



People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
Cheikh Larbi Tebessi University -Tebessa-
Faculty of Letters and Languages
Department of Letters and English Language



**African American Women's Path to the Oval Office: A Case Study of
Kamala Harris**

A Dissertation Submitted to the Department of Letters and English Language in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of Master in Literature and Civilization

Candidates:

Amamra Moatez Billah

Gheribi Saloua

Board of Examiners:

President: Abderrahmane Rabie

Supervisor: Amina Bouaziz

Examiner: Kelthoum Ktir

Supervisor: Dr. Amina Bouaziz

M.A.A. Chahid Chikh Larbi Tebessi University

M.C.B. Chahid Chikh Larbi Tebessi University

M.A.A. Chahid Chikh Larbi Tebessi University

2022/2023

Dedication 01

I dedicate this work to my father Mounir, my mother Sabah, and my brothers Sami and Mohammed-Lamine for giving me the courage to complete this dissertation.

This dissertation is also dedicated to the spirit of my grandmother Torkiya who passed away recently. I wished she could attend this special day so she can see what I achieved after encouraging and believing in my ability to be successful.

I also dedicate this work to my family and to my friend Idris, and my friends whom I shared my academic journey with.

I would also like to thank Dr. Ghazouane Arslane for his help that will always be appreciated. And finally I would like to dedicate this work to all the people who helped me complete this dissertation.

Amamra Moatez Billah

Dedication 02

I thank Allah for enabling me get to this point and for providing me with the strength and capacity to complete this dissertation.

This work is dedicated to the spirit of my late father, who guarded and guided me during my entire academic career. To my beautiful mother, who gave me both life and strength.

To my soul mate sisters Amel, Nabila, Sabah, and Ahlem, I dedicate this work to all my nieces and nephews, as well as my brothers.

To my closest and sweetest friends, Nada and Nour, with whom I shared my university years.

To my wonderful professors at the University of Chikh Larbi Tebessi, thank you for your unfailing encouragement, your kindness, and for serving as the role models my other students and I look up to.

Fadhila, Chedia, and her children became family after becoming new acquaintances.

To my coworkers with whom I shared a calm, and cozy working environment.

Gheribi Saloua

Acknowledgments

Firstly, we are grateful to Allah for the strength he provided us with in order to finish this dissertation.

We deeply appreciate and thank our supervisor Dr. Amina Bouaziz for guiding us, being patient with us throughout this journey, and encouraging us to finish this work. We also appreciate and thank the members of the jury Mr. Rabie Abderrahmane and Ms. Ktir Kelthoum, not only for leading the supervision of this dissertation, but for teaching us the procedures of writing this research paper and for motivating us to complete this work.

We finally want to thank all the teachers of the English Department at the University of Chahid Chikh Larbi Tebessi for inspiring us to complete this dissertation.

Abstract

This dissertation was conducted to explore how African American women were abused, discriminated, and mistreated in the United States of America, and how certain female figures and the Civil Rights Movement changed the role of women and gave them more importance and equality in the social and political status of America using the post-colonial research method. The dissertation also demonstrated the personal background, career path, and the strategies that helped Kamala Harris, the 49th Vice President of the United States become the highest-ranking African-American female figure and her accomplishments after reaching the Oval Office by using the biographical and feminist historiography research methods. The dissertation also answered the question of whether she became an inspiration for other women like she was inspired by former female leading figures such as her mother Shyamala Gopalan, Shirley Chisholm, and so many others, especially after the criticism she received after two years of serving as the Vice President using the descriptive and political discourse analysis research methods. This study found that despite the barriers that African American women faced in general, they were able to lead the nation and overcome obstacles and achieve success in politics, and the main example is the election of Kamala Harris to the Vice Presidency and then becoming an inspiration for future generations in the political field of the United States of America.

Keywords: African American Women, Racism, the Civil Rights Movement, Kamala Harris - The Oval Office.

Résumé

Cette mémoire a été réalisée pour explorer comment les femmes Afro-Américaines ont été maltraitées, discriminées, et abusées aux États-Unis d'Amérique, ainsi que la façon dont certaines figures féminines et le mouvement des droits civiques ont modifié le rôle des femmes, leur accordant une plus grande importance et une plus grande égalité dans le statut social et politique de l'Amérique en utilisant la méthode de recherche postcoloniale. La recherche a également démontré les antécédents, le parcours professionnel et les stratégies qui ont aidé Kamala Harris, la 49^e Vice-Présidente des États-Unis, à devenir la plus haute représentante Afro-Américaine et ses réalisations après avoir accédé au Bureau Oval en utilisant les méthodes de recherche biographique et historiographie féministe. La thèse a également répondu à la question de savoir si elle est devenue une source d'inspiration pour d'autres femmes, tout comme elle a été inspirée par d'anciennes figures féminines influentes telles que sa mère Shyamala Gopalan, Shirley Chisholm et tant d'autres, surtout après les critiques qu'elle a reçues après deux ans de service en tant que Vice-Présidente en utilisant les méthodes de recherche descriptives et l'analyse du discours politique. Cette étude a révélé qu'en dépit des obstacles auxquels les femmes Afro-Américaines sont confrontées en général, elles ont été capables de diriger la nation, de surmonter les obstacles et de connaître le succès en politique, et l'exemple principal en est l'élection de Kamala Harris à la Vice-Présidence, qui est ensuite devenue une source d'inspiration pour les générations futures dans le domaine politique des États-Unis d'Amérique.

Mots Clés: Femmes Afro-Américaines, Racisme, Le Mouvement des Droits Civiques, Kamala Harris, Le Bureau Oval.

ملخص

تم إجراء هذه الدراسة لاستكشاف كيف تعرضت النساء الأمريكيات من أصول إفريقية في الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية للإساءة والتمييز والمعاملة السيئة ، و كيف غيرت حركة الحقوق المدنية بمشاركة شخصيات نسائية بارزة في تحسين الظروف المعيشية للمرأة و إعطائها أكثر أهمية، حرية و مساواة في النظام السياسي و الإجتماعي في أمريكا باستخدام منهج الدراسة ما بعد الأستعمارية. يظهر البحث أيضا السيرة الذاتية الكاملة لكامالا هاريس، رئيسة الوزراء 49 للولايات المتحدة، و الإستراتيجيات التي ساعدتها في الوصول إلى المكتب البيضاوي كأول امرأة أمريكية من أصول إفريقية تصل إلى هذا المنصب باستخدام المنهجية الخاصة بدراسة السير الذاتية و علم التاريخ النسوي. جابو البحث أيضا على السؤال المتعلق بتمكن كامالا هاريس من كونها مصدر إلهام لنساء أخريات مثل ما كانت والدتها شيامالا غوبالان و شيرلي تشيشولم مصدر إلهام لها، خاصة بعد الموجة الكبيرة التي تعرضت لها من الإنتقادات بعد خدمتها لأكثر من سنتين كرئيسة وزراء باستخدام المنهج الوصفي و منهج تحليل الخطاب السياسي. أظهرت هذه الدراسة أن النساء الأمريكيات من أصول إفريقية استطاعوا أن يتجاوزوا العقبات و يقودوا الأمة بنجاح في المجال السياسي بالرغم من كل المصاعب التي واجهوها، و أبرز دليل على ذلك هو إنتخاب كامالا هاريس كنانبة للرئيس حيث أنها أصبحت مصدر إلهام في المجال السياسي للأجيال القادمة في الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية.

كلمات مفتاحية: النساء الأمريكيات من أصول إفريقية، العنصرية، حركة الحقوق المدنية، كامالا هاريس، المكتب البيضاوي.

