## 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



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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.

Click NEXT to begin.

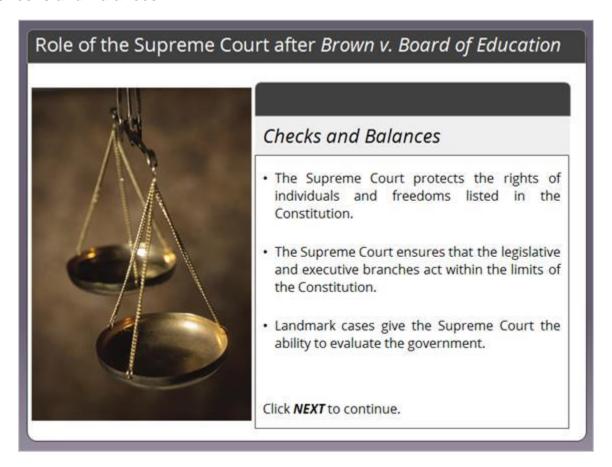
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#### **Checks and Balances**



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**



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.

Sonia Sotomayor

