

# HISTORY PART 5

**SS8H11 The student will evaluate the role of Georgia in the modern civil rights movement.**

- Describe major developments in civil rights and Georgia's role during the 1940s and 1950s; include the roles of Herman Talmadge, Benjamin Mays, the 1946 governor's race and the end of the white primary, *Brown v. Board of Education*, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the 1956 state flag.
- Analyze the role Georgia and prominent Georgians played in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and 1970s; include such events as the founding of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Sibley Commission, admission of Hamilton Holmes and Charlayne Hunter to the University of Georgia, Albany Movement, March on Washington, Civil Rights Act, the election of Maynard Jackson as mayor of Atlanta, and the role of Lester Maddox.
- Discuss the impact of Andrew Young on Georgia.

## CIVIL RIGHTS



Ellis Arnall, Melvin Thompson, and Herman Talmadge  
– the three men in the 1946 Governor's Race.

In 1946, Georgia had an election for governor that was surrounded in scandal. Eugene Talmadge was elected governor. He died before he could begin his term. After this, there was a debate over who should be governor in Georgia. Melvin Thompson, who was the lieutenant governor-elect, thought he should be governor. Because many people in Georgia wrote in the name of Herman Talmadge underneath Eugene Talmadge's name, Herman Talmadge thought he should be governor. Ellis Arnall declared that he would remain governor until the issue was resolved. In the end, the state decided that Melvin Thompson should be governor until a special election was held. After the special election, Herman Talmadge was elected. **The 1946 governor's race** made Georgia look foolish and created a great deal of confusion.

**Herman Talmadge**, unfortunately, did not learn from many of his father's mistakes. Herman Talmadge was much like his father, Eugene. He did not want to integrate the state, and his time as governor was spent fighting the integration of schools and public places. He did, however, help with public education by establishing a 9-month school year (school years before these times were shorter due to the Great Depression).

A primary is an election to choose a candidate from a certain political party to run in the general (or major) election. During the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Georgia had a **white primary**, where only whites were allowed to vote in the primary election. Ellis Arnall worked to get rid of this, and in 1946 it was declared unconstitutional.



A Supreme Court case in 1954 called ***Brown v. Board of Education*** changed schools forever. This landmark case said that there was no such thing as "separate but equal" and that schools in the South needed to integrate. This case overturned the *Plessy v. Ferguson* case that stated that segregation was legal as long as it was equal. Many southern whites were upset about the idea that the government was intervening in the schools, but for African-Americans, this was a major civil rights victory.

As a response to *Brown v. Board of Education*, Georgia changed its state flag in 1956. Its old flag before 1956 contained red and white stripes and the seal of the state. In 1956, as a response to integrating the schools, Georgia adopted the St. Andrew's cross (the Confederate battle emblem) as a part of their state flag. This upset many civil rights activists in the state. For years, the state flag was debated. Georgia later removed the emblem and changed its flag in 2001, and again in 2004.

Benjamin Mays was a man who was a mentor to Martin Luther King, Jr. He was president of Morehouse College. He taught King to 1) treat all people with respect and dignity through non-violent protest and 2) to use founding documents of the United States to discuss equal rights for all people.

# I HAVE A DREAM...

**Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** was a man who focused on non-violent protest. He was a Georgian who became a reverend and entered college at age 15. He was a gifted public speaker, and became the "mouthpiece" of the civil rights movement because of this. He was behind many movements that took place in Alabama, Mississippi, and Georgia (including the Albany Movement). He, along with others, organized the **March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom** in 1963. There, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, and other organizations brought attention to civil rights. At this march, King gave his famous "I have a dream" speech, one of the most famous speeches in American history. King was assassinated by James Earl Ray in 1968.



*"This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood." - MLK*

The **Sibley Commission** was an organization that was aimed at determining how Georgians felt about integrating their school systems. There were two choices: to close the schools or to integrate them. Sadly, most Georgians said they would rather close the schools than integrate them, which showed how racist Georgia was.



The Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (Called SNCC or pronounced "Snick") was a group of students who organized non-violent protests. Protests like sit-ins were organized to show inequality in the South. The SNCC supported the March on Washington and the Albany Movement.

Despite Georgia's racism, schools eventually integrated within the state. Two students named **Hamilton Holmes and Charlayne Hunter** were the first African-American students to enter in to the **University of Georgia**. They were not welcomed kindly by their fellow students. Many protests took place concerning their entry into UGA. However, both went on to graduate and lead successful careers.



The **Albany Movement** was organized by several civil rights organizations to bring attention to the city of Albany, Georgia. Albany had many segregated public facilities and a large African-American population. SNCC, and Martin Luther King, Jr. (as well as other organizations) worked with the African-American citizens of Albany. They staged non-violent protests in segregated areas which were met by police with several arrests. Many of the protesters were arrested (including King), and the media focused attention on the town of Albany. Eventually, Albany did integrate facilities.

The March on Washington and other measures by civil rights activists were successful. After years of fighting for equality and civil rights, President Lyndon B. Johnson passed the **Civil Rights Act of 1964**, which integrated all facilities in the United States (such as hotels, waiting rooms, restaurants, and movie theaters). This was the most aggressive civil rights legislation (or law) written in the history of the United States, and was finally the law that civil rights activists envisioned.