Table of Contents

Dedication.....	i
Acknowledgments.....	iii
Abstract.....	iv
Résumé.....	v
ملخص.....	vi
Table of Contents.....	vii
General Introduction	1
1. Chapter One: The Path of African-American Women to Equality.....	9
Introduction.....	9
1.1. Historical Background of the American Civil War.....	10
1.2. Political History of the Jim Crow Laws.....	12
1.3. World War 2 and the Civil Rights Movement.....	17
1.4. African American Women in the United States Suffrage Movement	19
1.5. Organizations that helped the Civil Rights Movement.....	24
1.5.1. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.....	25
1.5.2. The Congress of Racial Equality.....	26
1.5.3. Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee.....	27
1.5.4. Letter from Birmingham Jail.....	28
1.5.5. March on Washington.....	28

1.5.6. Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.....	29
1.5.7. Young Americans for Freedom.....	30
1.5.8. Student for a Democratic Society.....	30
1.5.9. National Organization for Women.....	31
1.6. Gains from the Civil Rights Movement	32
1.6.1. Civil Rights Act of 1957.....	32
1.6.2. Civil Rights Act of 1964.....	33
1.6.3. Bloody Sunday 1965.....	34
1.6.4. Voting Rights Act of 1965.....	35
1.6.5. Fair Housing Act of 1968.....	36
1.6.6. The 14 th Amendment of the United States Constitution.....	37
1.6.7. The 15th Amendment of the United States Constitution	38
1.6.8. Twenty-Fourth Amendment.....	39
1.7. Famous African American Women in the Civil Rights Movement	41
1.7.1. Leah Chase.....	41
1.7.2. Dr. June Jackson Christmas.....	42
1.7.3. Aileen Hernandez	43
1.7.4. Diane Nash.....	43
1.7.5. Judy Richardson.....	44
1.7.6. Gay McDougall.....	44

1.7.7. Gloria Richardson.....	45
1.7.8. Myrlie Evers-Williams.....	46
1.7.9. Shirley Chisholm.....	47
1.7.10. Sojourner Truth.....	48
Conclusion.....	49
2. Chapter Two: “Kamala Harris: For the People”.....	51
Introduction.....	51
2.1. Short Biography of Kamala Harris.....	52
2.2. Political Career of Kamala Harris.....	58
2.2.1. Primary Career from 1990 to 2004.....	58
2.2.2. San Francisco’s District Attorney from 2004 to 2011.....	60
2.2.3. California’s Attorney General from 2011 to 2017.....	62
2.2.4. The Senator of California from 2017 to 2021.....	63
2.2.5. Kamala Harris’ Presidential Run from 2019 to 2020.....	67
2.2.6. Vice Presidential Pick.....	69
Conclusion.....	72
3. Chapter Three: The Accomplishments and the Influence of Kamala Harris on Women...74	
Introduction.....	74
3.1. The Accomplishments of the Biden-Harris Administration.....	75
3.2. The Influence of Kamala Harris on Women.....	84

3.2.1. Other African American Figures.....	87
3.2.1.1. Keisha Lance Bottoms.....	87
3.2.1.2. Ayanna Pressley.....	88
3.2.1.3. Glynda C. Carr.....	88
3.2.1.4. Alicia Garza.....	89
Conclusion.....	90
General Conclusion.....	92
Works Cited.....	96

General Introduction

In the history of the United States, Black women have participated in the most important social movements. They found ways to organize and lead for a more just and equal society, not just for themselves but for all people. When discussing the leadership and organizing efforts of Black women during the African American Civil Rights Movement, it becomes clear how often their contributions are overlooked. While countless women played important roles at various points during Blacks Freedom Struggle, men still receive greater attention and recognition for the movement's achievements, particularly in commemorative efforts and historical narratives. But the reality of the Civil Rights movement challenges these narratives. Many African American women served as local leaders and served as a bridge between national and grassroots organizations. Their tremendous work, sacrifice, and perseverance kept the movement alive, thus transferring the sense of power to future generations, the movement inspired other women after the Civil Rights Movement to seek political and social leadership. Names such as Condoleezza Rice, Michelle Obama, Oprah Winfrey, and Kamala Harris were inspired by the heroic efforts of African American women to move beyond what they have achieved.

Black women have fought and are still fighting for their freedom and for the right to be treated fairly and equally in America, even before the Civil Rights Movement. They worked together in groups called clubs, which started in the 1800s. These clubs helped build a strong tradition of helping others and working hard to make things better. Some important clubs were the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs and the National Council for Negro Women, which helped women become leaders in the Civil Rights movement.

Since the 1800s, Black people started questioning their social way of life, this made some people, especially women, start to think differently about their place in society. For

Black women who went to church, being a part of this movement changed how they saw themselves in their community. Every woman has her own experience with being treated unfairly because of her gender and race, and this affects how she handles pressure and her role in making things better. By looking at this, we can learn how Black women bravely worked to make things better for their communities, even though they did not benefit personally. From Dorothy I. Height (1912-2010), Septima Poinsette Clark (1898-1987), Ella Baker (1903-1986), Rosa Parks (1913-2005), Sojourner Truth (1797-1883), to Kamala Harris (1964-).

Amongst the women who experienced racism and discrimination because of race and gender is Kamala Harris. She is an influential figure who was able to make a significant impact on politics. Like she was inspired by other leading Black women figures, she was able to inspire many women to break down social and political barriers due to her journey from a Civil Rights Movement supporter to becoming Vice President of the United States. Throughout her career, she has been a vocal advocate for equality and inclusivity, she promoted issues such as racial justice, immigration, and women's rights. As the first woman to hold the position of Vice President, Harris broke down challenged traditional norms, proving that diverse representation in positions of power is essential for progress and inclusivity. Her accomplishments serve as an inspiration to young girls and women, encouraging them to pursue their dreams and strive for success just like she and the ones before her did.

The aim of this study, in general, comes back to two main reasons, the first reason is to explore the theory that says African American women were abused, mistreated, and ignored by the White community in the United States of America, and how the Civil Rights Movement came to shed light on the rights that should be given to Black women in America and also to give gratitude to the most famous leading figures that helped the Black people

gain a voice in a place that is controlled by White people. And the second reason is to demonstrate the career of one of the most successful, courageous, and influential female figures in the United States of America and whether her journey from the bottom to the top inspired other female figures in America.

In the United States, there is still a problem with African American women being underrepresented in the top political positions, such as the presidency. Although African American women have made major achievements throughout history, institutional barriers still stand in the way of reaching the White House. This study aims to further our knowledge of the elements that aid or hinder African American women's advancement toward holding the highest office by examining the experience and accomplishments of Kamala Harris. The results of this study will show how Kamala Harris' election affected the representation and empowerment of African American women in political leadership positions, which eventually encouraged more diversity and inclusiveness at the highest levels of authority.

The historical election of Kamala Harris as the first African American and South Asian woman to be elected as Vice President of the United States has sparked interest in the experiences and challenges faced by African American women in politics. Her achievements have inspired many to reflect on the challenges faced by African American women seeking political leadership roles, and the barriers that must be overcome to reach the highest standard of power. There has been numerous studies that examined the path of African American women who were an inspiration from the past, especially from the period of the Civil Rights movement till this day, with a particular focus on the journey of Kamala Harris and the factors that led to her reaching the highest-ranking Black women in the American political system. Due to systemic racism and sexism, African American women have been underrepresented in American politics for generations. However, their involvement in political life and campaigning extends back to the 1950s and 1960s Civil Rights Movement.

Shirley Chisholm, Sojourner Truth, and other African American women broke through racial and gender boundaries in politics and paved the way for later generations.

There is an extensive literature that talked about African American women's status in American history starting from being slaves, moving to the Civil War and post-Civil War era, and the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Several scholars have analyzed the amount of racism and discrimination African American women faced throughout the ages, and what did it take for them to start protesting in order to have the right to vote, and then for the right to seek medical attention, until they became able to reach the highest level of the United States political system. But the focus of this research is to shed more light on the journey African American women faced and the acts, organizations, and decisions made by several iconic female figures before, during, and after the Civil Rights movement.

Moreover, by relying on the autobiography of Kamala Harris *The Truths We Hold: An American Journey* and on the writings of scholars like Schwartz and Adero, who have studied the path of Kamala Harris to the Oval Office from her early career in 1990 until winning the Vice President's seat in the Presidential elections as the first Black woman in the history of the United States, their analysis mainly focused on the accomplishments of Kamala during her time as California's Attorney General and United States' Senator. So the researchers studied the path of Kamala Harris after becoming Vice President and answer whether she was able to keep going with her known political persona amid the huge pressure she was exposed to, and whether she was able to become an inspiration for the current and future generations just like she was inspired by other leading figures who were able to cement their names in history.

The topic of this dissertation is significant for its researchers because the personal and political journey of Kamala Harris was not mainly focused on, discussed, and demonstrated a

lot in Algeria and the details concerning her accomplishments after becoming Vice President were rare to find. The importance of this study also resides in its investigation of African American women's access to the White House utilizing Kamala Harris' case study as a point of analysis. This study adds to the body of knowledge on women's political representation, intersectionality, and the dynamics of power by concentrating on Vice President Harris' accomplishments, difficulties, and distinctive experiences. The results of this study offered important light on the historic achievement of Kamala Harris and how she contributed to representing African American women in the highest levels of political office.

