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Cold War and Civil Rights Movement

The Cold War and the Civil Rights Movements in the U.S highlight the connection between how America took its approach to racism in its borders and the international relations during the era just after World War II ended. The Civil Rights Movement was about a struggle by African Americans in the mid-50s to the late 60s to achieve Civil Rights to equal to those of whites, including equal opportunity in employment, housing, and education, as well as the right of equal access to public facilities. The Cold War was about a state of political hostility between countries characterized by threats, propaganda, and other measures short of open warfare. They are related because people were scared of the communists and wanted to get rid of them. The Red Scare and McCarthyism were normative in America during the Cold War and the Civil Rights Movement.

Some of the examples to show that there's a relationship between the Cold War and the Civil Rights Movement was the Arab - Israeli conflict and the All-Black March. In the 1940s, there were events that led up to both the Cold War and the Civil Rights Movement. The first event leading to the Cold War was the Arab - Israeli conflict. This conflict refers to political tension, military conflicts, and disputes between a number of Arab countries and Israel. At the end of the mandate, the Haganah released a bunch of assaults so they can gain controlled

territory held by the U.N. This territory created a large number of fugitives and captured five towns. In response to this, President Truman made a statement saying the U.N. trusteeship, which is a legal term that can refer to any person who holds property, authority, or a position of trust or responsibility for the benefit of another. President Truman said “unfortunately, it has become clear that the partition plan cannot be carried out at this time by peaceful means.... Unless emergency action is taken, there will be no public authority in Palestine on that date capable of preserving law and order. Violence and bloodshed will descend upon the Holy Land. Large-scale fighting among the people of that country will be the inevitable result.” The other event that shows the relationship is the All - Black Movement. This movement was about efforts of the civil rights movement that showed us that considerable history predating the 1940s had an effect that featured largely unsung grassroots workers. The decade brought renewed efforts. An example of this was when Philip Randolph threatened to stage an all-black march in Washington. He did this because President FDR didn’t end racial discrimination in employment and in the armed forces. Once Roosevelt heard of this, he agreed to a Fair Employment Practice Committee to investigate employment practices. This committee had no real power. Other events of the war years promoted pressure for civil rights. These events can show a relationship by saying that President Truman was just appeasing both parties so there would be no future problems in these situations but that clearly didn’t work.

In the 1950s, things started to get a little out of control. This was when civil rights were almost in full effect. Martin Luther King Jr. was seen as the boycott movement’s most effective leader and he possessed peacemaking skills. He took after Mahatma Gandhi. These tackles could

be seen as civil disobedience. He stated, "I had come to see early that the Christian Doctrine of love operating through the Gandhian method of nonviolence was one of the most potent weapons available to the Negro in his struggle for freedom." King was a member of the NAACP, the Montgomery movement created in 1957 of a new regional organization called Southern Christian Leadership Conference as King being the president. King has taught people instead of physically fighting you should fight with civil disobedience. An example that kind of relates to each other is the uprising in East Germany. I know what you're thinking, how can those two possibly relate to each other? Well... they all stood up for something they believed was right. The People's Uprising in East Germany was created by a strike by East Berlin construction workers in June 1953. The widespread uprising against the German Democratic Republic government the next day. The uprising was violently restrained from using the tanks of the group Soviet forces in Germany. In spite, the intervention of Soviet troops, the wave of strikes and protests was not easily brought under control.

The 1960s was a time where everything was urgent. There was the Cuban Missile Crisis, Civil Rights Movement, and Communist spies in America. The Cold War was almost in full effect around this decade, everyone didn't know if there was going to be an all-out nuclear war. Schools had bomb drills, luckily for us, nothing came to that. One example to show that the Cold War and the Civil Rights Movement were related was the Eritrean war for independence. This was a conflict fought between the Ethiopian government and the Eritrean separatists. Eritrean had become part of Ethiopia after World War II. The independence struggle was led by the Eritrean Liberation Front. Most people would say that the annex of Eritrea by Ethiopia was what

made this struggle understood. In the 1960s in the United States, four freshmen at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College began a new era of student sit-ins -- another example of civil disobedience. This was designed to end segregation at southern lunch counters. Black people couldn't sit at the counters but a group of students changed that. They wouldn't leave until they were served. These types of protests spread throughout the South and led to the creation of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. This group was more aggressive in its use of non-violent direct action tactics than King's SCLC. It stressed the independent local movement's expansion in contrast to SCLC's strategy of using local campaigns to achieve national civil rights reform.

Granted, the Civil Rights Movement and the Cold War could have been argued about racism and power. I chose to do how people fought and believed what was right. In the end, the Cold War was about civil disobedience because no one had one-on-one physical fights. It's like the Civil Rights Movement, they fought with words and actions that are passive-aggressive in one way or another.

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