the North were able to travel to the South and stood there. With the assistance of local activists, voter registration and community connection were pursued (“Freedom Summer”).

Historically, the State of Mississippi had marked the lowest level of enrolment for African Americans. As it happened in the elections of 1962, there were only 7% black voters. Hence, Mississippi had received a lot of volunteers to minimize the fastness of the discrimination epicenter (“Freedom Summer”). The end of SNCC’s efforts was marked by freedom summer to rise consciousness and to open other challenging section in the movement (Dierenfield 111).

Conclusion:

Segregations laws existed in the South, and African Americans were separated from the Whites in public accommodations; such as, schools and restaurants. As a prominent leader in the movement, Martin Luther King was a brave leader at that time. He led nonviolent protest against segregation. During the civil right movement, several organized plans were conducted and lots of efforts had been done to assure autonomy and fairness for African Americans. Many events had marked the civil right movement like. The course of race relations in the US had changed by the civil rights movement, breaking the roles de jure segregation in the south and gaining equal rights for people of color. The aim of the civil rights movement naturally is the preservation for the black rights rather than give focusing on the security of the union.

Chapter two: The Role of African American Women in the Struggle of the Civil Rights:

Introduction:

The civil rights movement in the US is an interesting chapter in the history of African Americans' long-time struggle for freedom. In order to end racial inequalities and segregation, African Americans have fought for their equal rights against violence, exploitation, and discrimination.

During the civil rights movement, the contribution of a special group of people cannot be ignored. They devoted much of their time and effort to fight for equal rights for African Americans. The group we refer to is African American women who stood strongly in the front lines of the civil right movement, but they often did not hold formal leadership positions, and are consequently not always visible in photographs and other historical documentation. These women were organized via churches, in homes, and throughout their immediate communities. The civil rights movement could not have been improved without African American women. They were organizers, educators, strategists, and writers. They struggled against the inequality and racial segregation ("The Unsung Heroes of the Civil Rights Movement").

2.1. The Contribution of African American Women in the Civil Rights' Movement:

In fact, the civil rights movement, according to Lynne Olson, a US historian, "was a struggle that women helped to mold, lead, and organize from its very beginning". Starting with the abolitionist movement to end slavery in the nineteenth

century, black women contributed with their efforts to end racial injustice. They fought First , to end lynching, Second ,to acquire fair housing, and then to end discrimination and prejudice (Sharp 6).

Despite the major influence of black women in the civil rights movement of the 1960s, few studies document the roles and the contributions of these women to the struggle for equality and social justice in America (Crawford 13).

With few exceptions, most accounts of this period focus on male leaders and the organizations they led. Very little is known about the countless black women who were the backbone of the civil rights struggle in local communities across this nation. Not only were black women supporters fulfilling traditional female roles of nurturing and caretaking, but also major leaders, organizers, and strategies who helped to mold and shape the direction that the movement would take. Seasoned by a society that systematically persecutes black women. Civil rights activists used their knowledge and experience to challenge the racist and sexist traditions that restricted their lives .

2.1.1. The Emergence of Active Organizations for African American Women:

During the civil rights movement, Black Women became the key part in the organization and mobilization of the black community. Although the collective activities of individuals in schools, churches, and communities were responsible for the construction and progression of the Civil Rights Movement, the existence of formal civil rights organizations established a firm foundation to mobilize necessary resources and political activism. Three organizations received most of the media and

the nation's consideration: NAACP, SCLC, and SNCC, we will discuss these organizations and their structure (Joseph 1).

2.1.1.1. Southern Christian Leadership Conference:

Created in the wake of the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1957 by Martin Luther King and his followers, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) coordinated and supported local organizations working for the full equality of African Americans during the civil rights movement. Initial organizers included Ella Baker, Ralph Abernathy, Fred Shuttlesworth, Joseph Lowery, C. K. Steele, T. J. Jemison, and Bayard Rustin. Animated by king's philosophy of nonviolent direct action and his vision of a mass movement rooted in Christian love and multiracial democracy, the organization conducted leadership training programs, citizen- education projects, and voter registration drives. Along with the Student Non-violent coordinating committee, SCLC played a fundamental role in various southern desegregation and voting rights campaigns, most notably in Albany, Georgia, and Birmingham and Selma, Alabama. These campaigns prompted the passage of the civil rights act of 1964 and the voting act of 1965. In addition, SCLC helped organize the 1963 March on Washington for jobs and freedom where king conveyed his famous speech: *I have a dream* (Boyer 743).

Following these initial successes, SCLC experienced a series of setbacks. In 1965, as black power began to eclipse non-violent direct action among many activities and organizations. In 1968, SCLC planned a poor people's campaign to be held in Washington, D.C, with the expectation of uniting poor people from all races,

ethnicities, and religions. This determination was cut short by the king's assassination in Memphis. Following his death, SCLC maintained its philosophy of non-violent direct action but focused on smaller, local efforts. The organization was further weakened by internal schisms. Despite the complications, SCLC remained active in the struggle for racial, social and economic justice as the 20th century ended .

