

# Document Set A: African American Experiences

Despite the United States Constitution's guarantee of equal protection under the law to all citizens, the Supreme Court ruled in the 1896 case *Plessy v. Ferguson* in favor of racial segregation, decreeing that "separate but equal" was constitutional. The state and local regulations enforcing the landmark decision became known as Jim Crow laws, which notably created segregated bathroom facilities, dining areas, and water fountains.

## A White Resident of Louisiana Remembers Jim Crow

*Memories of Jim Crow and segregation in the South vary greatly depending on who's doing the remembering. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the recollections of Southern whites who lived during the segregation era often stand in stark contrast to those of African Americans. In this interview, Leonard Barrow, a white resident of New Iberia, Louisiana, remembers that few whites openly questioned segregation; as he recalls, "That's the way it was."*

Barrow: God, there was a fellow who worked for my father for a number of years in the rice field and we ran into each other one day and boy he came and threw his arms around me you know it uh...now this is another funny thing, you wouldn't have dreamed of shaking hands back in those days.

Ellis: The black man you ran into or your father?

Barrow: My father or me would not have dreamed of shaking hands with a black person.

Ellis: Some whites that I talked to say blacks were never treated poorly during Jim Crow, they were always treated well, they had their place and we had ours, but they were always treated well. I'm wondering how you see that? If you would agree?

LB: Well, being treated well, I guess, has a pretty broad spectrum of uh...The blacks definitely lived at a much lower standard. Much lower. Many of the houses didn't have running water, many of the houses didn't have electricity, ah heat was rudimentary, of course nobody had air conditioning.

*American Social History Project/Center for Media Learning  
"A White Resident of Louisiana Remembers Jim Crow"*

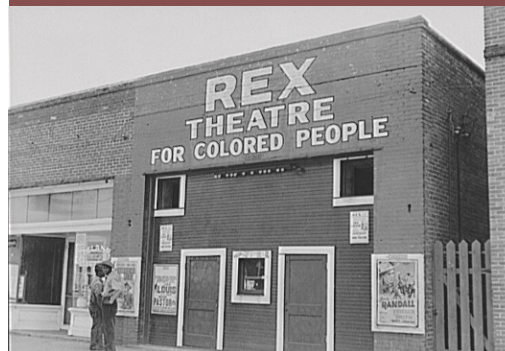
HERB: Resources for Teachers:

<http://herb.ashp.cuny.edu/items/show/984>

A young man drinking at "Colored" water cooler in streetcar terminal, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



A "Colored" movie theater, Leland, Mississippi



View of one-teacher [African-American] schoolhouse in Newberry County, South Carolina



*Courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration*

## Document Set C: Women's Experiences

By the 1950s and 1960s, the role of women in the workplace had shifted. Men returning from the war pushed women into the home and offices where they worked as full-time mothers and secretaries. With a rise in consumerism, women became targets of advertisements that promoted better household technology, such as washing machines and refrigerators, and a broad line of beauty products. The documents below depict and describe some of the issues women faced in the post-war period.

Shirley Chisholm, Congresswoman Speech in the U.S. House of Representatives,  
Congressional Record, May 21, 1969

When a young woman graduates from college and starts looking for a job, she is likely to have a frustrating and even demeaning experience ahead of her. If she walks into an office for an interview, the first question she will be asked is, “Do you type?” There is a calculated system of prejudice that lies unspoken behind that question. Why is it acceptable for women to be secretaries, librarians, and teachers, but totally unacceptable for women to be managers, administrators, doctors, lawyers, and members of Congress?

## Hotpoint Advertisement

# Go ahead, join the family. Let Hotpoint do the dishes and clean the ovens!

**Hotpoint believes holidays are for women, too. That's why we're having a Holiday Values Month.**

Hotpoint celebrates the holidays and you get all the benefits! While you're out gift-hunting, your new Hotpoint range will clean itself. While you're joining in the family sing-song, your new Hotpoint dishwasher will take the worst job in the world off your hands. Go visit some friends while the clothes are drying. And while you're out of the house, the refrigerator can be defrosting itself. You'll get twice as much out of the holidays with Hotpoint in your home. And now's the time to see your dealer—it's a Hotpoint's Holiday Values Month!

**Hotpoint** / Look for the Hotpoint Difference.

<p><b>Hotpoint Hallmark range is like having two self-cleaning ovens in one.</b></p> <p>The luxury of a twin-oven range without the work. The eye-level oven has removable side, back and bottom panels. Just pop them into the Self-Clean oven below, and everything comes clean so non-electrically. It's twice as good as your old range, because it's half the work! Model HRT776.</p>	<p><b>Hotpoint dishwasher is a portable that can be built in.</b></p> <p>This is the portable that converts to a built-in. Its deluxe features include pushbutton controls, 4 multi-level racks, automatic detergent dispenser, extra large 17-table-setting capacity, random washing racks. Even an indicator that signals "clean" when dishes are done. Model EDR18.</p>	<p><b>Hotpoint dryer that does your ironing and gives you more time for the family.</b></p> <p>The Hotpoint Steam-Dry electronic dryer has permanent press fabrics about wrinkle-free with a special de-wrinkle cycle. It also electronically senses when clothes are dried perfectly—no over-drying or under-drying. The perfect match for a Hotpoint Duo-Load washer. The new washer that does colors and whites at the same time—separately. Model L2890.</p>	<p><b>Big capacity Hotpoint lets you spend less time shopping. Have more holiday fun.</b></p> <p>This Hotpoint Food Center 21 has almost double the space of many old refrigerators, but doesn't take up more room! No frost. A 14.7 cubic foot refrigerator plus a 6.7 cubic foot freezer. 32 inches wide. Automatic ice maker. Bulls out on wheels. Model CSH912.</p>
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## Document Set D: Latino American Experiences

The scale of the United States' war production touched every corner of the nation, affecting millions of people. When traditional farm workers left for military service or higher paying industrial jobs, the U.S. government looked south to Mexico. Several thousand *braceros*, or *braceros*, were invited to work in the United States, primarily in agriculture. The photograph below of *braceros* working on a Texas cotton ranch is evidence that African Americans (especially men who were too young to join the Army) worked alongside Mexican laborers harvesting cotton, which, as one *bracero* later wrote, was one of the most physically demanding jobs he had ever done. Such conditions were revealed in a well-known work song of the time:

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But I too came to pick cotton  
and they have to pay me  
for each hundred pounds a dollar  
You can see I am quite skinny  
From lack of food to eat

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Braceros Working on a Texas Cotton Ranch



*American Social History Project/Center for Media Learning*  
*John Vachon, "Young Mexican and African-American Men Answer the Call for Farm Workers"*  
*HERB: Resources for Teachers: <http://herb.ashp.cuny.edu/items/show/1293>*