

Race & Ethnicity in American Higher Education: Key Moments in History

(M.A. Hernandez, 2014)

1790: Naturalization Act of 1790; Citizenship restricted to free whites.

1799: John Chavis, a Presbyterian minister and teacher, is the first Black person on record to attend an American college or university. There is no record of his receiving a degree from what is now Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia.

1819: Congress passes Civilization Act of 1819 to assimilate Native Americans. This law provided U.S. government funds to subsidize Protestant missionary educators in order to convert Native Americans to Christianity.

1823: Alexander Lucius Twilight becomes the first known African American to graduate from a college in the United States. He received a bachelor's degree from Middlebury College in Vermont.

1827: *Freedom's Journal*, first African American newspaper appears; Cherokee Republic formed in attempt to avoid forced removal.

1830: Congress passes Indian Removal Act, legalized removal of all Indians east of Mississippi to lands west of the river.

1831-1842: Indian tribes forcibly resettled to West in Trail of Tears. As part of Andrew Jackson's Indian removal policy, the Cherokee nation was forced to give up its lands east of the Mississippi River and to migrate to an area in present-day Oklahoma. The Cherokee people called this journey the "Trail of Tears," because of its devastating effects. The migrants faced hunger, disease, and exhaustion on the forced march. Over 4,000 out of 15,000 of the Cherokee died.

1832: Edward Wilmot Blyden, best known as the father of Pan-Africanism, was a prominent intellectual, writer, and politician. Blyden was born on Saint Thomas in 1832; his parents were both free and literate, and put a premium on their son's education. A local clergyman took the young Blyden under his wing, and encouraged him to apply to a theological college in New Jersey. Blyden, however, was turned away due to his race. In 1851, Blyden accepted a teaching position in the newly-independent Liberia, where he quickly rose to international prominence, publishing a variety of books and treatises on the subject of racial equality. Blyden's work would serve as a foundation for other great thinkers as well, including W.E.B. Du Bois and Marcus Garvey.

1833: Oberlin College in Ohio is founded. From its founding the college is open to Blacks and Women and has a long history of dedication to African American higher education.

1835-1842: Seminoles resist removal in Second Seminole War.

1836: Isaiah G. DeGrasse received a bachelor's degree from Newark College (now the University of Delaware). DeGrasse appears to be the first African American to graduate from any of the flagship state universities.

1837: What is now Cheyney University in Pennsylvania is established for free Blacks. It does not become a degree-granting institution until 1932.

1837: James McCune Smith is the first African American to earn a medical degree when he graduates from the University of Glasgow in Scotland. Smith returned to the U.S. to be a physician. He also owned two pharmacies.

1845: U.S. government annexes Texas

1846: U.S. government declares war on Mexico.

1848: U.S. defeats Mexico and “purchases” for \$15 million over one-third of the Mexican nation. The land includes the future states of California, Texas, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and parts of Colorado and Wyoming.

1848: Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo cedes Mexican territory in Southwest to the U.S. The treaty promises to protect the land, language, and culture of Mexicans living in the ceded territory. Mexicans are given the right to become U.S. citizens if they decide to stay. However, Congress refuses to pass Article X, which stipulated the protection of the ancestral lands of Mexican people. Instead, Congress requires them to prove, in U.S. courts, speaking English, with U.S. lawyers, that they have legitimate titles to their lands.

1848: Arrival of large numbers of Chinese laborers to the West Coast to work in the mining and agricultural industry. Many of these laborers also help build the Transcontinental Railroad.

1849: The Hounds, a white vigilante group in San Francisco, attacks a Chilean mining community, raping Women, burning houses, and lynching 2 men.

1850: Harvard Medical School accepts its first three Black students, one of whom was Martin Delany. But Harvard later rescinds the invitations due to pressure from white students.

1850: The California legislature passes the Foreign Miners Tax, which requires Chinese and Latin American gold miners to pay a special tax on their holdings, a tax not required of European American miners.

1850: Congress passes the Fugitive Slave Law allowing federal marshals to capture runaway slaves and enlist the assistance of other whites; also makes it possible for a Black person to be captured as a slave solely on the sworn statement of a white person with no right to challenge the claim in court.

1854: Ashmun Institute (now Lincoln University) is founded as the first institute of higher education for Black men. The school, in Oxford, Pennsylvania, later graduates Langston Hughes and Thurgood Marshall.

1855: California requires all instruction to be conducted in English.

1856: Wilberforce University in Ohio is founded as the second university solely for Black students. Wilberforce was a destination point for the Ohio Underground Railroad.

1856: Martin Henry Freeman becomes the first Black college president at Avery College.

1857: *Dred Scott v. Sanford* endorses southern views on race in the territories when Dred Scott, a slave who followed his owner to a free state, sued for his freedom. The Supreme Court ruled that Scott was still a slave.

1857: Richard Henry Green is the first African American to graduate from Yale College. **Cortlandt Van Rensselaer Creed graduates from the Yale School of Medicine.**

1862: Mary Jane Patterson, a teacher, graduates with a bachelor's degree from Oberlin College. She is considered the first African-American woman to earn a bachelor's degree.

1863: President Lincoln signs Homestead Act allotting 160 acres of western land - Native American land - to "anyone" who could pay \$1.25 and cultivate it for five years. European immigrants and land speculators bought 50 million acres. Congress gave another 100 million acres of Indian land free to the railroads. Since the Homestead Act applied only to U.S. citizens, Native Americans, Blacks, and non-European immigrants were excluded.

1864: The first Black female medical student, Rebecca Lee Crumpler, graduates from the New England Female Medical College.

1864: Ratification of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolishing slavery.

1864: The U.S. army massacres 300 Cheyenne Indians in the Sand Creek Massacre.

1866: Congress passes Civil Rights Act of 1866.

1866: Fisk University is founded in Nashville, Tennessee.