Within the triumph achieved in Montgomery, bus boycotts were organized in three other Southern cities, Birmingham and Mobile in Alabama, and Tallahassee in Florida. King was pleased to see the protests spreading but he thought their leaders should be working together as a part of a larger protest against segregation. He and Ralph Abernathy, along with two other ministers, Charles K. Steele of Tallahassee and Fred Shuttlesworth of Birmingham, called a meeting of a black clergyman from ten southern states to discuss the formation of permanent civil rights organizations (Fleming 35).

The meeting was held in Atlanta on January 10 and 11, 1957. Martin Luther King and Abernathy had barely reached the city when Abernathy's wife called to tell him that his church and their home had been bombed. A number of other black churches and parsonages had suffered the same fate. Montgomery had been struck by a wave of violence when the Supreme Court ruling against segregated buses went into effect. Gun-toting whites were shooting at buses to express their outrage at integration .and Ku Klux Klansmen were burning crosses (Fleming 35).

After hearing that news, Martin Luther King and Abernathy flew back to Montgomery, King returned to Atlanta the next day, but by then the meeting was almost over. Both men attended the second meeting in New Orleans, were some sixty

black ministers formed the Southern Christian leadership conference (SCLC). King was elected president, and Abernathy, treasurer (36).

One of the SCLC's first moves was to contact Dwight D. Eisenhower, the US President, and asked him to enforce both Brown Vs. Board of Education of Topeka and the Supreme Court ruling against segregation in buses. The two decisions were being almost totally ignored. When the president did not respond the SCLC contacted him again. This time they asked him to call a white house conference on civil rights. Again, there was no response .

During the thirteen months that the Montgomery bus boycott was in effect, Martin Luther King Jr and Ralph Abernathy traveled around the south, meeting with other black ministers and urging them to support the boycott (37).

When Dr. King and Abernathy decided to form a permanent civil rights organization, they turned to the clergy for aid. Ministers had a great deal of authority in the black community and would have no trouble persuading their congregations to join the movement. In addition, their churches could be used as centers for meetings and rallies (Fleming 37).

The ministers who founded the new organization recognized that it needed a name; the one they selected was the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The word "Christian "in the title would make Southern whites think it was merely an association of Baptist preachers, a group not usually known for causing trouble .

2.1.1.2. Congress of Racial Equality:

Headquartered in New York City, The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) is one of the nation's oldest civil rights organizations and is included as one of the "Big Four" African American civil rights groups. Founded to champion "true" equality, CORE has gone through some distinct historical periods, moving from an initiator of nonviolent protest strategies to gain civil rights advances, to an advocate of armed struggle to an organization. The organization is open to African Americans and non-African Americans (Ness 569).

According to its mission statement, CORE seeks individual self-determination, allowing individuals to make their own decisions without interference from those who disagree or oppose them. Its emphasis currently is on self-governance to achieve equality regardless of race, sex, age, disability, religion or ethnic background. The organization seeks to identify and reveal acts of racism and discrimination both in the public and private arenas (Ness 569).

Historically, the CORE was formed in 1942 and adopted its current name in 1944. Unlike some civil rights organizations, CORE pursued the use of nonviolent protest behavior to achieve its goals. In fact, it was the first organization committed to nonviolent challenges to segregation; its original mission statement claimed that "CORE has one method: interracial, nonviolent direct action".

The CORE's methods and mission began to change substantially. It extended its membership, which began to include large numbers of African Americans and more radicalized workers, farmers, and youths. By 1964, the organizations were largely African American and it began to distance itself from its nonviolent past.

In 1966, CORE permitted armed self– defense as a tactic to win the struggle for civil rights. At its 1966 national convention, delegates voted to eliminate devotion to nonviolence as a protest strategy.

By the 1970s, CORE began to give emphasis to “self– determination” and “equal opportunity” as a means of achieving its goals. Its national chairman since 1968, Roy Innis was converted politically during the early 1970s from a political radical to a policy conservative, and CORE’s activities reflect self- help during the 1970s and 1980s, CORE emphasized voter registration to elect African Americans to the office and established cooperatives to help African-American businesses in the black community .

During the 1980s, CORE faced problems related to illegal fundraising, misusing \$500,000 and misrepresentation in seeking contributions. Innis rapidly declared the first instruction of business was restructuring. Innis also established a new fundraising arm--CORE Special Purpose Fund--and began to chip away at the organization's debt. Under Innis's leadership, CORE embraced an ideology of pragmatic nationalism and loaned its support to black economic development and community self- determination (Ness 569).

2.1.1.3. Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee:

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) arose in 1960 at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, with the support of one of the SCLC’s most key leaders, Ella Baker. Initially, the group was closely allied with the SCLC, and they focused mainly on voter- registration drives. Though the organization skilled

success, many SNCC workers also grew disappointed with both the organized white violence they encountered and the lack of federal support for their efforts (Manning & Mullings 395).

By the middle of the decade, many SNCC leaders began to rethink the philosophy of racial integration, and they questioned the continuing viability of tactical nonviolence. Whites were largely forced out of the organization in 1966, and many of the group's early leaders, including Julian Bond, Diane Nash, James Lawson, and John Lewis were replaced by more outspoken, militant activists such as Stokely Carmichael and H. Rap Brown. SNCC was the smallest of the major desegregation organizations in the 1960s, but in several respects left a grander legacy than any other civil rights group .