Throughout this dissertation, the researchers discussed how women struggled and fought against all types of racism and discrimination to have equal rights as white women in the social and political fields. Though it is not just a group issue rather than societies and upcoming generations should live in peace and equality. This dissertation also focused on the role of women who struggled alone to be free and to earn an identity in society and especially in the political field that is majorly ruled by white people's ideas that are malicious because they devalue the principles of Black people in America. The following dissertation delivered some answers about the Civil Rights movement, and the involvement of African American women before, during, and after the Civil Rights movement. The research also answered the question of Kamala Harris' way to reach the highest position women have ever reached in America against other powerful whites.

This work is handled through biographical, descriptive, feminist historiography, political discourses analysis, and post-colonial research approaches. In the first chapter, and by using the post-colonial research method, the researchers explored how African American women were abused and how they were presented before and during the Civil Rights Movement. The researchers also focused on how African American women faced significant challenges during the Jim Crow era, including the denial of fundamental civil liberties and

rights including the ability to vote and access jobs, education, and housing. Despite these oppressive laws that were made to enhance inequality in the social status in America, Black women made significant contributions to the Civil Rights Movement by planning demonstrations, taking part in sit-ins, and helping to run significant organizations. These organizations in addition to several acts made by significant African American figures helped Black women to remain active during and after the Civil Rights movement which became an inspiration for subsequent generations to fight for social justice and civil rights. As for the biographical, descriptive, feminist historiography, and political discourse analysis research methods, they were applied in the second and third chapters to elaborate the biography of one of the women who were inspired by the Civil Rights movement, who is Kamala Harris, the biographical research method is applied in this research because it involves gathering information about an individual's life history, experiences, and accomplishments. The selected approach also seeks to understand an individual's actions and decisions in the context of their life trajectory. This is presented in this case by showing Kamala Harris' personal and professional background, including her education, career, and political experience, in order to provide a detailed picture and overview of her life and achievements. The political discourse analysis method is used to analyze the causes of the critics she received after becoming Vice President of the United States despite having a strong political persona in the eyes of the powerful politicians in America and end the chapter with a personal opinion stating whether to agree or disagree with the comments she received.

In order for the readers to know how African American women gained the ability to reach the White House after they were struggling for the right to vote, this dissertation answered the following questions:

- How were women presented before and during the Civil Rights Movement?

- How did the Civil Rights movement change the position of women in society?
- Who is Kamala Harris? And how did she reach the Number One Observatory Circle?
- What has the Biden-Harris administration accomplished after being nominated?
- How did Kamala Harris inspire the new generation of women?

The dissertation is divided into three chapters. The first chapter entitled "African American Women's Path to Equality" described the historical background of the American Civil War and focused on how African Americans were abused and used as subjects and how the United States Civil Rights movement came and rescued them in the social and political field, and how African American women suffered against all types of discrimination, from social inequality, mistreatment, hunger, and unemployment. After that, the political history of denying African American women their rights, also known as the Jim Crow laws are mentioned. Then the role of African American women in helping in the Second World War and how they formed the Civil Rights movement by starting to form protests in order to be equal are discussed. Finally, the researchers show short biographies of the most famous female leading figures that contributed to the Civil Rights movement and helped African American women gain rights in the United States of America and also helped them to achieve significant gains by inspiring them to be active in the areas of education, employment, and political representation despite all the racism and sexism that they faced. The second chapter, entitled "Kamala Harris: For the People", in which the biographical research method is used demonstrated the biography of Kamala Harris, including her personal life, the path she had to go through in her education, and her political career starting from her early career from 1990 until 2004 when she became District Attorney of San Francisco until 2011, to becoming Attorney General of California in until 2017 when she became the United States Senator of California, and then concluding with her nomination for the presidency in 2020 to becoming

the first ever African American, South Asian women Vice President in the history of the United States. The third chapter is entitled “The Accomplishments and the Influence of Kamala Harris”, in which the accomplishments of the administration of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris are discussed and analyzed, the researchers also analyzed the criticism that she received after becoming and serving as Vice President and gave an opinion on the performance of Kamala Harris as the running mate of President Joe Biden. Finally, the case of whether she influenced other African American female names that can be successful like her or more than her in the political field is discussed.

Chapter One

The Path of African-American Women to Equality

Introduction

African American women have faced significant discrimination and marginalization in the United States. They have been excluded from leadership roles and decision-making processes, both by white leaders and some black male leaders who reinforced patriarchal attitudes. Black women have also faced discrimination in employment, education, and housing, which has limited their opportunities and access to resources. Despite these obstacles, African American women have persisted in their fight for equality and have made significant contributions to advancing civil rights and social justice in the country. African American women have played a significant role in the struggle for civil rights and equality in the United States. They were working to fight against racial discrimination and segregation even before the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. During the movement, black women were instrumental in organizing and leading civil rights protests and advocating for voting rights. However, they often faced marginalization due to both racism and sexism. After the movement, black women continued to work towards equality and representation in politics, with many becoming involved in political activism and running for office. The legacy of these women has paved the way for future generations of black women to pursue their dreams and make a lasting impact on society. The legacy of discrimination has created ongoing challenges for African American women. While progress has been made, they continue to face systemic barriers that limit their access to resources and opportunities. As a result, many black women have become involved in political activism and leadership, working to increase representation and advocate for change. Their perseverance and dedication have inspired future generations of African American women to pursue their

dreams and make a lasting impact on society. This chapter will tell how Black women in the United States were treated in the past and what several events, several organizations, and some female figures did for the African Americans in order to bring them justice.

1.1. Historical Background of the American Civil War

From the period 1700 to 1740 an estimated 43,000 slaves were imported into Virginia, and almost all but 4,000 were imported directly from West Africa among women within the large female community as an extremely diverse range of cultural backgrounds patriarchal and violently racist and exploitative society which led the white people community to justify their abuse by the idea of black women are passionately sexual. As a result of this issue, black girls were not educated, and most of them were illiterate working only in fields, planting, and doing chores, but mostly in the domestic sphere, nursing, laundering, and cooking. Subjugated ladies to a great extent possessed conventional women's work parts and were regularly contracted out by the day, they worked primarily as servants, within the kitchen, the animal dwelling place, and cultivate. They did modest and servile assignments cleaned family silver or furniture, made a difference with dress and hair, drew showers, barbered the men, and completed humble household chores, their everyday work was less requesting than the field labor of oppressed ladies in other districts. In any case, subjugated women in the colonies suffered a lot. Regardless of their location, slaves persevered in difficult and belittling lives, but labor within the southern colonies was most extreme in cotton and tobacco fields, women worked in a wide variety of capacities. They were expected to both have children and work in fields in order to increase the slave population due to the fact of the manipulation of reproductive sexual relations became an integral part of the sexual exploitation of female slaves. Many African American women raised their children without much assistance from males ("Black History Milestones").

Uncompromising disagreements between the free and slave states about the national government's authority to outlaw slavery in the territories that had not yet constituted states led to the start of the Civil War. Seven slave states in the Deep South seceded to form the Confederate States of America after Abraham Lincoln, the first Republican president, won the 1860 election on a campaign promising to keep slavery out of the territories. The majority of Northerners and the incoming Lincoln administration refused to accept the legality of secession. They were concerned that it would tarnish democracy and set a dangerous precedent that would ultimately lead to the dissolution of the United States into a number of tiny, quarreling nations (“Civil War Timeline”).

The American Civil War was fought between the United States and the American Confederacy. America, a group of 11 southern states that seceded from the Union in 1860 and 1861, was a major factor in starting the conflict. Longstanding disagreements over the legitimacy of slavery were a major factor in the conflict. On February 9, 1861, representatives of the Confederate Constitutional Convention elected former Senator and Secretary of War Jefferson Davis as president. The government then signed the 14th Amendment and ratified the 13th Amendment. Approximately 4 million slaves were freed as a result of the Union victory in the Civil War in 1865. African Americans were granted citizenship by the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of 1868, and the right to vote was guaranteed by the 15th Amendment to the Constitution of 1870. However, during Reconstruction (1865-1877), these new constitutional rights were often ignored, especially in the South, and African Americans experienced frustration and resentment. To force freed slaves to work as plantation laborers, often at exorbitantly low wages compared to their former masters, Southern states enacted Negro Codes (laws modeled on slave laws) and He once again enraged and encouraged disenfranchised blacks. To the civil rights movement that stopped all forms of discrimination. Thus began a national movement in the mid-20th century

calling for equal rights for African Americans and an end to segregation and marginalization. Inspired by the American civil rights movement. The civil rights movement used a variety of tactics, including litigation, federal lobbying, large-scale direct action, and black power. In the 20th century, African Americans have struggled for better living conditions for as long as they have been in the United States. Abolitionists have attempted to abolish racial injustice and slavery since the American Revolutionary War in the late 18th century (McPherson).