1866-1877: Reconstruction tried to bring Southern states back into the union and build a non-slave society with full civil rights for former slaves. Black and white teachers from the north traveled south to build schools and teach former slaves eager to become literate. With the protection of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments and the Civil Rights Act of 1866, African Americans participated in politics, voted, used public accommodations. The former confederates fought against reconstruction and eventually eroded newly gained rights of freedman.

1867: Howard University is founded in Washington, D.C.

1867: Lincoln Normal School (now Alabama State University) is founded.

1867: Morehouse College (originally known as Augusta Institute) in Atlanta, Georgia, and Saint Augustine's College in Raleigh, North Carolina, are founded.

1868: Howard University opens a medical department, becoming the first school to have a medical program for Blacks.

1868: Hampton Institute (now University) is founded in Virginia.

1868: Passing for white, Patrick Francis Healy becomes the first Black faculty member at one of the nation's highest-ranked and predominantly white universities when he joins the Georgetown University faculty to teach philosophy.

1869: George Lewis Ruffin is the first Black to earn a degree from Harvard Law School. In 1883 Ruffin became Massachusetts' first African American judge.

1869: Mary Ann Shadd Carey becomes the first Black woman student to enroll at Howard University's law department. She does not graduate until 1884 at the age of 61.

1870: Harvard College graduates its first Black student, Richard Theodore Greener, who goes on to a career as an educator and lawyer. After graduating from Harvard, Greener becomes a faculty member at the University of South Carolina. He is the first known Black to be hired to the faculty of a flagship state university.

1870: Texas law requires English as the language of school instruction.

1870: Naturalization Act of 1870 revises the Naturalization Act of 1790 and the 14th Amendment so that naturalization is limited to white persons and persons of African descent, effectively excluding Chinese and other Asian immigrants from naturalization

1871: A white mob in Los Angeles attacks a Chinese community, killing 19 and destroying the community.

1871: Congress passes Indian Appropriations Act, dissolving the status of Indian tribes as nations.

1872: Cookman Institute of Jacksonville (now part of Bethune Cookman University) is founded.

1875: Page Law. Congress bars entry of Chinese, Japanese, and "Mongolian" prostitute, felons, and contract laborers.

1876: Edward Bouchet becomes the first Black to earn a Ph.D. at an American university. He receives his doctorate in physics from Yale.

1876: Battle of Little Big Horn; Sioux annihilate white troops led by General Custer.

1876: Reciprocity treaty between Kingdom of Hawaii and the U.S. that allowed for duty-free importation of Hawaiian grown cane sugar into the U.S. This act permanently altered the Hawaiian landscape by promoting sugar plantation agriculture.

1877: Inman Page, a former slave, is elected student body president at Brown University. He is believed to be the first Black to be elected student body president at any of the nation's highest-ranked and predominantly white universities.

1877: George Washington Henderson, a student at the University of Vermont, is the first Black student elected to the Phi Beta Kappa honorary society.

1878: U.S. Supreme Court rules Chinese individuals are ineligible for naturalized citizenship.

1880-1881: Helen Hunt Jackson's *A Century of Dishonor* influences public conscience about poor government treatment of Indians.

1881: Spelman College, the nation's first historically Black college for Women, is founded in Atlanta, Georgia.

1881: Tuskegee Institute is established in Alabama with Booker T. Washington as its first principal.

1881: Carlos Juan Finlay, a Cuban physician and scientist, completes the first experimental inoculation against yellow fever in a human being. He presented his conceptual framework hypothesizing that mosquitos were the source of transmission for yellow fever later the same year. In 1900 Major Walter Reed, U.S. Army Medical Commission head, substantiated that Finlay had indeed proved that the Aedes mosquito was the carrier and transmitter of yellow fever.

1882: Chinese Exclusion Act. Congress prohibits Chinese immigration for 10 years, bowing to pressure from nativists on the West Coast, (renewed 1892, made permanent 1902, repealed 1943).

1882-1990: 3,011 recorded lynchings of African Americans primarily, but not exclusively, in the South.

1883: Supreme Court strikes down 1875 Civil Rights Act and reinforces claim that the federal government cannot regulate behavior of private individuals in matters of race relations.

1886: Apache warrior, Geronimo, surrenders to the U.S. army. His surrender marks the defeat of Southwest Indian nations.

1886 – 1889: Josephine Silone Yates becomes the first African American woman to serve as a college science department head at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri. She was hired in 1881 and taught chemistry, botany, physiology and other courses.

1894: George Washington Carver becomes the first African American to earn a Bachelor of Science Degree (Iowa State Agricultural School now Iowa State University).

1895: W.E.B. Du Bois earns his Ph.D. in history from Harvard, the first Black to do so at Harvard.

1896: George Washington Carver earns a Master of Agriculture degree and becomes director of agricultural research at Alabama's Tuskegee Institute. Carver, a chemist and botanist, was known for developing a system of crop rotation and working with peanuts, soybeans, and sweet potatoes.

1896: Booker T. Washington receives an honorary master's degree from Harvard University.

1887: Dawes Act dissolves tribal lands, granting land allotments to individual families leading to division of Indian territory and encroachment by whites on Indian land. This act explicitly prohibits communal land ownership.

1887: The Supreme Court decides in favor of the Maxwell Company, a division of the Santa Fe Ring, allocating millions of acres of Mexican and Indian land in New Mexico to the Anglo corporation.

1890: The Wounded Knee massacre by the U.S. Army marks the end of 19th-century struggle of the Plain Indians to keep their land free from whites.

1890: The Bennett Law (Wisconsin) forbids recognition of schools teaching in languages other than English, an attack on the German-teaching Lutheran and Catholic parochial schools, removing their eligibility to satisfy the state's compulsory school attendance law.