The "True believers", or dedicated activists within SNCC were deeply principled and pursued through their personal sacrifices and cooperative struggles to pull apart the institutions of racial inequality and social unfairness (Manning & Mullings 395).

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was created in April 1960, in Raleigh, North Carolina. Ella Baker, the executive director of SCLC believed that student and other young people needed their own civil rights organizations. Marion Barry, who later became mayor of Washington, D.C., served as the first chairman of the SNCC for one year. The SNC strive to operate differently than other civil rights organizations; It wanted a less hierarchical and a more democratic structure in the decision-making process (Brooks & Starks 171).

The group was made up of mostly (HBCU) Historically Black Colleges and Universities students and some white students as well. In 1963, John Lewis was

elected chairman of the SNCC. His tenure signaled the start of the organization's period of protest and activism. Lewis definitely believed that members of the SNCC should be actively involved in the cities within which they went to school .

The group embraced Mahatma Gandhi's theories of non-violent direct action to challenge segregation Laws in Southern states as one of their primary strategies. The SNCC members were also active in programs supporting the black community. For example, SNCC members were instrumental in the Mississippi summer project of 1964, along with (SCLC) Southern Christian leadership conference, National Association for the advancement of colored people (NAACP) and (CORE) Congress of racial equality.

It was also made up of hundreds of (HBCU) Historically black colleges and universities students and white college students who had been recruited from various colleges around the country to spend a summer in Mississippi working with local blacks to help register black voters (Brooks & Starks 172).

In 1966, the SNCC transformed its tactics when Lewis lost the chairmanship to Stokely Carmichael. The organization made a dramatic change and became more radical. Carmichael subscribed to a more Black Nationalist view and whites were pushed out of the organization. Carmichael abandoned the principles of Gandhi's non-violence because he was unsatisfied with what he considered very slow progress in black gaining full equality, Carmichael, who became famous for his "black power" slogan, felt that integration and non-violence were impossible given the times and his views alienated long-time SNCC and SCLC activists and members. He only lasted a year as SNCC's leader and left the organization to join the Black Panther party .

The 1967 election of H. Rap Brown as SNCC chairman marked even further alienation of the organization from the SCLC. There were boycotts and sit-ins sponsored by black college students in ST. Louis, Missouri; Kansas; Oklahoma City; Tulsa, and Stillwater, Oklahoma; Lexington and Louisville Kentucky; Charleston, West Virginia; Sumter, South Carolina; Nashville, Tennessee; Atlanta, Georgia; Durham, North Carolina; and Baton Rouge Louisiana. Brown was indicted for inciting a riot in Cambridge, Maryland, in 1967 and left the SNCC in 1968. He then became Minister of Justice of the Black Panther Party. The SNCC became an ineffective organization and disbanded in the 1970s .

2.1.1.4. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People:

NAACP is a nonprofit association founded with the objective of assuring the political, education social and economic equal opportunity of minority groups. The NAACP expresses itself as an organization in the quest of “ending racial discrimination and segregation in all public aspects of American life “and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination” (Weir 559).

The NAACP is the nation’s foremost and largest civil rights organization, the organization had over 300.000 members and 2.200 branch chapters, including college and youth chapters. Membership in the NAACP is collected mainly African Americans but members of other races also belong .

On February 12, 1909, the NAACP was established in New York City by a multiracial group of activists, under the leadership of Harvard –educated scholar W.E. B. Du Bois. In 1910 Du Bois left his teaching post at Atlanta University to work at the

NAACP for twenty- five years Du Bois worked as editor-in-chief of the NAACP publication the crisis the NAACP monthly magazine .

Du Bois was the organization's most noticeable spokesman. When Du Bois left the organization in 1934, Wilkins replaced him as editor of the crisis. In 1955 Wilkins was named executive director of the NAACP; he held this position until his retirement in 1977 .

After launching of two blacks in 1908, Mary White Ovington, a white woman, and Brooklyn native, organized conference in Springfield, Illinois, to discuss the growth of political and social equality of blacks. The National Negro committee was established shortly after, in 1909 (Schaefer 931).

The second conference, in the following year, led to the establishment of the National Association for the Advancement of colored people (NAACP) a permanent body led by William E.B Du Bois, Henry Moscowitz, Mary White Ovington, Oswald Garrison Villiard, William English welling and Ida Wells Barnett. The ultimate goal was to strove for the end of racial discrimination.

Despite the violence directed toward individuals directly involved with the organization, the NAACP advocated nonviolent protests to advance the rights of blacks, their methods often contrasted with the strategies of extremist black groups, such as the student nonviolent coordinating committee (SNCC), the Congress of racial equality (CORE). The aforementioned groups often criticized the NAACP for being passive. NAACP has been criticized, but over the years it has amassed an impressive record of achievements .

2.2. African American Women in the Struggle of the Civil Rights

Movement: Standing up for Change:

As far back as the 19th century, African American women resisted for rights. They attacked slavery and spoke out against racism. They established women's clubs to improve conditions for African Americans. They worked in politics and journalism, organized black labor, and reinforced education. In the 20th century, they shaped the backbone of the modern Civil Rights Movement. African American women were the critical mass, and the grassroots leaders challenging America to ensure fairness and equality for all ("Standing Up for Change").