The United States Civil Rights Movement (1942-1968) ended legal segregation and reinstated universal voting in the southern U.S, the movement's overall strategy included litigation, media coverage, boycotts, protests, sit-ins, and other forms of civil disobedience to mobilize public opposition to institutionalized racism and achieve meaningful legal change in the United States of America. As images of the clash stoked broad public support for the movement's goals, thousands were detained during nonviolent protests, numerous thousands more took part in protests, boycotts, and campaigns to register voters across the South side of the United States. The movement played a role in creating a national crisis that compelled federal intervention and led to the repeal of segregation laws in southern states, the restoration of African Americans' right to vote, and an end to legal discrimination in housing, education, and jobs (McPherson).

1.2. Political History of the Jim Crow Laws

For hundred years of conflict, both violent and nonviolent, rooted in the kidnapping and enslavement of Africans to labor mainly in the plantation economy of the southern U.S., gave rise to the Civil Rights Movement. Between colonization and the American Civil War, abolitionists frequently used nonviolent resistance as a philosophy and a tactic. (Most notable members of the historic peace churches, the Quakers, Mennonites, and Churches of the

Brethren), in addition to occasional upraising, slaves would purposefully destroy tools and supplies, hinder production, pose as sick, flee, and practice deceit, their liberated friends wrote letters and polemics, protected fugitives, bought the freedom of slaves, and engaged in direct action. The American Anti-Slaves Society was established by William Lloyd Garrison in 1833, a fugitive slave named Frederick Douglass was motivated by Garrison's radical weekly *The Liberator*, which served as inspiration for the United States Civil Rights Movement. Many freed people from enslavement used a covert network of safe houses that connected the United States to Canada. In the years preceding the civil war, abolitionists began to adopt more militant viewpoints most notably that of John Brown's attempted armed revolt. In the civil war, more than 200,000 black troops served, and 38,000 of them lost their lives in battle. African American continue to be denied equal rights despite the abolition of slavery, and the adoption of constitutional amendments establishing equal protection, due process, and universal adult male voting. Most African Americans were denied the right to vote by racist state laws, referred to as Jim Crow Laws later known as Black Codes during the Reconstruction Era that happened from 1863 to 1877, which restricted them to racially segregated transportation, theaters, schools, and restaurants in the majority of the former Confederate states. Despite these challenges, more than 30,000 African American teachers were trained and employed by 1900, making literacy widespread throughout black communities, African Americans founded hundreds of churches and mutual support organizations. African Americans, despite facing harsh injustice, organize on a mass scale for equal access to jobs and other rights in the face of widespread violence they were determined enough to achieve liberty and equality with whites and established the Constitution in order to promote the general Welfare and secure the blessings of liberty and posterity to them ("Civil Rights Movement").

A formal codified system of apartheid, the Jim Crow rules of segregation and disenfranchisement ruled The American South for quarters of a century starting in the 1890s. The laws required segregation in almost every part of everyday life, including restrooms, drinking fountains, parks, libraries buses, trains, and restaurants. Signs reading WHITE ONLY. Moreover, Colored served as continuous reminders of the in-place racial hierarchy. Between 1877 through the middle of the 1960s, a racial caste system known as the Jim Crow law dominated, but not solely, in southern and Border States. Jim Crow included more than just strict anti-black laws. It was an attitude. African Americans were reduced to second-class citizens under Jim Crow. Jim Crow served as a justification for racism towards black people. Numerous Christian pastors and theologians propagated the idea that white people were God's chosen people, black people were cursed to be slaves, and God approved of racial segregation. At every educational level, phrenologists, craniologists, eugenicists, and Social Darwinists supported the notion that black people were inherently less intelligent and culturally advanced than white people. Politicians who supported segregation spoke persuasively about the main risk of integration: the blending of different white races (“Jim Crow Laws” [*History*]; Pilgrim; “Jim Crow Laws” [*Public Broadcasting Service*]).

Jim Crow's rules of etiquette show how broad and far-reaching these rules were. Because it was a matter of social equality, a black man was not allowed to hold out his hand to shake a white man's hand, and in order to avoid being charged with rape, a black man instead handed a white man a hand. Reaching out or doing anything else was also forbidden. A black woman who stretches her body part white was called by her first name. When addressing whites, blacks were required to use polite titles and were not allowed to use their first names. Jim Crow rules (black code) were enforced along with Jim Crow etiquette. When most people think of Jim Crow, they think of laws, not laws banning blacks from serving on juries, holding public office, or living in certain neighborhoods. Hayes In 1877, Southern and

Border States began to restrict the freedom of blacks. Unfortunately for blacks, the 1896 case of *Plessey v. Ferguson*, which legitimized the Jim Crow laws and the Jim Crow way of life, helped undermine blacks' constitutional guarantees. Louisiana's Segregated Motor Vehicle Act of 1890 was intended to improve passenger comfort by defining "equal but separate" motor vehicles for blacks and whites. There were no public accommodations that offered the same amenities to black people, including train travel. Louisiana law does not allow white passengers to sit in seats reserved for blacks on buses, and vice versa. In 1891 a group of blacks planned to challenge the Jim Crow laws. Plessey's lawyer argued that Louisiana did not have the authority to classify some citizens as white and others as black in order to limit privileges and rights. In the Plessey case, the Supreme Court ruled that as long as states uphold equal access and other legal freedoms for blacks and whites, they can maintain separate agencies to support those rights. In fact, Plessey represented the legalization of two societies. One was white and privileged, while the other was black, poor and despised (Pilgrim).

Jim Crow laws had an impact on all facets of daily life. For instance, Oklahoma forbade whites and blacks from boating together in 1935. Social equality was implied by boating. Georgia created separate parks for blacks and whites in 1905. The playing of dominoes or checkers by blacks and whites was outlawed in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1930. The interpretive staff at the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site has produced a list of some common Jim Crow legislation. Plessey issued the following message to border and southern states; Discrimination against blacks is allowed. In Georgia, no black barber is allowed to cut the hair of white ladies or girls. In Louisiana, the Board of Trustees shall maintain a separate building on separate grounds for the reception, care, instruction, and support of all blind people of the colored or black race. The officer in charge in Georgia is not permitted to bury or permit the burying of any colored people on land designated or utilized for the interment of white people. In Alabama, all passenger stations in this state run

by any motor vehicle corporation are required to have separate waiting areas and ticket counters for people of white and colored races. As for child custody in South Carolina, it shall be unlawful for any parent, relative, or another white person in this State who has legal guardianship over a white child to permanently transfer that child's custody, control, maintenance, or support to a Negro, whether through natural or acquired guardianship or otherwise. Education in Florida, schools for white children, and schools for black children must operate independently. It is required of the state librarian in North Carolina to set up and maintain a separate area for the use of people of color who may visit the library to read books or periodicals. In Mental health facilities in Georgia, the Board of Control is responsible for making sure that such patients have appropriate and separate housing arrangements so that black people and white people are never housed together. Militia in North Carolina, the white and colored militias must register individually and are never required to serve together in the same group. Where white forces are available, no colored troops may be organized, and where white troops may be organized, colored troops must be commanded by white officers. Nurses in the hospitals of Alabama, whether public or private, where black men are housed, White female nurses are not permitted to be required to provide care. The warden is responsible for ensuring that the white prisoners have their own quarters where they may eat and sleep apart from the black prisoners in Mississippi. In Reform schools in Kentucky, White and colored youngsters admitted to reform institutions must be kept completely apart from one another. In Oklahoma, if found guilty of a misdemeanor, any instructor who works in a school, college, or other establishments that enrolls and receives students of the white and colored races as students for instruction faces a fine. Beer with wine; According to Georgia law, anyone with a license to sell beer or wine must only serve white or colored customers, and neither race may be served in the same space at the same time (Pilgrim ; "Jim Crow Laws" [*National Park Service*]).

In legal theory, black people were treated separately but equally under the law, but in practice, when black people had access to public amenities at all, they were almost always subpar compared to white people. In most of the rural south, blacks were also routinely refused the right to vote due to the selective application of literacy exams and other racially motivated criteria. Local government representatives supported the Jim Crow System which was strengthened by violent crimes committed by Vigilantes. The doctrine of separate but equal was established by the Supreme Court In Plessy v. Ferguson in 1896 after a black man in New Orleans tried to board a train that was reserved for white passengers. Back to Jim Crow as a term it was a derisive slang word for a black man, and it came to mean any state law passed in the south that established different rules blacks and whites. Jim Crows laws were based on the theory of white supremacy and were a reaction to reconstruction. Racism appealed to whites who feared losing their jobs to blacks. Politicians abused black people to win the votes of poor whites, not working in the same room or entering through the same door, even industries exclude them from work. In Richmond blacks were not able to marry other races men or women, also the residence was limited and selected to six special places for living in Texas, laws were harsher on leaving homes at 10 every place was closed in front of them. Schools and prisons, also hospitals were not allowed for them. Touching the religious part, they separated them from the church by keeping two bibles. (“Jim Crow Laws” [*American Experience*]).

