


Module 10: Civil Unrest - The 1960s and the 1970s

Topic 2 Content: The Role of the Supreme Court after *Brown v. Board of Education* Notes

Introduction

Role of the Supreme Court after *Brown v. Board of Education*



Introduction

In the case of *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Supreme Court found that the government was acting outside of its constitutional powers by segregating public facilities, including public schools. Cases like *Brown* caused the Supreme Court to make rulings based on the Constitution that changed American society. It is the job of the Supreme Court to always uphold the constitutional rights of American citizens. In this interactivity, learn how the role of the Supreme Court changed after the *Brown v. Board of Education* case.

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Checks and Balances

Role of the Supreme Court after *Brown v. Board of Education*



Checks and Balances

- The Supreme Court protects the rights of individuals and freedoms listed in the Constitution.
- The Supreme Court ensures that the legislative and executive branches act within the limits of the Constitution.
- Landmark cases give the Supreme Court the ability to evaluate the government.

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The job of the United States Supreme Court has always included protecting the rights of individuals and the freedoms listed in the Constitution. One right given to Americans is the right to privacy. Another job of the Supreme Court involves ensuring that the executive and legislative branches of the government act within the limits set by the Constitution. This is known as checks and balances. When landmark cases are brought before the Supreme Court, the Court must evaluate whether the government is acting outside of its constitutional powers. Click **Next** to continue.

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Changes to the Court

Role of the Supreme Court after *Brown v. Board of Education*



Supreme Court Changes

- The Supreme Court played a role in the desegregation of American society.
- Since the 1950s, the Supreme Court has diversified with the addition of women and minority justices, including:
 - Thurgood Marshall
 - Clarence Thomas
 - Sandra Day O' Connor
 - Ruth Bader Ginsberg
 - Sonia Sotomayor

Between the 1950s and 1970s, the Supreme Court played a huge role in changing American society through desegregation. This change even spread into the Supreme Court itself. For example, before the 1950s, the Supreme Court was composed only of white men. Since then, minorities and women have served on the Supreme Court. These members include Thurgood Marshall, Clarence Thomas, Sandra Day O'Connor, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, and Sonia Sotomayor.