2.2.1. Resisting Racial Inequality and Speaking Out Against Racism:

As time progressed, blacks continued to encounter the system. In the 1940s and 1950s when blacks began taking more and more political and legal actions against racism, black women were also at the front. Their race and gender oppression helped them recognize the need to become involved in the fight for Civil Rights. The rejection of the right to vote, to attend certain schools, and live in certain neighborhoods was a right that had been denied far too long. As numerous blacks began to organize around these issues, black women participated, hoping that they could play a role in attaining their rights. Black women's power in their homes and communities was transfigured into action that essential for the Civil Rights Movement advancement (Joseph 1).

Black men and women have shared a long and painful history of resistance to oppression beginning as soon as blacks were compulsorily removed from their homelands and brought to the shores of North America. Activism and resistance was

and is a way of life, women were and are central to the success of any movement for freedom. While the years 1954 to 1965 represent heightened civil rights movement activity, they by no means mark the sudden onslaught of activism. The movement was and is continuous. The development of nonviolent ideologies and strategies, as well as the culture of resistance which manifested itself during the heightened period of the civil rights movement, developed in historical context (Robnett 44).

As mentioned above, African American women struggle against racism and racial discrimination and how they resisted by working in politics, journalism, education and establishing women's clubs to improve African Americans condition we will talk about these details below.

2.2.2. Establishing Women's Clubs to Improve Conditions for African Americans:

African American women's involvement in communal aid societies began centuries ago. Beginning in the 1700s, African American women established their own mutual aid societies, many inside churches, to help needy African Americans. Because free African Americans in the North had hardly any economic opportunities, they were often incapable to provide the basic necessities for their families; African American women organized to pool their resources and fill that gap. With strict membership standards, these forerunners of the black women's clubs created leadership opportunities and safe spaces for the development of gendered race consciousness for African American women (Brown, Parks and Phillips 347).

Late in the nineteenth century, African American women began to organize regional clubs specifically to improve the social conditions of African Americans. Although some black women were welcome in white women's organizations, many decided that organizations run by African American women would be better able to target and serve their constituents. These women set out to work together to create a network of organizations and clubs to improve the lives of African Americans .

In the last decade of the nineteenth century, after having been repeatedly averted by the racially homogenous women's rights movement, Black women organized their own black movement. In 1895, five years after the formation of the general federation of women's clubs which consolidated a club movement reflecting concerns of middle - class white women— one hundred black women from ten states met in the city of Boston, under the headship of Josephine St Pierre Ruffin, to discuss the creation of a National organization of black women's clubs. They defined the primary function of their clubs as an ideological as well as an activist defense of black women - and – men from the ravages of racism (Hord & Lee 296).

In earlier years, women's activism and leadership were often asserted through participating in black women's clubs. In 1924, Mary McCleod Bethune took the helm of one of the first such organizations, the National Association of colored women (NACW). This organization possessed a long and distinguished history of activism, with black women activists Ida Wells— Barnett and Mary Church Terrell, a well-known educator and writer Anna Cooper, Black Baptist women's movement leader Nannie Burroughs, and founder of the National Association of colored women Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin as its former leaders. These women along with many others

who spearheaded club movements in their cities and states were contributory in the development of the NAACP, many of them had been part of its precursors, the National Afro- American league/council and the Niagara Movement. In the early years, the women of the NACW worked vigorously to garner support and to increase membership, Wells and Terrell, in particular, used their national and international recognition, to induce both black and white women to support them (Robnett 45).

Bethune activism continued in the footsteps of her predecessors, and her connection to men who would later become a part of Dr. Martin Luther King's inner circle helped sow the seeds for heightened movement activity in the 1950s and 1960s. She has been described as a very charismatic woman who was able to garner support for her projects .

2.2.3. Working in Politics and Journalism:

Throughout the nineteenth century, New York City's blacks were controlled by their political marginalization, racism, and a sluggish economy. Despite of these obstacles, however, they were politically engaged, they founded churches, raised funds to support the city's African schools. When slavery was finally abolished, blacks continued their political battle focusing primarily on black male suffrage rights. Black male leaders claimed that political concerns were part of the male domain, and as a result, they pleaded black women to refrain from political activism. yet although black women were told to leave politics to men, they had a long history of community activism and play a crucial role in the public lives of blacks (Dabel 129).

Women of all social classes devoted their energies to moral reform, abolition, church- related activities, and civil rights. They also made their own mutual aid societies and church groups shaped their own community activist agendas. The political goal of black men and women often contrasted. While black men tended to focus on national political goals, women focused on local concerns and struggled to improve the daily lives of the city's black population (Dabel 130).

Ordinary women wanted to secure a better future for the next generation by reinforcing education for their children they wanted an end to daily discrimination, and most of all they wanted financial security. Black male leaders expected women to devote their lives to their families and to defer to their fathers and husbands. Over the following five decades, black women sustained both their community and their family (Dabel 130).

Nonetheless, black women continued to play a very different role in nineteenth – century, they asserted themselves as family members, community, and decision makers. Black women shaped the lives of people in their community, enabling it to flourish in the face of increasing racism; they overcome challenges of poverty, discrimination. In so doing, they created and sustained one of the most notable black urban communities in the United States (158).

