

CHAPTER  
**14**  
SECTION 1

## Section Summary

### EARLY DEMANDS FOR EQUALITY

In the South, African Americans were separated from white Americans. Jim Crow laws made this separation legal. Segregation that is enforced by law is called **de jure segregation**. African Americans in the North also faced segregation, even where there were no explicit laws. Segregation by tradition is known as **de facto segregation**.

In the 1950s, the NAACP turned to the federal courts to end segregation. In *Brown v. Board of Education*, the NAACP challenged segregation in public schools. **Thurgood Marshall**, an African American lawyer, was part of the legal team. The Supreme Court agreed that segregation in public schools was illegal. Chief Justice **Earl Warren** wrote the *Brown* decision. He declared that the idea of “separate but equal” was wrong.

However, southern states found ways to resist compliance with the law. In Little Rock, Arkansas, nine African American students volunteered to desegregate the high school. The governor ordered the National Guard to stop the students from entering the school. President Eisenhower then sent federal troops to protect the students.

In 1955, **Rosa Parks**, an African American woman who lived in Montgomery, Alabama, refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger. She was arrested. Civil rights activists organized a bus boycott to protest her arrest. On the evening following the boycott, a Baptist minister named **Martin Luther King, Jr.**, spoke to a group of African Americans. He asked them to protest segregation in a nonviolent way. The **Montgomery bus boycott** continued for over a year.

In 1956, the Supreme Court ruled that the Montgomery law that segregated buses was illegal. The boycott showed that African Americans could be powerful if they worked together. The protest also made King very important within the civil rights movement.

### Review Questions

1. Why was *Brown v. Board of Education* important?

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2. How did the Montgomery bus boycott help the civil rights movement?

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### READING CHECK

What action did the governor of Arkansas take to prevent the desegregation of schools in Little Rock?

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### VOCABULARY BUILDER

Find the word *compliance* in the underlined sentence. What do you think it means? Here is a clue. An antonym for *compliance* is *disobedience*. Use this clue to figure out what *compliance* means.

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### READING SKILL

**Summarize** List three key events of the 1950s that helped to end segregation.

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