1891: Daniel Williams opened Provident Hospital and Training School for Nurses, the nation's first hospital with a nursing and intern program that had a racially integrated staff. Williams was also one of the first to successfully perform open-heart surgery.

1895: Booker T. Washington gives Atlanta Compromise speech to an all-white audience claiming that his race would content itself by living with the production of their hands.

1896: *Plessy v. Ferguson* upholds doctrine of "separate but equal" among Blacks and whites in public facilities.

1897: In *Re Ricardo Rodriguez*, a federal district court in Texas narrowly upholds the right of Mexicans to naturalized citizenship under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, holding Mexicans to be white for purposes of naturalization.

1898: The U.S. defeats Spain and acquires Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines.

1898: The U.S. annexes Hawaii.

1900: Congress passes the Foraker Act, establishing a colonial government in Puerto Rico and stipulating both the governor and executive council be appointed by the U.S.

1901: U.S. citizenship granted to the Five Civilized Tribes — Cherokee, Choctaw, Seminole, Creek, Chickasaw.

1902: Chinese immigration made permanently illegal; Chinese population sharply declines.

1904: Daytona Literary and Industrial Training School for Negro Girls (renamed Bethune Cookman College in 1931) is established in Daytona Beach, Florida.

1905: W.E.B. DuBois, William Trotter, and others found the Niagara Movement, renouncing the accommodationist policies of Booker T. Washington in his Atlanta Compromise speech and demanding full suffrage. The Niagara Movement is the forerunner to the NAACP.

1906: The first fraternity for Black college men, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, is founded at Cornell University.

1907: Alain LeRoy Locke of Harvard University becomes the first Black Rhodes scholar. Evidence shows that the Rhodes committee did not know Locke was Black when he was offered the scholarship.

1908: The first sorority for Black college Women, Alpha Kappa Alpha, is founded at Howard University.

1909: Founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), dedicated to ending segregation and discrimination against African Americans.

1910: Angel Island opens, billed as the “Ellis Island of the West,” but used primarily as a detention center to control the flow of Asian immigrants (primarily Chinese) into the U.S.

1913: Leo Frank, a Jewish merchant accused of raping and murdering a 12-year-old Girl, is lynched by a mob of leading citizens in Marietta, Georgia. Leads to founding of the Anti-Defamation League but also to a renewal of the Ku Klux Klan.

1914: During Mexican Revolution, U.S. troops invade Mexico.

1915: D. W. Griffith directs *Birth of a Nation*, sympathetically depicting the lynching of a Black man by a white mob and supporting the rise of the Klan. One of the most popular films of the silent movie era among white people, it is widely protested against by the NAACP.

1917: whites attack African Americans in race riots in East St. Louis, Illinois.

1917: Immigration Act of 1917, also known as the Asian Barred Zone Act, imposes a literacy test and establishes an Asiatic Barred Zone restricting immigration from southern and eastern Asia and the Pacific islands, but excluding Japan and American territories of Guam and the Philippines. Because these geographic regions were then home to many of the world’s Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs, these religious groups were effectively shut out of the U.S.

1917: The Jones Act makes Puerto Ricans U.S. citizens, eligible to serve in the military but not eligible to vote in national elections.

1917: U.S. purchase the Virgin Islands from the Danish.

1921: Eva B. Dykes from Radcliffe College, Sadie T. Mossell Alexander from the University of Pennsylvania, and Georgiana R. Simpson from the University of Chicago are the first African American Women to earn doctorates.

1921: **George Washington Carver testifies before the Ways and Means Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives. He described so many ways that the peanut could be used that he becomes known as “The Peanut Man.” After his death in 1943, a monument was erected in Carver’s honor in Diamond, Missouri at the behest of Franklin D. Roosevelt, an honor previously granted only to presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.**

1923: Japanese businessman Takao Ozawa petitions the Supreme Court for naturalization, arguing that his skin is as white, if not whiter than any so-called Caucasian. The Court rules that Ozawa cannot be a citizen because he is not “white” within the meaning of the statute, asserting that the best known science of the time defined Ozawa as of the Mongolian race.

1923: In *U.S. v Bhagat Singh Thind*, the U.S. Supreme Court recognizes that Indians are “scientifically” classified as Caucasians but concludes that they are not white in popular (white) understanding, thus reversing the logic used in the Ozawa case. The lawyers for the United States attacked Thind’s “meltability” by defining Hinduism as an alien and barbaric system and not fit for membership in the “civilization of white men.”

1923: Ku Klux Klan activity peaks.

1924: Indian Citizenship Act — Native Americans granted U.S. citizenship.

1927: U.S. Virgin Islands becomes an unincorporated U.S. Territory.

1930: Mexican parents in Texas, in *Independent School District v. Salvatierra*, prove that the school district illegally segregated their children based on race.

1930-1940: U.S. deports 600,000 Mexicans, many of whom are U.S. citizens.

1931: Mexican parents in California overturn school segregation through *Alvarez v. Lemon Grove*. The court ruled in favor of the Mexican community on the grounds that separate facilities for Mexican American students were not conducive to their “Americanization” and prevented them from learning English. *Alvarez vs. Lemon Grove* was the first successful desegregation case in the U.S.

1931: Jane Matilda Bolin is the first Black woman graduate of Yale Law School. She becomes the nation’s first Black Woman judge in 1939.

1933: Ruth Ella More became the first African American woman to gain a PhD in a natural science (Bacteriology at Ohio State University).

1934: Wheeler Howard (Indian Reorganization) Act restores over 2 million acres of land to tribal ownership, and restores Indian management of their assets. Termination and relocation phases of the Act, implemented in 1954, led to legal dismantling of 61 tribal nations within the U.S. The Tydings-McDuffie Act grants independence to the Philippines and limits Filipino immigration to 50 persons per year. The act specifies that in 1946, when independence is complete, all Filipinos will be excluded under the provisions of the Oriental Exclusion Act.