Journalism is always reported to be a “man’s job” due to the fact that it would be a too dangerous job for a female, many of the men looked at women as docile mothers whose purpose in life is to cook, clean, and take care of their children. However, women sought out to conquer anyone that tried to prevent them from writing and engage in journalism (“Women in Journalism”).

In fact, African American women confronted the double burden of racial and gender discrimination because they were both black and women; Nevertheless, women have overcome all obstacles and become social and political activists, they wrote hundreds of articles for magazines newspapers and other publications but they received a little attention(Broussard 04).

Ida B. Wells-Barnett has perhaps given more visibility than any other early black women journalists, she began writing in for black newspapers and she bought the interest. Wells- Barnett was named a princess of the press because of her popularity.

Like Wells-Barnett, Mary Church Terrell used her pen and her voice to address the hardship of American society. She becomes one of the foremost civil rights supporters she decided to become an advocate for blacks through her work as a journalist (Broussard 04).

Another black women journalist who was known as the window of powerful black leader was Jacques Garvey. She did not refer to herself as a journalist, but she saw herself more as an activist. Jacques Garvey challenged racism and wrote about woman suffrage and other topics. She contributed a lot to newspapers and other publications for the sake of accomplishing her activist goals .

Currently, journalist women worked hard to earn rights; they succeeded due to the efforts that those early women made to pave the way for the young female journalist of today by showing men that females can be effective as males in the field of journalism (“Women in Journalism”).

2.2.4. Organizing Black Labor and Supporting Education:

Black leaders, activists, and organizers shaped the backbone of the U.S labor movement. Even when the forces of racism and segregation strived to repress their prowess, their determination to fight for workers' rights remained steady. laborers realized that they must unit to demand change, even though they lacked money, education or political power ("Black Women") .

In the 1880s, a new national labor organization arose The knights of labor , The knights promised to admit employees of all races and nationalities, after the knights were destroyed by an employer backlash , the American federation of labor revitalized the labor movement by organizing skilled workers , the AFL required all affiliates to pledge that their members would never discriminate against workers and their color , or creed . Unfortunately, by 1895, the AFL allowed new affiliates to forbid African Americans from joining their ranks and they continued to be isolated and this restricted their employment chances ("African American's Rights").

Slowly unions grow, efforts to form nationwide organizations faced difficulties but many organizers believe that it's time for change. Black women in particular have been essential leaders in the labor movement and have played a massive role in its development, they fought long and hard, all working people can obtain not just basic workplace rights, but a life of dignity, respect, and safe working conditions. Organized labor has brought positive change to working Americans. Today many workers enjoy higher wages with safer working conditions ("Organized Labor").

The right to equal educational prospects has been at the vanguard of the civil rights struggles. Institutional racism restricted access to educational institutions; black

students were at sturdy shortcomings compared to white students, incapable to attend white public schools . There were no school busses, so they were forced to walk miles if they want to obtain education (Joseph 1).

Sexism also prohibited black women from getting the same educational opportunities as black men; it was tolerable for men to be doctors, lawyers, etc., while black women were expected to remain in home. Racism and sexism affected women's educational chances. In 1954, the Supreme Court and Eisenhower administration called for school integration. Even though this demand had been proclaimed, it was not constantly enforced mainly in segregationist states; such as, Mississippi and Alabama .

Black women fight for a better future for their children, and their power was converted into actions, they want to ameliorate the quality of life for future generations and sought to be a part of a strife that would empower their children and the next generations (Joseph 1).

Conclusion:

African American women played a significant role in the struggle for freedom and equality, despite all the obstacles; they have been and still are the civil Rights Movement pillar. They answered the call for freedom with passion, their stories serve as inspiration, motivation. African American women were at the forefront of the civil rights struggle, but unfortunately their stories were rarely heard.

Chapter three: The Achievements of African American Women in the Struggle of the Civil Rights:

Introduction:

The civil rights movement depicts the utmost struggle of social justice in US history. The objective of the civil rights movement was to get rid of racism and create federal law stating that all individuals, regardless of their race have full right to be treated equally.

Since being colored women of color meant expected to confront the worst forms of gender discrimination, African American women played pivotal roles in the struggle for human rights through activities in churches, schools, and organizations. They held their responsibility to safeguard the whole community; so, they acceded to the movement for the sake of all African Americans. The civil rights movement became massively successful with the support of black women even though they felt that they were marginalized from the dominant society, but they entered the professional arenas and acquired positions in political matters.

Rosa Parks, Ella Baker, Septima Clark, Fannie Lou Hamer, Dorothy Height, and Daisy Bates are some of the notable Black heroines' names who fought for equality during the civil rights movement. Their realizations in politics, science, and other areas continued to effect society today.

3.1. Black Women in the Civil Right Movement:

African American women were the backbone of the civil rights movement. They were struggling to spread justice and equality in America. Black women were the grassroots leaders, they did their best throughout involving in the protests by fighting peacefully in order to restore their dignity and they did not accept racism and discriminations in their daily life.

Black women figures were enlightened list in the civil rights movement and whenever someone read about the civil rights movement, Rosa parks and Ella Packer were in front of that era. Indeed, women more involved in civil rights organization than men. However, black women were presenting more than one role; they were mothers, activists and friends. A lot of black's women were educated in order to face segregation in civilized way (Glasrud and Piter 160).