1.3. World War 2 and the Civil Rights Movement

Social changes were accelerated by the Second World War, employment in the wartime economy and military service, along with democratic principles, gave birth to a new civil rights movement at home that forever changed American society. The Democratic and Republic Parties were motivated to seek out African American followers as a result of black

migration to the North, where the right to vote was available, racial segregation came to an end as a result of federal policy changes, and civil rights issues were raised on a national scale for the first time since the Reconstruction Era. Minorities were restricted to racially segregated jobs, despite the fact that the armed forces integrated soldiers and sailors from all over the country into military formations, jobs were produced by the defense sector, and these occupations eventually led to social and legal reform. Millions of married women and mothers were urged by employers to work outside the home for the first time, for some women, this led to postwar employment, to labor in the war industries and join the military, about 65,000 Indians fled their reservations. In 1941, African Americans declared they would stage a "March on Washington" to demand equal employment opportunities and an end to segregation in the military and government offices. In response, President Roosevelt took steps to outlaw discrimination in the defense sector. People of color continued to experience racial prejudice at home from federal and local governments despite serving in the military. Around 110,000 people of Japanese origin from Oregon, Washington, and California were interned as a result of Executive Order 9066, which exclusively applied to Japanese Americans and authorized the removal of civilians from "military regions." White troops attacked Hispanic youngsters in Los Angeles during the Zoot Suit Riots of 1943, but there was no police protection for them. Chinese Americans, emboldened in part by the role of China as an American ally in the war, struggled against America's deeply rooted and institutionalized anti-Chinese racism, thereby inching closer to abolishing racist ideology in immigration policies. Six states denied American Indians access to the ballot, basing their interests. African Americans became more militant after World War Two. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People launched significant campaigns against discrimination and segregation, even in the Jim Crow South, buoyed by the success of black

servicemen in the war, a new corps of talented young lawyers, and consistent financial assistance from white philanthropists (“Birth of the Civil Rights”).

During and after the war, there was an upsurge in social pressure to abolish segregation, *An American Dilemma*, a famous work on race relations by Gunnar Myrdal, was published in 1944 and offered an uncompromising account of the long history of racial injustice and a candid analysis of the economics of inequality, the use of executive authority outside of Congress by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to advance black civil rights was maintained by President Harry S. Truman. He offered a study of racial injustices in 1946 that urged an end to segregation in the United States. To secure these rights, which was finished in 1974, along with judicial victories in Supreme Court cases laid the stage for the second Reconstruction. To ensure “equality of treatment and opportunity for all those who serve in our country’s defense...without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin”, Truman signed Executive Order 9981 in 1948. Following the Second World War, legal challenges to the Plessy Doctrine predominated civil rights efforts, culminating in the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision by the Supreme Court, which many academics believe to be the beginning of the contemporary Civil Rights movement (“Birth of the Civil Rights”).

1.4. African American Women in the United States Suffrage Movement

The domestic history of the women's suffrage movement in the United States is most often presented. It began with the Seneca Falls Conference of 1848, followed by a series of national rallies, court battles, petitions to Congress, and ended with demonstrations and marches leading up to the 19th Amendment. Long before Seneca Falls, American suffragists used Enlightenment, socialist, and abolitionist ideas to help make women's rights global. Others highlighted the contradiction between America's growing global dominance and the denial of women's suffrage due to the Spanish-American War and World War I. Several women of color used international forums to question America's demands for democracy,

addressing not only women's rights but also domestic racism and the suffrage movement itself. These numerous and sometimes conflicting global chains have united to advance women's rights and support voting rights. The American movement for women's suffrage presented a fundamental challenge to the authorities, and its success required international support. While the American Revolution and Mary Wollstonecraft's advocacy for women's rights were widely read in America, it was the crucible of trans-Atlantic abolitionism that really gave rise to the American women's rights movement. . Called by Frederick Douglass "women's queerness," this anti-slavery campaign relied on a broad definition of "freedom" and three major political tactics used by women's suffragists in the ensuing fifty years: the boycott. , public petitions and public relations. . The first official call to abolish immediate, rather than gradual, slavery came in England in 1826, and American women drew inspiration from their English sisters. Stewart was one of the first women in the United States to publicly speak out for women's rights before a mixed-race audience. Her vision of the rights of African American women, especially in situations of economic exclusion, segregation and slavery, was based on these universal rights. At the first American Congress against Female Slavery in 1837, her 200 women of all races demanded women's rights. Elizabeth Cady Stanton came up with the idea of holding another women's rights conference after the rejection of her, Lucretia Mott, and other female delegates at the World Congress against Slavery held in London in 1840. Rice field. In America and Europe, where revolutions broke out that year, a cautious and broad abolitionist theory flourished, making the Treaty of Seneca Falls of 1848 and its claims for women's rights feasible. Britain's first major labor group, the British Chartists, called for universal suffrage, which directly influenced Stanton's idea of including suffrage in the Declaration of Parliament. Quaker minister and abolitionist Lucretia Mott explored the relationship between the Declaration of Independence and the abolition of slavery in the French West Indies in 1848, her opposition to the conflict between America

and Mexico, and the rights of Native Americans. Clearly stated. Seneca Falls not only stimulated and strengthened support for women in Europe and elsewhere, including U.S. immigrant women, but also won suffrage in many of the U.S. Women's Rights Conventions Seneca Falls created. . The first women's rights publication in the United States, the *Deutsche Frauen-Zeitung*, was founded by German communist immigrant Mathilde Franziska Anneke in her March 1852 publication. Polish immigrant and abolitionist Ernestine Rhodes published her views on universal suffrage in 1851: "We do not fight for the rights of women." Sarah Parker Remond, whose life reflects the confluence of advocates and women's suffrage groups, found these concepts compelling. Ms. Remond said, "I have been welcomed here as a sister by white women for the first time in my life.... I have received a sympathy I never was given before" (Marino).

The Women's Christian Temperance Union of the World, founded in 1884 by American temperance leader Frances Willard; International Council of Women founded by Stanton and Antonio in 1888; and the International Woman Suffrage Alliance was among the first international women's rights organizations to strongly appeal to American women after the first transatlantic telegraph lines were built in the 1860s. The global goal of women's political equality pushed them beyond the focus of each organization on issues such as international arbitration, general disarmament, abstinence, the civil rights of married women, anti-trafficking, and equal pay for equal work. They organized conferences around the world and contributed to such periodicals as the *International Women's Suffrage Alliance Jus Suffragii* and the *International Council of Women's Bulletin*, which spread information about suffrage movements in Asia, Latin America, Europe and other continents. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union was responsible for the world's first national suffrage in New Zealand in 1893 and in Australia in 1902, leading the first organized suffrage in the white

British colonies of South Africa, New Zealand and South Australia. Despite requests from women in Spanish-speaking countries and the rest of the world to publish in other languages, the members of these organizations were mostly Anglo-American and European, and their publications were usually published in French, English, and German. To ensure women's suffrage in Hawaii in the 1890s, missionaries of the Women's Christian Temperance League worked with white American business and military interests to establish imperial rule over the islands. As part of their civilization mission, and to further the debate on federal suffrage in the United States, women's suffrage advocates are voicing American imperial possessions acquired after the Spanish-American War, as well as voting in the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Cuba. At the same time, most white suffragettes ignored the fact that early electoral victories in the American West were not actually won by women. Influential African-American civil rights activists and women activists such as former abolitionist Frances Ellen Watkins Harper spoke at the founding of the International Council of Women in 1888 and contributed to its victory. I witnessed the formation of Christian temperance organizations of many women of color who School suffrage in several states in the 1890s. Wells pointed out that Frances Willard, president of the Women's Christian Temperance League, did not stand up for African Americans during her speaking tour in Britain (Marino).

Women were still denied the ability to vote when voting rights started to be given to greater groups of male citizens, such as in the United Kingdom in 1832. There were just a few democracies left by the end of the 18th century, and they did not allow women to vote. Voting restrictions that were frequently based on race, property ownership, and education or literacy also disenfranchised many men. Women were still denied voting rights when suffrage started to be extended to broader groups of male citizens, such as in the United Kingdom in 1832. The fight against slavery at the beginning of the 19th century gave rise to

the American push for women's suffrage. Women who demonstrated a strong interest in the antislavery fight and displayed great public speaking skills included Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, they were in agreement that both enslaved people's and women's rights needed to be addressed when Stanton joined the antislavery movement. Stanton was certain that women's success and happiness depended on their ability to vote. Our "pathway" is direct to the voting booth, she wrote, "with no variableness or shadow of turning." Susan B. Anthony also became a well-known figure in the women's suffrage movement. Others were convinced by suffragists. They released pamphlets and books. They established organizations and sent postcards, and they participated in parades and held rallies ("Women's Suffrage in the United").