Few people in Georgia's history were more controversial than former Governor **Lester Maddox**. Maddox was a segregationist and a restaurant owner who used axe handles to chase after African-Americans who tried to eat at his restaurant, the Pickrick. He closed the restaurant after the Civil Rights Act was passed. He later became governor of Georgia in 1967 and appointed many African-Americans to positions in state offices and worked with prison reform, yet he maintained his ideas on segregation until his death.



**Maynard Jackson** was the first African-American mayor of Atlanta. He was elected in 1973 and went on to serve three terms as mayor. During his time as mayor, he brought more African-Americans into positions in the city government. He focused on helping the poor in the cities and on balancing out number of very poor and very rich in the city of Atlanta.

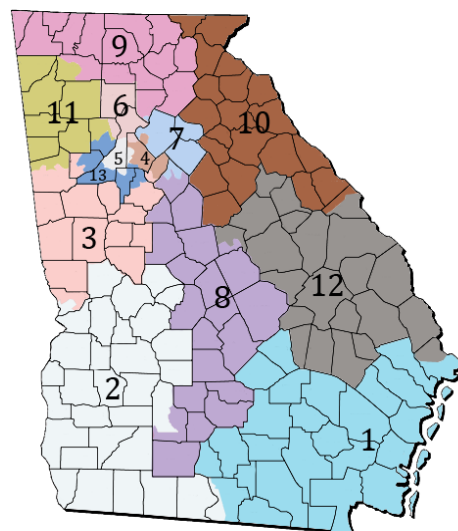
**Andrew Young** served Georgia in many ways. He was the first African-American representative of Congress since the age of Henry McNeal Turner and Reconstruction. He was a civil rights activist and served with Martin Luther King, Jr. (he was with King when he was assassinated). He was elected as the second African-American mayor of Atlanta. During his time as mayor in the 1980s, he worked to bring the Olympic Games to Atlanta.



**SS8H12 The student will explain the importance of significant social, economic, and political developments in Georgia since 1970.**

- Evaluate the consequences of the end of the county unit system and reapportionment.
- Describe the role of Jimmy Carter in Georgia as state senator, governor, president, and past president.
- Analyze the impact of the rise of the two-party system in Georgia.
- Evaluate the effect of the 1996 Olympic Games on Georgia.
- Evaluate the importance of new immigrant communities to the growth and economy of Georgia.

The old **county unit system**, which created a lack of equality in the state by giving rural counties more power than urban counties, was **declared unconstitutional** (or against the law) in 1962. After this, politics in Georgia began to change. African-Americans were given a more equal and fair voice in politics. The Supreme Court created new districts for the state as well through something called reapportionment. **Reapportionment** means to "redraw." Basically, the districts for voting were redrawn during this time period to accurately represent the voting population. After the end of the county unit system and the system of reapportionment, Georgia began to see a rise in two different parties during this time period – Republican and Democrat.



The rise of the **two-party system** means that Georgia began to turn from being a mostly Democratic state to being a state that has both Republicans and Democrats being represented. This was due, in part, to the end of the county unit system and reapportionment. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, the strength of the Democratic Party began to fade in the state, and Sonny Perdue, a Republican, was the first Republican governor of Georgia since Reconstruction.

# MODERN GEORGIA

Jimmy Carter was the first Georgian to become president of the United States. Carter was born in Plains, Georgia and grew up believing segregation was wrong. He joined the Navy at a young age and after his time in the Navy he served as a state senator in Georgia in 1962 and 1964.

**JIMMY CARTER**



Carter became governor of Georgia in 1970 and greatly reduced the number of agencies in the state. He appointed many African-Americans and women to state offices. **He ran for president in 1976 and won the election.** Carter tried to keep peace in the Middle East during his time as president. Mostly, however, his presidency had many problems, mostly due to a hostage crisis in Iran and a large economic recession, or downturn. Carter was not re-elected.

Carter only served as president for four years and was not re-elected, **but after his presidency he worked for equality, peace, and human rights.** He has written several books, had a library created in his name, and established the Carter Center for charity. He received the Nobel Peace Prize for his humanitarian work in 2002.

In 1996, the Summer **Olympic Games** came to Atlanta. Athletes from all over the world came to Atlanta to compete in this large-scale international event. Atlanta built many sports venues to make this event happen, including the Olympic Stadium (now Turner Field). Dormitories from Georgia State and Georgia Tech were created and improved so Olympic athletes could stay there. Some thought the commercialization of the Olympics (by businesses such as Coca-Cola) was a little too much. The Olympics were also rocked by a bombing in Centennial Olympic Park during a concert, which killed one person. Despite the negative things, the Olympics made a great deal of money for the state and people enjoyed the games.



*Georgia has seen a tremendous amount of immigrant communities come in to the state in the past twenty years. These immigrant communities range from all over the world. These communities contribute to Georgia's economy through jobs and purchasing items, and they also have caused Georgia to grow exponentially in the past twenty years.*