In 1960, Black women struggled from job discrimination and low salaries like separation, aggression, and other types of discrimination. However, in Texas there were only 2 percent of African American got professional job whereas 42 percent worked as domestics in private homes. Moreover, the number of women in service work was only 27 percent. As a result of that, black women and African Americans had faced the problem of low percentages of workers and low salaries (171).

During the civil rights movement black women had a great significance to the people of color fight for freedom and equality. Black women had extremely involved in the struggle against discrimination, segregation and disenfranchisement of Negro Americans. Furthermore, black women mostly represented the true backbone of the

movement and their job was necessary to the winner of some of the most significant civil rights organizations (Miller, Steven, and Schafer-Wunsche 77).

3.1.1. The Rise of Black Female Heroes Leading the Civil Rights Movement:

During this short span of time, African Americans led the fight to free the US society from the roots of slavery and Jim Crow. African American women played significant roles at all levels of the civil rights movement, yet they remain mostly invisible to the larger public. African American women were active leaders at all levels of the civil rights movement, though the larger society, the civil rights establishment, and sometimes even the women themselves failed to acknowledge their significant leadership contributions.

3.1.1.1. Rosa Parks:

Rosa Louise McCauley Parks was born on February 4, 1913, she was from middle class; her parents were divorced and stood with her mother, she got married in 1931. She was the first woman of the civil rights. She was known the mother of the civil rights movement and as an activist in that era, she done a great effort that no one did. She settled in Montgomery where racism was existed (“Editors History”).

Parks was one of the civil rights women activists who rejected to give her seat to a white man on a separated Montgomery bus. The Montgomery bus boycott had sparked by her defiance to make an end to discrimination in public services. This brave woman had a great compliment in her era, as well as the NAACP’s accolade .

The protests of Rosa Parks was peaceful. She tried to break the flusters that were existed in that era in peaceful ways. However, she was the mother of the civil rights movement who was did not let her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama bus in 1955. The arresting officers had made a lot of noise due to her action (“Editors History”).

The sparks that lighted the flame of anger in Negro communities was a result of Rosa parks in several southern cities. The social upheaval that pursued her detain might attached some sprinkled cruelty. In general, African Americans were peacefully protested even though the search for bus desegregation was not a piece of cake . The African Americans people who set in the front ranks in the Montgomery confrontation sought to make a change for themselves and the future generations. Since, they knew that achieving success was not easy in those circumstances they carried the weight. In other hand, the city fathers had received a message by Parks, Dr. King and Malcolm x, that portent an order for change to future generation of Negroes to be aware: “Never let this type of oppression happen again”! (Boyer 17).

Parks died on October 24, 2005, at the age of 92.

3.1.1.2. Ella Backer:

Ella Josephine Baker was born in 1903 in Norfolk, Virginia, she belongs to leaders of the civil rights movement of 1950s and 1960s. Like Rosa, baker had inspired by the historic bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama of 1955. However, the organization In Friendship had cofounded by her to raise money for the civil movement in the South (“Ella Baker”).

In January 1957, Baker, as delegate of In Friendship, moved towards the South with her colleague Bayard Rustin in order to assist organize the beginning conference of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. It wanted to increase across the South the seeds of upheaval that had grown in Montgomery. Serious reservations had been had by her about the way in which SCLC was planned and how the task of propagating the movement had approached (Ransby 170).

Baker was one of the civil rights movement key leaders and the most essential nonstudent committed in the stage of student activism that started with the formation of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee succeeding the dramatic sit-ins of the two seasons. i. e. winter and spring of 1960 (Bobo, Hudley, and Michel 81).

Baker died on December 13, 1986, in New York City .

3.1.1.3. Fannie Lou Hamer:

Hamer was an American woman; she wanted to light the life of African Americans by fighting the darkness of racism. She grew in grinding poverty and lived in segregated Mississippi where she lived a hard. Moreover, when she became activist in the civil rights, her life had changed. She wished that all blacks' people would treat with respect and be valued. The desire of Hamer to become a part of the civil rights movement had achieved (Bracey 159).

An indelible impact had been made by Hamer on many black people in the state of Mississippi through the importance of the civil rights movement. She had worked against racism and discrimination that poor black people were facing. Indeed, she was

influenced many activists, such as Rosa Parks and Ella Baker. Citizenship classes had been conducted by her in order to assist blacks voter registration (159- 161).

In general, Hamer struggled for the civil rights in Mississippi and the racism had been actively challenged by her in order to make an end to segregation and to encourage African American to vote. Thus, she became a leader of 1964 Freedom Summer Campaign that fought white supremacy, separation, and racial aggression in Mississippi. Moreover, the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party had been co-founded by her in order to integrate African Americans into the state's Democratic Party ("Women in the modern civil rights movement"). Hamer died on 14th March ,1977.aged 59.

3.1.1.4. Daisy Bates:

Daisy Bates was president of the Arkansas chapter of the NAACP and she made a great role in the clash against segregation. However, the little rock nine that was mentioned in chapter one was assisted by her. Thus, she supported black's student and her home turned out to be the headquarters for the struggle to integrate central high school. For that reason, Bates had received various threats, but this final one did not stop her practicing her job ("Daisy Bates").

