

Civil Right Movement

Name

Institutional Affiliation

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The Civil Rights Movement in the U.S. has always wanted the enforcement of constitutional and legal liberties for African Americans. However, the 21<sup>st</sup>-century struggle possesses a considerable difference from the fight led by Dr. Martin Luther King in the 1960s. While Dr. King's fight encompasses the war in Vietnam, women's liberation, and racism, the 21<sup>st</sup> century Civil Rights Movement has focused on racism. Thus, the Civil Rights Movement of the 21<sup>st</sup> century differs from Dr. King's movement because its sole intent is to end racial discrimination.

According to Taylor (2014), Dr. King asserted that the black revolution was more than a struggle for the rights of African Americans. It involved forcing the American society to face its flaws, namely, poverty, racism, militarism, and materialism. Thus, the Civil Rights Movement led by Dr. King aimed to advance the rights of blacks, oppose the war in Vietnam, and revive the fight for women's liberation that were crucial issues affecting the American people at the time.

The Reconstruction Era had led to significant changes in the treatment of black people by abolishing slavery and reducing the inequities between blacks and whites in the United States (Latta, 2015). However, the passage of time threatened to return the country to those dark days. Moreover, new problems were developing in the nation, such as the invasion of Vietnam that most people felt was unnecessary. The Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s was a response to these challenges, and it achieved success in addressing most of them.

However, the Civil Rights Movement of the 21<sup>st</sup> century has been involved primarily in the fight against the remnants of racial injustice in the U.S. According to Rickford (2015), the Black Lives Matter, which is the modern Civil Rights Movement, started after the acquittal of George Zimmerman for killing a seventeen-year-old black known as Trayvon Martin. Black

people are not treated in the same way they were treated during Dr. Martin Luther King's time. In the 1960s, they faced significant problems including segregation that restricted their access to facilities used by white people. In modern times, they experience discrimination, for example, subjective arrests due to their race.

As a result, the Civil Rights Movement of Dr. King's time fought various problems including issues that concerned both whites and blacks. However, the modern Civil Rights Movement has concentrated mostly on racial injustice. The Black Lives Matter group that started as a Twitter campaign has focused on ending racial discrimination more than any other issue in the American society. The attention it has given to racial issues differentiates it from Dr. King's struggles.

References

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Rickford, R. (2015). Black Lives Matter. *New Labor Forum*, 25 (1): 34–42.

Taylor, K. (2014). *From #BlackLivesMatter to black liberation*. Chicago, IL: Haymarket Books.