1935: California law declares Mexican Americans are foreign-born Indians.

1935: Filipino Repatriation Act offered free transportation to Filipinos who would return to their homeland and restricted future immigration to the U.S.

1935: The National Labor Relations Act (the Wagner Act) legalizes the right to organize and create unions but excludes farm workers and domestic workers, most of whom are Chicano/a, Asian, and African American.

1936: U.S. citizenship is granted to the residents of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

1942: FDR signs Executive Order 9066, ordering the evacuation and mass incarceration of 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry living on the West Coast, most of whom are U.S. citizens or documented immigrants.

1942: The Bracero Program invites Mexican workers to work temporarily in the U.S. during the war period where they develop the U.S. agricultural industry. Later they are sent home without the promised pay due to them.

1942: Marguerite Thomas becomes the first African American to earn a PhD in geology in the United States (Catholic University of America). Her thesis is titled, *A History of Erosion in the Anacostia Drainage Basin*.

1943: Congress lifts the ban on Chinese immigration and Chinese people are permitted to become naturalized citizens.

1943: Eupehnia Haynes becomes the first African American woman to earn a PhD in Mathematics (Catholic University of America).

1943: white mobs in Detroit murder 34 African Americans.

1943: white mobs in Los Angeles attack young Mexicans leading to the famous Zoot Suit riots. The police arrest only Mexican youth, not Anglos.

1944: The United Negro College Fund is established to raise money for private historically Black colleges. Frederick Douglass Patterson is the founder.

1946: Court ends *de jure* segregation in California in *Mendez v. Westminster*, finding that Mexican American children were segregated based on their “Latinized” appearance and district boundaries manipulated to insure that Mexican American children attended separate schools.

1946: Hattie Scott Peterson becomes the first African American woman to earn a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering (Howard University).

1947: W. Allison Davis, a professor of education at the University of Chicago, becomes the first Black faculty member to be appointed to a tenured position at one of the nation’s highest-ranked universities.

1947: Marie Maynard Daly becomes the first African American woman to earn a PhD in chemistry (Columbia University) in the United States.

1948: Truman appoints Presidential Committee on Equality of Treatment and opportunity in the Armed Services.

1948: Jesse Leroy Brown becomes the first African American male to be designated a naval aviator and was the first Black man to wear the wings of gold.

1949: Dorothy Johnson Vaughn became NASA's first African American manager, eventually heading up the West Area Computing Unit. She later headed the programming section of the Analysis and Computation Division (ACD) at Langley.

1950: Ralph J. Bunche, officially a member of the Harvard University faculty although he never taught there, is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his role in the 1948 Arab-Israeli peace settlement, becoming the first Black to receive this distinction.

1950: The American Medical Association accepts Black members for the first time.

1950 – 1960: Gladys West, a mathematician, is integral to the development of the Global Positioning System (GPS). She was inducted into the United States Air Force Hall of Fame in 2018.

1951: Spanish is restored as a language of instruction in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

1952: Harold Amos earns a PhD from Harvard becoming the first African American microbiologist. He was the African American chairman of the bacteriology department at Harvard from 1968 to 1971 and again from 1975 to 1978.

1952: Mary Logan Reddick becomes the first African American woman to receive a Ford Foundation science fellowship to study abroad. She studies embryology at Cambridge University, School of Anatomy. Reddick had previously been the first African American woman to serve as the biology chair at Morehouse College.

1953: Howard Thurmann was appointed dean of Marsh Chapel at Boston University, the first African American dean at a major predominantly white university.

1953: Congress passed the Refugee Relief Act, the first American immigration law to specifically mention refugees as a type of immigrant. Under this law, 2000 Palestinian refugees are admitted to the U.S. Muslim Arabs begin arriving in larger numbers than Arab Christians.

1954: The University of Florida is ordered to admit Black students by the Supreme Court.

1954: In *Brown v. Board of Education* of Topeka, Kansas, the U.S. Supreme Court rules that racial segregation in schools is unconstitutional.

1954: U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service sets up Operation Wetback to round up and deport “illegal” Mexicans living in the U.S.

1955: Fourteen-year-old Emmett Till is kidnapped, brutally beaten, shot and killed for allegedly whistling at a white woman. Two white men arrested for the murder are acquitted by an all-white jury and boast about the murder in a *Look* magazine interview.

1955: Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat at the front of the “colored” section to a white passenger and is arrested. In response the Montgomery bus boycott begins and lasts over a year until the busses are desegregated.

1955: Martin Luther King Jr., a graduate of Morehouse College, earns a Ph.D. in theology at Boston University.

1955: June Esther Bacon-Bercey becomes the first African American woman to earn a degree in meteorology from UCLA. Bacon-Bercey later became the first female TV meteorologist in the United States. The position subsequently propelled her into a decade-long career as the chief of broadcast services for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

1956: Lila Fenwick graduates from Harvard Law School, the first Black woman to do so. Fenwick later led the United Nations’ Human Rights Division.

1957: When nine Black students attempt to desegregate all-white Central High School in Little Rock, Governor Orville Faubus ordered that they be blocked from attending. President Eisenhower sends federal troops to intervene on behalf of the students.

1958: The University of Florida law school admits its first Black student, George Starke Jr.

1958: Mary Jackson becomes NASA's first African American female engineer. She later took a demotion to become Langley's Federal Women's Program Manager and devoted her time to helping Women obtain careers at NASA.

1960: Four Black students from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical College hold a sit-in at the lunch counter of an F.W. Woolworth in Greensboro, North Carolina. This spurs a series of sit-ins in the South to demand racial equality.

1960 – 1969: Katherine Johnson, degreed in both mathematics and French, performed the NASA calculations that made possible the manned space missions of the early 1960s as well as the 1969 moon landing.