Bates as a social activist, she had received a lot of rewards during her career. For instance, the University of Arkansas gave her honorary degree and as a great leader in the history of blacks, she is the greatest remembered figures because she guided force behind one of the largest battles for schools incorporating in the nation's history .Bates died on November 4th ,1999.

3.2. Playing a Key Role in the Civil Rights Movement:

African American women actually played important roles in the Civil Rights Movement. These women had few rights, education was not available, they were banned from professional positions, they were not granted the right to vote. Despite all the suffering many of these women sacrificed of their time, energy, and even reputation, they went through a risky journey for themselves and their families, when it came to their involvement and activism in the Movement women saw the Movement as an opportunity to play a role in moving country onward towards equality and affirming not just the legitimate rights, but also the absolute dignity of each person. Women often took civil rights workers into their homes, giving them a place to eat and sleep, church also played a part in these changing roles, where churches were a pivotal center of organizing activity (“The fight for women’s rights”).

Women were the behind the scenes as workforces of the civil rights movement. They built the grassroots organization through non-violent methods, they led Freedom Rides, fought for economic justice; Most of the people who were under arrest and put in jail during the civil rights movement were women, the struggle for racial equality provided them with a unique opportunity to expand their roles .

African American women took leadership positions in the civil rights movement, women’s right to vote, education for women, ending racial and gender discrimination could not have been achieved without these women. Women’s participation was spirited to the success of the civil rights movement .

Black Women's Influence on Civil Rights Movement :

The Civil Rights movement has been one of the most uniting acts in the American history it effected not only Blacks and other minorities, but women as well. Civil rights movement had an impact on the whole world, the US culture, law, and the people who were involved in it. It showed that if people organize, they can change.

The African Americans used countless techniques and protests to achieve their goals, The Montgomery bus boycott led to the end of segregation and have detached sections on buses for blacks and whites, the Sit – in was used to highlight the segregation that took place in public places such as restaurant and the act of 1964 prevented segregation in public place (Perry 01).

The clearest influence of the civil rights movement is that the movement succeeded by taking measures against discrimination, making American society less racist and made it easier for whites to accept blacks as equals, women particularly have equal rights, they presented in this movement as nonviolent, intelligent and hardworking. Civil rights movement brought major changes but it has not changed everything, African Americans still don't have full equality in the US .

3.2.1.1. Constituting a Black Power of the Civil Right Movement:

The growing of the civil rights movement and black power had emerged from the ancient tradition of African Americans which persistent centuries from the resistance and self-determination. The two events had an important influence on every side of American life, from politics to foreign policy (Greene 01).

Since, a lot of African Americans were lived in the South; the civil rights movement was a non-violent. However, the protesters had protested in a peaceful way in order to accomplish their purpose, for instance, Gandhi's non-violent struggle to gain independence for the Indian people under the British rule had inspired the father of the civil rights movement Dr. Martin Luther King (Reed et al. 385).

Although some essential legislation like the civil rights act of 1964 and the voting act of 1965 had assisted by the non-violence, a lot of activists detached with the slowness pace of growth. As the protesters of the civil rights movement, they had the desire to achieve racial equality. However, violent method had prepared by the supporters of black power in order to achieve those goals (Reed et al. 388).

The supporters of black power separated themselves into two different groups which were the pluralists and the nationalist. Moreover, the pluralists had believed in incorporation that all races were able to live peacefully together whereas the nationalists had believed that the oppression of black culture bounded by the dominant white thus, they sought to pullback from American society and increase their own society (392).

3.2.1.2. Gaining Support and Allies of the White Women in the Civil Right Movement:

The American civil rights movement was a movement of people. Black and white male and female, rich and poor. These people came together to advance nation's equality and to put an end to the discrimination. Making the stories of white allies visible is an important contribution to civil rights movement. Whites have risked to

fight white supremacy in the united states they have dedicated their lives to the struggle for civil rights (“A White Woman Who Understood”).

With commitment and courage, white women allies saw the movement as an opportunity to fight against racism, with their organizational skills they helped African Americans with money, resources, their support in voting should not be ignored. Among these women, we can cite two featured allies: Virginia foster Durr who was a political activist who fought against the poll tax and southern white male dominations, and Anne McCarty Barden who was a journalist and community organizer, organized white southerners to support the civil rights movement. Blacks and whites’ allies together work harder to achieve justice and peace (“Refusing racism”).

Conclusion:

Women were at the forefront of the civil rights struggle, and they played a central role in the battle for racial equality. Ella Baker, who helped found the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, Fannie Lou Hamer, who took on segregation in the Democratic party (and won), and Septima Clark, who created a network of "Citizenship Schools" to teach poor Black men and women to read and write and many other women who were active in defending their rights. Without the presence of women and their efforts the civil rights movement would not exist.

General Conclusion:

The Civil rights movement had been chiefly related with racism and personal identity. Indeed, the aim of African Americans, in general, and African American women, in particular, was their freedom and breaking the rules of Jim Crow Laws. The major cause of the civil rights movement was the status of inequality that was posed in the US society between the Blacks and the Whites.