The White House was picketed by some. Some of these women were detained by police. After casting his ballot in the 1872 presidential election, Anthony was detained. She maintained that since the Fourteenth Amendment regarded her as a citizen, she should be granted the right to vote. She was charged with this act, found guilty, and given a \$100 fine. She was not jailed despite her refusal to pay the fine. The Nineteenth Amendment was ratified on August 26, 1920. Following Anthony as president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in 1900 was Carrie Chapman Catt. Some anti-suffragists, including groups run by women, contended that granting women the right to vote might actually make things worse for women since they believed that women would only vote as instructed by their dads, husbands, or sons. But support for women's suffrage kept growing. Politicians started focusing more on problems they thought were important to women once they started voting. After a while of fighting against gender unequal treatment. In the United States, more and more women were winning elections. Nellie Tayloe Ross of Wyoming was elected as the nation's first female governor in 1925, and Hattie Ophelia Caraway of Arkansas

was the first woman to be elected to the U.S. Senate in 1932, marking significant electoral firsts for American women.

1.5. Organizations that helped the Civil Rights Movement

African American women delivered so many sacrifices in order to get equal rights as Native Americans, since they were taken to the United States as slaves in the 17th century, black women have been in a position socially to fight against injustice. Over the ages, they have persisted in fighting for freedom from the repressive systems of race, gender, and class, employing various kinds of resistance in order to get better access to citizenship rights and education. It should come as no surprise that black women actively participated in the Civil Rights Movement, acting in a variety of roles such as bridge leaders, organizers, etc. When it was needed, black women aided the movement by utilizing their structural position. Due to the necessity of black women's labor for family survival, structural racism had a significant impact on the evolution of black male-female egalitarian relationships. Despite the fact that they did not have institutional power of their disadvantage due to race and gender), black women did have some independent power as a result of their financial contributions to the family's income. They had greater influence in their interactions with black males than their white counterparts because of the influence that being black women had on their roles as moms, spouses, workers, and women. In addition to having social networks that are extremely essential, black women also have authority inside their communities by involving in different organizations related to blacks during the Civil Rights Movement such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Congress of Racial Equality, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

1.5.1. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

It is an interracial American organization created to work for the abolition of segregation and discrimination in housing, education, employment, voting, and transportation; to oppose racism, and to ensure African Americans their constitutional rights. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was created in 1909 by an interracial group consisting of William Edward Burghardt Du Bois, Ida Bell Wells-Barnett, Mary White Ovington, and others concerned with the challenges facing African Americans, especially in the wake of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot in Illinois, some of the founding members had been associated with the Niagara Movement, a civil rights group led by Du Bois. To advance the interests of colored citizens; to secure for them impartial suffrage; and to increase their opportunities to secure justice in the courts, education for the children, employment according to their ability, and complete equality before the law." The organization's original leader was Moorfield Storey, a well-known white attorney from Boston. The sole African American in the executive was William Edward Burghardt Du Bois, who was in charge of publicity and research. The Crisis, a journal of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was edited by Du Bois and had a circulation of 35,000 copies per month by 1914. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People spent a large portion of its early efforts advocating for education and opposing government anti-lynching laws. The organization had 50 sections and 6,000 members by 1914. The association was a key player in the African American Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s, organizing Freedom Rides, participating in sit-ins, and pushing for desegregated schools and voting rights ("The National Association for the Advancement"; "National Association").

1.5.2. The Congress of Racial Equality

The Congress of Racial Equality, founded in 1942 by a mixed-race group of Chicago students, was the first organization to adopt nonviolent direct action in the country's civil rights battle. Members of it offered guidance and support to Martin Luther King during the Montgomery bus boycott together with its parent group, the Fellowship of Reconciliation. King collaborated with the Congress of Racial Equality from the late 1950s to the middle of the 1960s, when the organization turned away from its commitment to nonviolence and endorsed black separatist goals. James Farmer, Bayard Rustin, Homer Jack, and George Houser were all former members of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, a global peace and justice organization. Gandhi was a major inspiration for the Congress of Racial Equality, which employed nonviolent direct actions like sit-ins and other nonviolent protests to integrate Chicago eateries and businesses in the 1940s. In order to put the Supreme Court's rule against segregation in interstate travel to the test, the Congress of Racial Equality arranged the Journey of Reconciliation, a multistate, integrated bus trip through the upper South, in 1947. Although seven of the riders were detained and two were given sentences to serve in a chain gang in North Carolina, this prelude to the 1961 Freedom Rides was met with little violence. James Peck, Rustin, and Jack, as well as other Congress of Racial Equality-affiliated activists, paid a visit to King in the early weeks of the Montgomery bus boycott. The organization made King's work known during the Montgomery bus boycott through its brochures. King consented to join the organization's Advisory Committee in October 1957. The Freedom Rides were organized by the organizations in the spring of 1961. The rides, which were based on the earlier Journey of Reconciliation, transported a diverse group through the Deep South. King supported the rides, but he felt they were too risky for him to take part in. One bus was firebombed in Anniston, Alabama, and its evacuees were surrounded by an enraged white crowd. The Congress of Racial Equality thought about

stopping the project as the attacks on the Freedom Rides grew more violent. To keep the rides going, members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the Congress of Racial Equality, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference organized a Freedom Ride Coordinating Committee (“Congress of Racial Equality”).

1.5.3. Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee

The Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee is an organization that was formed at Shaw University under the facilitation of Ella Baker, the executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference by four American students in Greensboro, North Carolina. The students were influenced by the book of Dr. King entitled *Stride toward Freedom*, and they established the organization to bring order to the movement unleashed by the sit-ins they conducted. Ella Baker helped the organization by introducing the students to key longtime organizers in the South, leading to intergenerational organizing. In 1964, The Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee joined with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Congress of Racial Equality, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to create Freedom Summer in Mississippi, their main objective is to run 30 Freedom Schools throughout the state in order to register African Americans to vote and to form the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. The Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee is credited for many of the most innovative and effective fronts of the Civil Rights Movement, including youth leadership that organized and empowered existing leaders, non-violent direct actions like sit-ins, Freedom Rides, and many other actions; the organization is also credited for strengthening the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by forcing the inclusion of the fifth section, which banned arbitrary state laws, and winning a Supreme Court lawsuit that broadened the scope of the fifth section, they also used popular education and Freedom Schools, they were also thanked for the women’s leadership, political party

formation and changes in rules regarding the selection of delegates, winning the right to vote for people who cannot read, and promoting black nationalism and black power (View).

1.5.4. Letter from Birmingham Jail

This letter is the most well-known piece of writing by Martin Luther King, it approaches his most famous oratory "I Have a Dream", in terms of political significance and rhetorical impact. King penned this open letter in April 1963 when he was detained in Birmingham, Alabama's municipal jail. King started to write his reaction after reading a statement published in the press by eight of his fellow clergymen. He first wrote it in the margins of the original newspaper piece. King addresses some of the issues made in the clergymen's statement in the Birmingham jail letter, and argues for peaceful action to overcome racial segregation in the South (Tearle).

1.5.5. March on Washington

A massive protest march known as the "March on Washington" took place in August 1963 in Washington, D.C., when around 250,000 people congregated in front of the Lincoln Memorial. The rally, also known as the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, sought to raise awareness of the difficulties and injustices that African Americans now confront a century after freedom. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his now-famous "I Have a Dream" address on that date as well inspired the crowd with its emotional power and prophetic quality. He emphasized his faith that all men would one day be brothers and his hope that his children would live in a country where they would "not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." The growing civil rights movement had a significant impact on public opinion and led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which was passed, ensuring equal voting rights, forbidding discrimination in eateries, theaters, and other public places used in interstate commerce, and promoting desegregation in schools ("March on Washington").

