

### Real World Graduation: Question 16

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3 Feb 2018

#### Question 16

Slavery in the Southern states was abolished in the U. S. after the Civil War with the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution on 6 Dec 1865. However, racism continued to be a problem, as exemplified by the so-called "Jim Crow" laws that began to be passed in the late 1880's. The Jim Crow laws consisted of provisions such as [1, 2]:

- a. Segregation of whites and blacks in restaurants, theaters, hospitals, public transportation, schools, and libraries. The facilities provided for blacks were generally inferior to those provided for whites.
- b. Literacy tests were applied to black voters, but exemptions made for illiterate whites.
- c. Poll taxes on black people, but waived for whites.
- d. Prohibition of racial intermarriages and curfews that applied only to black people.
- e. Railroading black people into long jail sentences for minor infractions, then paroling them to large land-owners, who worked them as slaves.
- f. Occasional lynching's by the KKK and other white supremacy groups to keep the black people in fear (approximately 4950 lynchings occurred between 1880 and 1968)
- g. Black people were prohibited from owning guns.

Based on the above facts, what were the primary underlying objectives of the Jim Crow laws?

- a) Allowed the Republican Party to suppress the black votes and keep them in fear because they could not defend themselves.
- b) Allowed the Republican Party to take advantage of black people by keeping them in poverty relative to whites.
- c) Allowed the Republican Party to perpetuate the falsehood that blacks were inferior and could not be trusted.
- d) Allowed the Republican Party to keep the blacks isolated and ignorant by preventing them from achieving the same educational level as the whites.
- e) All of the above

[1] Ronald L. F. Davis, Ph. D, "Creating Jim Crow: In Depth Essay", see ([www.jimcrowhistory.org](http://www.jimcrowhistory.org))

[2] Clayton E. Cramer, "The Racist Roots of Gun Control", (see [www.firearmsandliberty.com](http://www.firearmsandliberty.com))

### Answer to Question 16

This is a trick question. All of the answers provided are wrong.

But all of the answers are correct if the phrase "Republican Party" is changed to "Democratic Party". It was the Democrats who enacted and enforced the Jim Crow laws in order to suppress black people's progress from slavery to freedom [1]. They were in effect from about 1890 to 1968. In 1968, a greater fraction of Republicans than Democrats in Congress voted in the Civil Rights Acts (signed by Democratic President Lyndon Johnson because he was backed into a corner politically). Under the Civil Rights Acts, the federal government took responsibility for enforcing equal treatment of black people in some southern states, which gradually ended the legal aspect of the Jim Crow era.

It was the same Lyndon Johnson, as Majority Leader of the Senate, had blocked a vote on an identical bill in 1957. It was only when change became inevitable that he signed it as President.

The Democratic party has waged three large-scale attacks against black people in America. The first was slavery itself, including the justification for based on "inferiority" of black people. The second attack was the institution and enforcement of the Jim Crow laws. Both of those were ended, one by a Civil War, and one by black people standing up for their rights. Through both of those attacks, the black people held together by maintaining strong family ties and by Christian faith. The third attack is the "Great Society" programs of the 1960's. It is a very subtle and so far very successful attack, because it has served to greatly weaken the black family, (and to a lesser extent, the influence of the Christian church in the black community). This attack continues, as those programs are all now ingrained into federal policy.

[1] The American Civil Rights Union, "The Truth About Jim Crow", 2014, <http://theacru.org>