1961: The term “affirmative action” is coined by Hobart T. Taylor Jr., a Black Texas lawyer, who edits President Kennedy’s Executive Order 10925, which created the Presidential Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity.

1961: Freedom Rides organized by the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE) brought Black and white protesters to the South to protest segregation in public facilities.

1961: National Indian Youth Council formed by Native Americans to advocate for native rights.

1962: University of the Virgin Islands is founded in Saint Thomas.

1962: James Meredith is the first Black student to enter University of Mississippi, under federal guard. President Kennedy sends in 5,000 troops to quell white violence.

1962: The University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) was chartered on March 16, 1962, as the College of the Virgin Islands — a publicly funded, coeducational, liberal arts institution — by Act No. 852 of the Fourth Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands. The first campus opened on St. Thomas in July 1963, on 175 acres donated by the federal government.

1963: Martin Luther King jailed during anti-segregation protests; writes his famous “Letter from the Birmingham Jail,” arguing that individuals have a moral duty to disobey unjust laws.

1963: Two hundred thousand people attend the March on Washington where Martin Luther King delivers his “I Have a Dream” speech.

1963: A Baptist Church in Birmingham is bombed, killing four young Girls in Sunday school.

1963: Joseph Stanley Sanders and John Edgar Wideman become the second Black Rhodes Scholars since Alain LeRoy Locke first received this honor in 1907.

1964: President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1964, outlawing discrimination in jobs and public accommodations based on race, color, religion, or national origin and providing the federal government with the power to enforce desegregation.

1964: Three civil rights workers, Michael Schwerner, James Chaney, and Andrew Goodman, are murdered by Klansmen in Mississippi.

1964: The College of the Virgin Island founded a second campus on St. Croix, on 130 acres also donated by the federal government.

1965: Vivian Malone becomes the first Black graduate of the University of Alabama.

1965: Civil rights workers marching for voting rights are stopped at the Pettus Bridge by police who use tear gas, clubs, and whips against them. Dubbed “Bloody Sunday.”

1965: Malcolm X is assassinated.

1965: Mexican American labor leader, Cesar Chavez, organizes the United Farm Workers to strike to change the terrible working conditions of migrant workers.

1965: Santa Fe College is founded in Gainesville, Florida.

1966: Tallahassee Community College is founded in Tallahassee, Florida.

1966: King begins Chicago campaign to organize against landlords who discriminate.

1966: The Black Panther Party is founded in Oakland, California.

1966: Muhammed Ali refuses to fight in “white man’s war” and his boxing title is taken away.

1966: Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) calls for U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam.

1966: **President Lyndon Johnson makes Samuel P. Massie Jr. the first ever African American professor at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Massie, a chemist, developed treatments for malaria, meningitis, and cancer.**

1967: Congress passes the Voting Rights Act of 1965, outlawing poll taxes, literacy tests, and other measures used to prevent Black people from voting, thus making it possible for Southern Blacks to register to vote.

1967: Valencia College is founded in Orlando, Florida as Valencia Junior College.

1968: In *Loving v. Virginia* the Supreme Court rules that prohibiting interracial marriage is unconstitutional, forcing 16 states that still banned interracial marriage to change their laws.

1968: Martin Luther King is murdered by racist James Earl Ray. African Americans riot in 168 towns and cities across the United States.

1970: President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1968, outlawing discrimination in financing, sale and rental of housing.

1970: National Guard is sent to Jackson State and Kent State universities to quell student protests against the Vietnam War and racial discrimination. (Students are shot at both schools.)

1972: In *Lau v. Nichols* the Supreme Court rules that school programs conducted exclusively in English deny equal access to education to students who speak other languages; determines that districts have a responsibility to help students overcome their language disadvantage.

1972: Lila Ann Abron becomes the first African American woman to earn a PhD in chemical engineering (University of Iowa College of Engineering).

1972: Willie Hobbs Moore becomes the first African American woman to earn a PhD in physics (American University). Her doctoral thesis is titled, *A Vibrational Analysis of Secondary Chlorides*.

1973: Patricia Cowings earned a PhD in psychology from the University of California Davis. She was the first American woman trained to be a science astronaut though Sally Ride, a white woman, would become the first American woman in space. Patricia developed and patented the strategies NASA uses today to train astronauts to control motion sickness, nausea, dizziness, and fainting (Autogenic-Feedback Training Exercise – AFTE).

1973: Percy Lavon Julian becomes the first African American chemist to be inducted in the National Academy of Sciences. Julian's work included the chemical synthesis of progesterone and testosterone, and steroid production of cortisone, other corticosteroids, and birth control pills.

1978: In *Bakke v. University of California* the Supreme Court outlaws quotas but upholds affirmative action in university admissions.

1980: The United Negro College Fund holds its first annual telethon, raising \$14.1 million to support HBCUs. To date the telethon has raised more than \$200 million.

1982: Unemployed auto workers in Detroit, blaming the Japanese for the loss of their jobs, murder Vincent Chin, a Chinese American mistaken for Japanese.

1982: Lonnie Johnson invents the “Super Soaker” and later sells the invention to Larami Corporation. The Super Soaker topped \$200 million in sales in 1991 and since then continues to rank among the world's top 20 best-selling toys.

1983: Guion S. Bluford Jr. becomes the first African American man in space.

1986: The Immigration Reform and Control Act criminalizes the employment of undocumented workers; establishes one-year amnesty for undocumented workers living in the U.S. since 1982; and mandates intensification of the Border Patrol.

1986: The College of the Virgin Islands was renamed the University of the Virgin Islands to reflect the growth and diversification of its academic curricula, community and regional services, and research programs. That same year, the U.S. Congress named UVI one of America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU); therefore, it holds the distinction of being the only HBCU outside of the continental U.S.

1987: Johnnetta Betsch Cole becomes the first Black woman president of Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia.