In the mid of 1950s, African Americans demanded their rights after a long time with struggle. Moreover, after the end of the Second World War, there were a lot of reasons that pushed African Americans to raise their demands like the anti-racist rhetoric of WWII, in Cold War people of color needed to treat in a good way, and added the number of African Americans in the North in order to vote.

African Americans protested peacefully and they were created the movement and considered it like their liberation resistance. In fact, the civil rights movement was succeeded and failed in the same time because there were such improvements as a consequence of the movement, but they did not have the full equality. The prevention of black Americans from practicing their daily rights as whites were under the rules of racial segregation and the systematic discrimination.

On other hand, African American women had participated in the movement by raising their demands which consists a series of rights that black women had lost. Female political activism within the civil rights movement had forced by black community and American society in order to play roles in the movement that tended to

be hidden as a result of racism and sexism. So, women roles in- and outside the movement had reflected by gender and classism in the American society.

Many black activists were defined their purpose like equal rights, and they sought to create a society in which men and women are equal regardless to their gender. However, women were conscious and they created their individual and collective identity.

It can also be concluded that African American women played important roles in the civil rights movement , their efforts to lead the movement were often overshadowed by men , who still get more attention and credit for its successes in popular historical narratives and commemorations .

However, while advancing in the stages of our investigation, we faced several limitations. First of all, the number of pages we are supposed to respect limited our analysis . Second , we faced a lack of time because the process of collecting data was longer than planned . Finally ,we faced Lack of sources and references .

This research was conducted regarding the questions asked earlier in the introduction. It had a limited time background which was African American Women and The Struggle For Civil Rights Movement in The 1960s . This exploration of the topic can be just an opening for a further study of the subject matter , because African American women played pivotal roles in the movement but they often received little recognition for such dedicated participation .

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Résumé:

Bien que l'esclavage ait été aboli aux États-Unis après la fin de la guerre civile (1861-1865) et que les Afro-Américains aient acquis un statut légal, la ségrégation raciale connue sous le nom de Jim Crow a pris naissance dans le Sud. Le terme signifiait, en général, que les Noirs du Sud continueraient à vivre dans des conditions de pauvreté et d'inégalité, tandis que les suprémacistes blancs nieraient leurs droits et leurs libertés politiques. La lutte afro-américaine est mieux connue dans l'histoire des États-Unis comme étant le Mouvement pour la défense des droits civils, au cours de laquelle des Afro-Américains, hommes et femmes, déterminés à réaliser les droits et prérogatives de la citoyenneté à part entière, en mettant l'accent sur la liberté, la justice et l'égalité.

Dans l'histoire du Civil Right Movement, des hommes comme Martin Luther King et Malcom X sont généralement qualifiés de héros luttant contre la ségrégation raciale. Cependant, les figures de militantes afro-américaines telles que Ella Baker, Diane Nash, Fannie Lou Hamer, Annie Lee Cooper et Angela Davis sont encore moins mentionnées dans le mouvement des droits civiques; bien qu'ils soient devenus de brillants militants du mouvement et qu'ils aient participé activement à la lutte pour la justice et l'égalité.

La présente recherche met en évidence l'implication des femmes afro-américaines dans le mouvement des droits civiques dans la lutte pour leurs droits et leurs réalisations.

Mots clés: mouvement de défense des droits civils, femmes afro- américaines, ségrégation raciale.

الملخص:

على الرغم من إلغاء العبودية في الولايات المتحدة بعد نهاية الحرب الأهلية (1861-1865) وحصل الأمريكيون من أصول إفريقية على بعض الوضع القانوني، فقد نشأ الفصل العنصري المعروف باسم جيم كرو في الجنوب. يعني المصطلح، بشكل عام، أن السود الجنوبيين سيستمرّون في العيش في ظروف من الفقر وعدم المساواة، في حين أن المتفوقين البيض ينكرون حقوقهم السياسية وحرّياتهم. يُعرف الكفاح الأمريكي من أصل أفريقي في تاريخ الولايات المتحدة باسم "حركة الحقوق المدنية" التي خلالها مصممون من الأميركيين الأفارقة، رجالاً ونساءً، على تحقيق حقوق وصلاحيات المواطنة الكاملة والتأكيد على الحرية والعدالة والمساواة.

في تاريخ حركة الحقوق المدنية، يشار إلى الرجال مثل الدكتور مارتن لوثر كينج وملكوم إكس بشكل عام على أنهم أبطال قاتلوا التمييز العنصري. ومع ذلك، فإن شخصيات الناشطات الأمريكيات من أصول إفريقية، مثل إيليا بيكر وديان ناش وفاني لو هامر وآني لي كوبر وأنجيلا ديفيز، لا تزال أقل ذكراً في حركة الحقوق المدنية؛ على الرغم من أنهم نهضوا كناشطين لامعين في الحركة وشاركوا بقوة في الكفاح من أجل العدالة والمساواة. تسلط هذه الرسالة البحثية الضوء على مشاركة النساء الأمريكيات من أصول إفريقية في حركة الحقوق المدنية للنضال من أجل حقوقهن، وما هي إنجازاتهن.

الكلمات المفتاحية: حركة الحقوق المدنية، النساء الأمريكيات من أصول إفريقية، التمييز العنصري.