1.5.6. Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party

It is an American political party created in the state of Mississippi in 1964, during the Civil Rights movement. It was organized by black and white Mississippians, with assistance from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and Council of Federated Organizations, to challenge the legitimacy of the white-only regular Democratic Party. The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party Mississippi civil rights activists connected to the Council of Federated Organizations in Mississippi established the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party in the early months of 1964 as a part of Freedom Summer. They requested that the Democratic National Convention of 1964 recognize their party's delegation rather than the all-white Democratic Party delegation from Mississippi. Blacks in Mississippi decided to create their own party because they were not allowed to attend Democratic Party meetings in the state. The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party staged parallel precinct and district caucuses that were open to all races, mirroring the Democratic Party's official system. Volunteers from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and Freedom Summer participants helped activists collect signatures from prospective black voters for a "freedom registration." On August 6, 1964, the organization held its state convention in Jackson, where delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey, were chosen. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Congress of Racial Equality, and Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee carried out public and private diplomacy on the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party's behalf at the Democratic National Convention later that month. The Loyal Democrats of Mississippi, a group formed by previous members of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party delegates, were successful in getting elected as the only Mississippi delegation to the Democratic National Convention in 1968 ("Mississippi Freedom Democratic").

1.5.7. Young Americans for Freedom

This ideologically conservative political organization was founded in 1969 as a coalition between Conservatives and Libertarians. They did various rallies including the one in Madison Square Garden. They sided with Barry Goldwater and helped him win the nomination. This group was significant because they had their hand in various political elections including the nomination of Barry Goldwater and they helped prevent Firestone Tire Company from building a plant in communist Romania. Young American for freedom William F. Buckley Jr. assisted in the founding of the Young Americans for Freedom on September 11, 1960. The movement was led by conservative young people in college. It was created in Buckley's house in Sharon, Connecticut. The Sharon Statement, the Young Africans for Freedom's foundation statement, which essentially described this group's platform, would be adopted at this point. State rights, limited government, free market economy, and members of the organization were all endorsed. They were adamant that the United States should be treated as a sovereign nation and that communism should be eradicated rather than coexisted with. During this time, the organization was a powerful force in promoting conservatism, and it is still quite active on college campuses around the nation today (“Young Americans for Freedom”).

1.5.8. Student for a Democratic Society

It is formed by a group of students who sought to improve the American nation and the world. The organization wanted society to be more just, more united, more equal, more at peace, and freer. This calls for a broad-based, profound, and revolutionary transformation of society. A world free from oppression, dominance, conflict, and empire, a setting in which people control their own lives is what the organization sought. Student for a Democratic Society has played a crucial role in both the anti-war and civil rights movements. Their involvement goes beyond these movements. Anywhere in the classroom, at home, or abroad

they rejected injustice. In particular, they were dedicated to liberal education, jobs and abundance, civil freedoms, and racial equality. They also sought to end injustice and create inclusive communities where everyone has access to power. On April 17, 1965, the Student for a Democratic Society organized a March on Washington to protest the Vietnam War. They had 25,000 protesters and many important speeches were given, among them the speech given by Paul Potter. They also organized another March on Washington in November of the same year, when Carl Oglesby gave a fantastic speech. They organized a demonstration against the war in Vietnam in Central Park, which was attended by half a million activists. And in 1968, 40,000 students on 100 college campuses nationwide protested the war. Though Student for a Democratic Society was not involved in all of them, their ideology and commitment to the cause were certainly factors in them. Some of their other achievements have been on a smaller scale, though equally important, including smaller demonstrations and occupation of administration offices at colleges and universities nationwide to protest the war and the draft. Some of the national projects they've been involved in are the Economic Research and Action Project, the Peace Research and Education Project, and national campaigns to get people educated on current issues. They were also involved in organizing black ghettos. One such project was the Newark Community Union Project. Student for a Democratic Society has been the major factor in the political reawakening of the nation's youth that they have seen over the past few years. It has made countless accomplishments during the last few years. For the past few years, they have been at the vanguard of the anti-war campaign ("Student for a Democratic Society"; "What was the Protest").

1.5.9. National Organization for Women

Founded in 1966, the National Organization for Women called for equal employment opportunity and equal pay for women. The organization is composed by both men and

women, but it was formed by a small group of feminists who sought to challenge sex discrimination in America, and one of its founders who is Betty Friedan, became the organization's first president. The National Organization for Women addresses the issues of child care, pregnancy leave, abortion rights, and pension rights, the organization fought for the passage of a national Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution. The Amendment failed to gain ratification in 1982, but the foundation continued to defend it. The organization is present in all 50 states and its headquarters are in Washington, D.C., the National Organization for Women created a political action committee in 1977 that helps politicians that support the ideas of the organization ("National Organization for Women").

1.6. Gains from the Civil Rights Movement

1.6.1. Civil Rights Act of 1957

Even though everyone in America could vote, some states in the South made it really hard for Black people to do so. They made them take tests that were really hard and tricky, so it was almost impossible for them to pass. President Eisenhower and his team wanted to make sure that everyone was treated fairly, no matter what color his skin was. They asked lawmakers to make new rules making this happen and trying to stop fights between people who looked different from each other in the southern part of the country. In 1957, the president made a new law called the Civil Rights Act. This law made it illegal for people to stop other people from voting. If someone did try to stop them, the government could punish them. The law also made a group to check if people were cheating with voting. The act did not create new rights but established the Protection of voting rights set out in the Fifteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. It also established the Civil Rights Division in the Department of Justice empowering federal prosecutors to obtain court injunctions against interference with the right to vote. And a Civil Rights Commission within the executive

branch with the authority to investigate discriminatory conditions and recommend corrective measures. Only 20% of black voters were registered in the South, with lower proportions in Deep South towns, hence the bill's goal was to raise the number of black voters who registered there. Although some civil rights activists questioned the Act's effectiveness, it served as a springboard for later legislation, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlawed discrimination in employment and public accommodations, and the Voting Rights Act of 1960, which strengthened voting rights (“Rights Act of 1957”).

1.6.2. Civil Rights Act of 1964

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 has its origins in the fight for basic citizenship rights by Americans of African descent. By the 1830s, antislavery movements had succeeded in gradually abolishing the "peculiar institution" in the Northern states, but free Blacks still did not have full citizenship rights. Discussions over abolition were hampered in the South by the political and economic power of slave owners. The Conflict between the North and South eventually resulted in a civil war, which was followed by the emancipation of slaves. The Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution were offered by Northern Republicans in Congress following the Civil War and gave newly freed slaves freedom, citizenship, and the right to vote, respectively. Additionally, several civil rights measures were passed in an effort to preserve the population's freedom. Men of African American descent took involved in electoral politics throughout the Reconstruction era, both as voters and as public servants. When Southern Democrats conceded to Republican Rutherford B. Hayes the hotly disputed 1876 presidential election in exchange for the withdrawal of federal soldiers from the South, the Compromise of 1877 dealt a major blow to government protection of black rights. Despite increased white hostility and violence, black

people yet persisted in going to church and to school, participating in politics, and making the most of their constitutional rights (“Rights Act of 1964”).

The Supreme Court Slaughterhouse instances rulings supported white Southerners' efforts to relegate blacks to slavery in a number of instances, culminating in the Civil Rights Cases of 1883. A defense of the liberated population's independence. With the Compromise of 1877, when Southern Democrats bowed to an inferior social and legal status, federal protection of black rights suffered a serious setback. Several strategies to deny black people the right to vote were gradually implemented by Southern states, and "Jim Crow" (segregation) laws mandating the segregation of the races in virtually all spheres of life were also put into place. Sharecropping, tenant farming, and debt peonage often caused blacks to experience generational poverty. Forcing the new racial order through lynchings, beatings, and burnings the Ku Klux Klan and other white nationalist groups discouraged African American voters from participating in politics or going to the polls. Blacks began migrating in greater numbers from the South to the North and West in the 1870s, a phenomenon that would ultimately change the country's racial landscape. With its decision in the case *Plessy v. Ferguson*, the Supreme Court officially recognized racial segregation as legitimate in 1896. The well-known black leader Booker T. Washington counseled African Americans to concentrate on education and economic self-improvement, which he believed were essential skills to develop on the path to civil rights in the face of prejudice. He observed about blacks and whites in 1895, "In all things purely social we can be as separate as the fingers, yet one as the sky" (“Rights Act of 1964”).

1.6.3. Bloody Sunday 1965

On March 7, 1965, the Civil Rights movement in Alabama took an especially violent turn as 600 peaceful demonstrators participated in the Selma to Montgomery march to protest

the killing of Black civil rights activist Jimmie Lee Jackson by a white police officer and to encourage legislation to enforce the 15th amendment. As the protesters neared the Edmund Pettus Bridge, they were blocked by Alabama state and local police sent by Alabama Governor George C. Wallace, a vocal opponent of desegregation. Refusing to stand down, some activists wanted to retaliate with violence, but King pushed for nonviolent protests and eventually gained federal protection for another march. Protestors moved forward and were viciously beaten and tear-gassed by police and dozens of protesters were hospitalized. The entire incident was televised and became known as “Bloody Sunday” (Klein).