1988: Congress overrides veto by President Reagan to pass the Civil Rights Restoration Act expanding anti-discrimination laws to private institutions that receive federal funds.

1989: The U.S. government issues \$20,000 and a formal apology to each of the surviving 60,000 WWII internees of all the camps within the U.S.

1990: The United Negro College Fund receives its largest donation ever of \$50 million from Walter Annenberg.

1990: Barack Obama is elected the first Black president of the *Harvard Law Review*.

1990: Congress passes a comprehensive new immigration law that sanctions employers for knowingly hiring workers without “papers,” discouraging employers from hiring Latino and Asian American workers for fear they may not have the right papers (e.g., social security card, legal residency).

1992: Riots in Los Angeles, the first in decades, follow the acquittal of four white police officers following the videotaped beating African American Rodney King.

1992: In *United States v. Fordice*, the Supreme Court orders 19 states to take immediate action to desegregate their public higher education systems.

1992: Mae Carol Jemison is the first African American Women to travel to space. She orbited the Earth from September 12 – 20, 1992.

1993: Joycelyn Elders, a pediatric endocrinologist and professor, became the first African American, and the second woman to hold the position of the United States Surgeon General.

1995: Mario J. Molina-Pasquel Henríquez, a chemist, becomes the first Mexican-born scientist to win a Nobel Prize for Chemistry or his role in elucidating the threat to the Earth's ozone layer of chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) gases. He was pivotal to the discovery of the Antarctic ozone hole

1996: Margaret Tolbert becomes the first African American and first woman to lead the Department of Energy in the United States (1996 – 2002).

1999: Cheryl Shavers becomes the first African-American Undersecretary of Commerce for Science and Technology in the Clinton Administration (1999 – 2001).

2001: Ruth J. Simmons becomes president of Brown University. She becomes the first African American to lead an Ivy League institution.

2001: The U.S.A. PATRIOT Act is passed by Congress with virtually no debate, giving the federal government the power to detain suspected “terrorists” for an unlimited time period without access to legal representation. Over 1000 Arab, Muslim, and South Asian men are detained in secret locations.

2001: Chavonda Jacobs-Young becomes the first African American woman to earn a PhD in paper science. Paper science deals with converting raw materials into paper products and co-products.

2002: The Supreme Court upholds the use of race as one of many factors in admissions to colleges and universities

2008: Barack Obama is elected president of the United States on a platform that promises significantly increased financial aid for low-income college students, increased support for historically Black colleges and universities, and continued support for affirmative action in higher education.

2010: Chanda Prescod-Weinstein, a Barbadian American, becomes the 63rd Black woman to earn a PhD in Physics. She later becomes the first Black woman to hold a faculty position in theoretical cosmology.

2012: The Black Lives Matter movement was born on February 26, 2012 following the shooting of Trayvon Martin by George Zimmerman.

2014: Jedidah Isler became the first African-American woman to receive a Ph.D. in astrophysics from Yale. Earlier, she was one of the first three student members of the Fisk-Vanderbilt Master's-to-Ph.D. Bridge Program, a program designed to increase the number of Women and under-represented minorities with advanced STEM degrees. Isler studies blazars.

2015: Charleston church shooting occurs June 17, 2015; white supremacist, Dylan Roof, killed nine in mass shooting/hate crime at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in downtown Charleston, South Carolina.

2016: On July 27, Attorneys for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe presses charges against the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) for infringing on land treaties and threatening the nation's water supply.

2016: Clarice Phelps becomes the first African American woman to discover a chemical element. *Tennesine*, discovered at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, is the second-heaviest known element.

2017: President Donald Trump Signs executive order titled “ Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist”; this initiated his “Muslim Ban” Policy which he initially detailed in Dec. of 2015 where he bans citizens of seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the U.S. for at least 90 days and Syrian Refugees are banned indefinitely.

2017: On March 3, the Trump administration is considering a proposal to begin separating children from their mothers at the border as a way to deter future migrants. The policy would allow the government to keep parents in custody while they await asylum hearings or contest deportation.

2017: On November 25, The Houston Chronicle reported that the Trump administration has, since at least June, been separating children from parents who cross the border. The paper identifies 22 cases of parents whose children were taken without due process.

2018: On June 9, a man from Honduras who suffered a nervous breakdown after being separated from his wife and child at the border died by suicide in a Texas jail. The government has no comment on the man's death.

2018: On June 14, CNN reported that a Honduran Woman was breastfeeding her daughter in detention in McAllen, Texas, when federal authorities snatched the child away from her. “The government is essentially torturing people by doing this,” says Natalia Cornelio, an attorney with the Texas Civil Rights Project.

2018: On June 15, for the first time, Department of Homeland Security publicly acknowledges that it separated nearly 2,000 children from their parents or legal guardians between April 19 and May 31. The government's protocol for reunifying families had yet to be made clear.

2018: On June 17, journalists and human rights advocates tour an old warehouse in McAllen, Texas, where hundreds of children are being kept in a series of cages made of metal fencing. The Associated Press reported that overhead lighting stays on around the clock, children are sleeping under "large foil sheets," older children are forced to change the diapers of toddlers and that children have no books or toys. One toddler is seen crying uncontrollably and pounding her fists on a mat. "If a parent left a child in a cage with no supervision with other 5-year-olds, they'd be held accountable," says Michelle Brané, director of migrant rights at the Women's Refugee Commission.

2018: On June 17, former First Lady Laura Bush calls the administration's practices "cruel" and "immoral" in a commentary published by The Washington Post.

2018: On June 17, Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen tweets, falsely: "We do not have a policy of separating families at the border. Period."

2018: On June 18, ProPublica publishes a now-viral audio clip, where Central American children separated from their parents are heard sobbing in jail-like cages, crying "Mami" and "Papa" over and over. Guards can be heard making jokes about the desperate children. "I don't want them to deport him," one child cries. "Daddy!" another screams.

