

Study Questions on The History of Civil Rights

- How it Hppened RCG 370-78
- Indian Tribes, RCG, 378-83
- Ettelbrick, Confronting Obstacles to Lesbian and Gay Equality” RCG 437-46
- GriscoT, “The Case of Sharon Kolawlski” 346-56
- Chronology of Civil Rts. (X)

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- Our textbook states that the long history of discrimination in this country against women and people of color “is no accident. It has a long and deliberate history” (RCG 371). Give some examples of deliberate impositions of legal discrimination.
- How did this account of American history differ from that you learned in high school and in other courses? Were there any big surprises?
- Who all were not included in the *Declaration of Independence* assertion that “all Men are created equal”?
- When, how, and why did slavery get started in this country?
- What parallels do you see between the histories of the legal rights of Native Americans, African Americans, and other ethnic minorities? Is there a pattern here? To what extent is that pattern being repeated in legislation about homosexuals’ civil rights?
- What parallels and connections do you see between civil rights for women and civil rights for racial and ethnic minorities?
- For each minority group--African Americans, Native Americans, Women, gays and lesbians-- sketch out a basic plot line of their legal fortunes in this country. What happened to them in the 16th and 17th centuries, the 18th, the 19th, the 20th?
- What are the 3-5 most important dates, events, or court cases for each group?
- How does the history of civil rights for gays and lesbians parallel the previous history of civil rights for women and people of color? Do you think this is a fair comparison?