

Civil Rights Movement

World War 2

After WWII, African Americans demanded civil rights, or rights of equality and freedom. They wanted **desegregation**, or the abolishment of racial segregation, and **integration**, or the full equality of all races in the use of public facilities, to occur. Due to the Civil Rights Movement, changes occurred in Virginia.

desegregation - the abolishment of racial segregation

integration - full equality of all races in the use of public facilities

In order for segregation to end and integration to occur, the US Supreme Court ruled in 1954, in the **Brown vs. Board of Education** court case, that "**separate, but equal**" public schools were unconstitutional. Due to this court case, all public schools in Virginia and across the country were ordered to desegregate.

Virginia's government did not like the idea of desegregation and generated a policy of **Massive Resistance**, which fought to resist the integration of schools. Some Virginia schools even closed so they wouldn't have to integrate. Eventually, the policy of Massive Resistance failed and all of Virginia's public schools were integrated.

Massive Resistance - fighting to resist the integration of schools