2018: On June 20, reacting to mounting public pressure, President Trump signs an executive order directing Department of Homeland Security to stop separating families except in cases where there is concern that the parent represents a risk to the child. Trump falsely blames Congress, the courts and previous administrations for his family separation policy, claiming that now "you're going to have a lot of happy people." CBS News reported that 2,342 children were separated at the border from more than 2,200 adults between May 5 to June 9.

2018: On June 26, following a class action suit filed by the ACLU, U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw issues a preliminary injunction requiring U.S. immigration authorities to reunite most separated families within 30 days and to reunite children younger than 5 within two weeks. Judge Sabraw also prohibits further separations unless the parent poses a danger to the child or has a criminal history or communicable disease. "The court made clear that potentially thousands of children's lives are at stake, and that the Trump administration cannot simply ignore the devastation it has caused," says ACLU attorney Lee Gelernt.

2018: On July 3, NBC News reported that in the wake of Judge Sabraw's injunction, the Trump administration is forcing migrants to choose between leaving the country with or without their kids, effectively preventing them from asking for asylum.

2018: On July 13, the Trump administration says in a court filing that 2,551 children between the ages of 5 and 17 remain separated from their parents, almost a month after the "zero tolerance" policy was revoked.

2018: On July 26, more than 900 parents have yet to be reunified with their children by the court's deadline. "It's the reality of a policy that was in place that resulted in large numbers of families being separated without forethought as to reunification and keeping track of people," says Judge Sabraw. More than half of those parents – 463 – have been deported to their home countries without their children.

2018: On August 15, a much greater number than previously stated. "Right now, hundreds of children are languishing in tent cities on the border," says Margaret Huang, executive director of Amnesty International USA. "Even more children are locked behind bars in family detention centers. This is nothing short of unconscionable."

2018: On October 11, Helen, a 5-year-old Girl from Honduras, was persuaded to sign away her rights after being separated from her grandmother, The New Yorker reported. "One of the things Helen's story really showed us is that the Trump administration never stopped separating children from their families," says Jess Morales Rocketto, of Families Belong Together. "In fact, they've doubled down, but it's even more insidious now, because they are doing it in the cover of night."

2018: On October 11, as the grueling process of reunifying families continues, Amnesty International publishes a report that cites U.S. Customs and Border Patrol data indicating that 6,022 "family units" had been separated between April 19, 2018, and

2018: On October 15, the government reported to a court that a total of 2,654 children have been separated from their parents, and of that number, 2,363 have been discharged from ORR custody. But 125 children made the tough decision to pursue asylum in the U.S. without their parent, while another 120 children who hadn't waived reunification were still in ORR's care, waiting to be reunited.

2018: On November 17, families are still being separated at the border, ProPublica reported. As justification, Border Patrol agents are using vague or unproven allegations of suspected gang activity to separate parents from children.

2018: On December 20, appearing before the House Judiciary Committee, Homeland Security Secretary Nielsen once again falsely claims the administration has no family separation policy. "I'm not a liar, we've never had a policy for family separation," she says. If there were one, she adds, it "would mean that any family that I found at a port of entry I would separate, it would mean that every single family that I found illegally crossing, we would separate. We did none of those."

2019: On January 17, the Department of Health and Human Services' inspector general finds that thousands more children than previously known may have been separated from their parents since 2017. The numbers began to increase in the summer of 2017, when DHS referred more and more separated children to ORR. The number of children separated is unknown because of the lack of a formal tracking system coordinated among the agencies involved.

2019: On January 17, the list of families to be reunified is "still being revised" nearly six months after reunification is ordered by a federal court, The New York Times reported.

2019: On February 14, a report by the Texas Civil Rights Project finds that as family separations continue, a significant number of children have been separated from relatives other than parents or legal guardians. Such separations are not counted by DHS in its statistics.

2019: On February 27, the federal government received more than 4,500 complaints about the sexual abuse of immigrant children held in detention from October 2014 to July 2018, The New York Times reported. Of the 1,303 cases considered the gravest, 178 included accusations of sexual assault by adult staff members. Those allegations included rape, fondling, kissing and watching children shower.

2019: On March 8, a federal judge agrees to expand the ACLU’s class action lawsuit – which earlier resulted in a reunification order – to include families that had been separated months earlier than those previously disclosed.

2019: On March 9, the Trump administration reported to a federal court that it has separated 245 children from their parents and other relatives since President Trump rescinded the family separation policy nearly nine months earlier. Government officials say they are following guidelines allowing separations when an adult poses a safety risk to the child. But The New York Times reported that in some cases children were removed from parents who had minor previous offenses, including one for possessing a small amount of marijuana.

2019: On April 6, the government says in court documents that it may take two years to identify potentially thousands of children who’ve been separated from their families at the southern border.

2019: On May 8, the administration acknowledges it has separated 389 families since June 2018, when a court ordered it to end the policy. Advocates contend the number is significantly higher, noting that at least 40 separations occur daily along the California border, with others continuing in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.

2019: On May 18, the Trump administration acknowledges that it may have separated at least 1,712 additional children before the “zero tolerance policy” went into effect in May 2018.

2019: On June 2, NBC News reported that in July 2018, some 37 children boarded a van for a 30-minute drive to the Port Isabel Detention Center in Los Fresnos, Texas, to be reunited with their parents. Some were as young as 5. But once there, they were forced to wait in the van, in the hot sun – some for as long as 39 hours.

2019: On June 20, The Associated Press ignites public outcry when it reported that at a facility near El Paso, roughly 250 infants, children and teens have been locked up for 27 days without adequate food, water or sanitation. Some were separated from adult caregivers after arriving at the border. At least 15 were suffering from the flu. “In my 22 years of doing visits with children in detention, I have never heard of this level of inhumanity,” says Holly Cooper, an attorney who represents the detained youth.

