

Life after Reconstruction for African Americans and American Indians

During Reconstruction, African Americans began to have power in Virginia's government, and men of all races could vote. After Reconstruction, the rights and freedoms that were promised to African Americans during Reconstruction were slowly taken away. African Americans were facing **discrimination**, or an unfair difference in the treatment of people. One of the ways that African Americans were discriminated against was with the "Jim Crow" Laws.

discrimination - an unfair difference in the treatment of people

"Jim Crow" Laws were passed by the southern states and established **segregation**, or separation of people, usually based on race or religion. There were several different ways in which the "Jim Crow" Laws segregated African Americans and whites. Unfair poll taxes and voting tests were established to keep African American men from voting. Therefore, African Americans found it very difficult to vote or hold public office. African Americans were also forced to use separate, poor-quality services such as drinking fountains, restrooms, and restaurants. Finally, African American and white children attended separate schools. These "Jim Crow" laws had an effect on American Indians as well.

segregation - separation of people, usually based on race or religion