

# The Postwar Struggle for Civil Rights: African Americans in San Francisco, 1945–1975 // Paul T. Miller // 2009 // 184 pages // Routledge, 2009 // 9781135235147

Following the American Civil War, three constitutional amendments were passed, including the 13th Amendment that ended slavery, the 14th Amendment that gave African Americans citizenship, and the 15th Amendment that gave African American males the right to vote. From 1865 to 1877 the United States underwent a turbulent Reconstruction Era when reconstructed states in the South resisted the enforcement of these constitutional amendments as former Confederate states were brought into the United States. While problems and civil rights violations were most intense in the South, social tensions affected African Americans in other regions, as well.[7]. Characteristics of the post-Reconstruction period: Racial segregation. 2. African Americansâ€"Civil rightsâ€"Californiaâ€"San Franciscoâ€"Historyâ€"20th century. 3. Civil rights movementsâ€"Californiaâ€"San Franciscoâ€"Historyâ€"20th century. 4. Race discriminationâ€"Californiaâ€"San Franciscoâ€"Historyâ€"20th century. Although this book tells the story of the African American communityâ€™s struggle for civil rights, it goes much further than that. This book reveals the circumstances that everyday African American San Franciscans encountered directly after World War II on through the early 1970s. Most postwar African American San Franciscans found themselves locked in one of two enclaves: Bay View-Hunters Point or the Western Addition, also known as the Fillmore. As San Francisco's African American population expanded, civil rights groups formed coalitions to picket and protest, thereby effectively expanding job opportunities and opening the housing market for African American San Franciscans. This book describes and explains some of the obstacles and triumphs faced and achieved in areas such as housing, employment, education and civil rights. It reaches across disciplines from African American studies and history into urban studies and sociology. Table of Contents. Introduction 1. The Postwar 1940s 2. Challenges of the 1950s: Discrimination, Employment 28 Post-War Prosperity and Cold War Fears, 1945-1960. Introduction. 28.1 The Challenges of Peacetime. Community activists and civil rights leaders targeted racially discriminatory housing practices, segregated transportation, and legal requirements that African Americans and Whites be educated separately. While many of these challenges were successful, life did not necessarily improve for African Americans. The postwar era, however, saw African Americans make greater use of the courts to defend their rights. In 1944, an African American woman, Irene Morgan, was arrested in Virginia for refusing to give up her seat on an interstate bus and sued to have her conviction overturned.