2019: On July 8, ProPublica reported that the U.S. is now using databases from foreign police and militaries to find out if asylum seekers have gang affiliations. Attorneys representing asylum seekers along the border question how frequently the databases are used and whether they may be wrongly labeling migrants as criminals. The report points to a Salvadoran man named Carlos, who was separated from his family after immigration agents accused him of being in a gang. “I told them I’ve never been in a gang,” he said. “And the agent said your government is saying you are.”

2019: On July 12, the House Committee on Oversight and Reform held a hearing where witnesses described the trauma caused by the Trump administration’s family separation policy, and stated that the administration was not transparent regarding the purpose of the separations, and that the “nightmare” of separating families continues. What’s more, witnesses pointed out that the administration’s policies are continuing to cause problems at the border – not helping to resolve them.

2019: On July 15, NPR reported that after a doctor told Border Patrol agents that a 3-year-old Girl from Honduras who suffers a heart condition should remain in the U.S., an agent gave the family a choice: One parent could stay with the child, but the other would have to return to Mexico. The agent told the Girl to choose. After the doctor appealed to another agent, the family was released together.

2019: On July 30, the ACLU filed a motion in the U.S. District Court of San Diego, asking a federal judge to block the Trump administration from continuing to separate families at the border. Since the nationwide injunction was issued on June 26, 2018, more than 900 parents and children – not excluding babies – have been separated at the border. The ACLU alleged that families have been separated for minor transgressions such as traffic offenses. “It is shocking that the Trump administration continues to take babies from their parents,” ACLU attorney Lee Gelernt says. “The administration must not be allowed to circumvent the court order over infractions like minor traffic violations.”

2019: On August 21, DHS and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a new rule that would end the Flores settlement. The settlement is a consent decree in place for more than two decades that limits the length of time migrant children can be detained by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to 20 days, requires the government to comply with certain standards of care, and states that children must be placed in the “least restrictive” setting appropriate for their age and needs. The Trump administration’s rule would allow it to indefinitely detain migrant families who crossed the border without authorization.

2019: On August 22, The New York Times reported that “there is a stench” where detained migrant children are held in a Texas CBP facility. The children have not been able to bathe since crossing the border, and their clothes are soiled with snot and tears. Moreover, the children do not have access to soap, toothbrushes or toothpaste. A reporter described the facility’s conditions as “a chaotic scene of sickness and filth.” One attorney who has for years inspected government facilities that hold migrant children says, “So many children are sick, they have the flu, and they’re not being properly treated.”

2019: On September, a report was issued by the HHS Office of Inspector General states that “intense trauma” was common among children who had entered Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) facilities in 2018, with children who had been “unexpectedly separated from a parent” facing additional trauma. The report highlights that children exhibited “fear, feelings of abandonment and post-traumatic stress” along with anxiety and loss resulting from the separations. Suffering from acute grief, the children would also cry inconsolably.

2019: On September 5, Judge Sabraw ordered the Trump administration to reunite 11 children with parents who were deported under its family separation policy. He says some migrants were pressured to consent to their deportation while they were separated from their children, and that immigration officials gave them false or confusing information. He ordered the government to allow the migrants to return to the U.S. for an opportunity to pursue asylum claims.

2019: On September 27, U.S. District Judge Dolly Gee of the Central District of California rejected the administration’s plan to end the Flores settlement. Advocates previously lamented that terminating the settlement would be “cruel beyond imagination,” citing the cases of at least seven children who died in detention.

2019: On November 6, U.S. District Judge John Kronstadt ordered the government to provide mental health screenings and treatment to separated parents, citing “extensive evidence” of the “substantial trauma” that these families suffered due to the Trump administration’s policy.

2019: On November 25, the DHS Office of Inspector General reported that the agency failed to properly track and reunify families during the family separation crisis, citing “poor data entry, data tracking, information sharing and IT systems capabilities.”

2019: On December 9, the U.S. government has separated more than 1,100 migrant families at the border since June 2018, when Trump issued an executive order to halt separations, The Intercept reported. The government’s own data suggests the number could be even higher, due to wildly inconsistent record keeping.

2019: On December 16, the Trump administration knew migrant children would suffer from family separations but ramped up the practice anyway, The Texas Tribune reported.

2020: On January 10, the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) sued the Trump administration on behalf of two immigrant parents and their children separated at the border. The lawsuit describes the deliberately cruel government actions that harmed these families. Covington & Burling and Coppersmith Brockelman law firms serve as co-counsel.

2020: On January 13, after the ACLU in July 2019 filed its motion to stop family separations, Judge Sabraw refused to issue new guidelines to further limit the government’s ability to separate migrant families, instead allowing immigration officials to use their discretion to decide whether to separate children from their parents in certain – mostly spurious – circumstances.

2020: On January 18, the Los Angeles Times reported that the official government count of children separated from their parents or guardians under the family separation policy is 4,368. Meanwhile, attorneys say it still proves incredibly difficult to reach hundreds of parents of children separated from them. They also say that known flaws in government tracking systems mean that the total number of separated families is likely higher.

2020: On March 18, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report, stating that arrests of families (parents or guardians traveling with children under 18) grew from about 22 percent of total southwest border apprehensions in fiscal year 2016 to about 51 percent of such apprehensions during the first two quarters of fiscal year 2019.

2020: On May 29, yet another HHS Office of Inspector General report is published, revealing that CBP separated more asylum-seeking families at ports of entry than previously reported, and for reasons other than what had been outlined in public statements. CBP claimed it had only separated seven asylum-seeking parents from children between May 6, 2018, and July 9, 2018. But in reality, at least 60 asylum-seeking families were separated in May and June 2018, at 11 ports of entry.