1.6.4. Voting Rights Act of 1965

On August 6, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson ratified this statute. It prohibited the discriminatory voting practices implemented in several southern states following the Civil War, such as the requirement of passing literacy tests in order to cast a ballot. It took 95 years to enact this "act to enforce the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution" after it was ratified. African Americans in the South during that time faced numerous challenges to exercising their right to vote, including literacy tests, poll taxes, and other administrative restrictions. When they attempted to register or cast a ballot, they also ran the risk of harassment, intimidation, financial penalties, and physical assault. African-American voter registration and political influence were consequently restricted. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was the most significant statutory change in the relationship between the federal and state governments in the area of voting since the Reconstruction period following the Civil War; and it was immediately challenged in the courts. Between 1965 and 1969, the Supreme Court issued several key decisions upholding the constitutionality of Section 5 and affirming the broad range of voting practices for which preclearance was required. The Voting Rights Act of 1965, which was the most major legislative modification to the

relationship between the federal and state governments over voting since the Reconstruction era after the Civil War, was promptly contested in court. In a number of significant rulings between 1965 and 1969, the Supreme Court upheld the validity of Section 5 and reaffirmed the wide range of voting procedures for which preclearance was necessary. A crucial part of the law concerning federal control over voting laws in nine states was invalidated by the Court in 2013 for this reason. An immediate effect of the Voting Rights Act. One-third of the new Black voters registered by federal examiners by the end of 1965 totaled a quarter of a million. Fewer than 50% of African Americans had registered to vote by the end of 1966 in only four of the 13 southern states. Three years later in 1970, 1975, and 1982, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was strengthened (“Voting Act of 1965”).

1.6.5. Fair Housing Act of 1968

Owning a home was a popular aspiration of the ordinary 1950s family, both white and African American. However, for many African American families, housing discrimination prevented them from realizing that ambition. Civil rights leaders of the day were aware of the problem of housing discrimination, but legislative impasses hindered progress. There was no real legislative push to address housing disparity until the killing of Martin Luther King Jr., a vocal advocate for housing rights. The Fair Housing Act affected the Civil Rights Movement and the lives of many people after President Lyndon B. Johnson signed it into law in 1968. The road to housing equity was long and fraught with difficulties. Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which was intended to be an expansion of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, contains the Fair Housing Act. The Act forbade discrimination against anyone looking to buy or rent a house based on their race, religion, national origin, or gender. It was acknowledged that the court's decision to deny housing on the basis of race

was a clear infringement of the liberties protected by the Fourteenth Amendment (“Fair Housing Act”).

1.6.6. The 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution

The Fourteenth Amendment, which was approved by the Senate on June 8, 1866, and ratified two years later on July 9, 1868, gave citizenship to all people “born or naturalized in the United States”, including people who had previously been held as slaves. It also guaranteed all citizens “equal protection under the laws”, extending the Bill of Rights protections to the states. The amendment gave the government the power to proportionally lower the representation of those states in Congress which restrict people’s ability to vote. It made it illegal for anybody who “engaged in insurrection” against the United States to occupy any elected or civil office without the consent of two-thirds of the House and Senate. The amendment made it illegal for former Confederate governments to pay off their way debts and make up for the liberation of their slave populations by making payments to former slave owners. Finally, it gave Congress the authority to enforce this amendment; this clause paved the way for the enactment of other significant pieces of 20th-century legislation, such as the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For states to restore their federal representation, Congress mandated that they ratify the Fourteenth Amendment (“Landmark Legislation”). The first section says that everyone who was born or naturalized in the United States is a citizen of both the nation and the state in which they currently reside. No state shall enact or carry out any legislation that restricts the rights or privileges of U.S. citizens; no state shall rob anybody of their life, liberty, or property without due process of law; and no state shall refuse to any person within its borders the equal protection of the laws. The second section says that Representatives are distributed among the various states in accordance with their populations, counting all residents in each state but not Indians who are

not subject to taxes. However, if any male resident of that state who is twenty-one years of age and a citizen of the United States is denied the right to vote at any election for the President and Vice President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the executive and judicial officers of a state, or the members of its legislature, or if that right is otherwise restricted, other than for engaging in rebellion or another crime, the basis for the representation of all male residents in that state who are twenty-one years old. Section 3 says that no one who has previously taken an oath as a member of Congress, as an officer of the United States, as a member of any state legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any state, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall be eligible to serve as a senator or representative in Congress, as an elector of the President and Vice President, or to hold any office, civil or military, under the United States or under any state. However, such a handicap may be removed by a vote of two-thirds of each House in Congress. Section 4 says that it is not permissible to contest the legality of the United States' approved public debt, which includes obligations accumulated to pay pensions and rewards for defeating uprisings and rebellions. However, neither the United States nor any state shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in support of an insurrection or rebellion against the United States, nor shall either party pay any claim for the loss of or liberation of any slave; rather, all such debts, obligations, and claims shall be deemed unlawful and invalid. The fifth and final section says that Congress has the authority to enact relevant legislation to carry out this article's provisions ("14th Amendment").

1.6.7. The 15th Amendment of the United States Constitution

On February 3, 1870, the United States Constitution's fifteenth amendment was approved. According to the amendment, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color,

or previous condition of servitude." The right to vote for African American men was protected by the 15th Amendment. Additionally, no one would ever again have their right to vote restricted because of their race. Almost immediately after ratification, African Americans began to take part in running for office and voting. The first section of the Amendment says that the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. And the second section gives the power to Congress to enforce the article by appropriate legislation ("Right to vote"; "The 15th Amendment").

1.6.8. Twenty-Fourth Amendment

On January 23, 1964, the Twenty-Four Amendment of the Constitution was approved. It did away with levies on voters during federal elections and forbade both the federal and state governments from doing so. Following American Civil War and the Reconstruction Era, states in the former Confederacy enacted a number of laws that limited the civil freedoms of the newly liberated African American people in the late 19th century. Despite the fact that the Fifteenth Amendment gave all American men the right to vote, African Americans in the South faced a number of regulations that prohibited voting owing to technicalities that ranged from arbitrary to overtly discriminatory. The poll tax, which obliged voters to pay a charge to access polling booths in order to cast their ballots, was one of the numerous discriminatory practices. Many African Americans, along with impoverished Whites, were denied the right to vote in the Southern states because of the disproportionately high rates of poverty among African Americans. The poll fees and the other voting restrictions were all implemented with the intention of discriminating, but they were designed to evade federal inspection. *Breedlove v. Suttles*, a 1937 Supreme Court case, upheld the constitutionality of the poll taxes. During the Roosevelt Administration's 1930s and 1940s, a more noticeable wave of opposition to the poll tax arose. As his President's Committee on Civil Rights looked at the poll tax and other

types of voting restrictions around the nation, President Harry S. Truman continued to make these objections. Poll taxes became a lesser political priority due to anti-Communist attitudes that had evolved during the Second Red Scare of the 1950s; they wouldn't be brought up again until the John F. Kennedy administration. Congress first proposed a poll tax repeal amendment in August 1962. Despite worries that the amendment would be rejected by all Southern states, the necessary thirty-eight states passed it in January 1964. Georgia was one of the states that unanimously supported the proposed amendment, while Mississippi was the only Southern state to explicitly oppose it. Several states continued to levy poll taxes immediately after the Twenty-fourth Amendment was ratified because they opposed the new law. Following the 1966 Supreme Court ruling *Harper v. Virginia Board of Elections*, which declared that poll taxes in all elections whether federal, state, and local were illegal, these poll taxes were entirely abolished. In the stormy 1960s, the Twenty-fourth Amendment represented a further step in the fight for civil rights. Coincidentally, the Civil Rights Act, which prohibited all types of discrimination nationwide and ultimately put an end to the Segregation era, was approved the same year as the new amendment. The Voting Rights Act of 1965, which was passed just one year after the new amendment was ratified, abolished all voting-related discrimination against both men and women in the United States and, for the first time in the country's history, made voting a right guaranteed by the Constitution without restriction. The Twenty-fourth Amendment served as a cornerstone for those political movements that would come after, as well as the political movements that came before it, in their quest of voting rights. The Twenty-Fourth Amendment is separated into two sections, the first section gives the right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax. And the second section says

that Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation (Dilley; Murphy and Stephenson).

1.7. Famous African American Women in the Civil Rights Movement

Most Americans know of Rosa Parks, the Black female figure who famously refused to give up her seat to a white person on a bus in Alabama, and helped to ignite the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s. Equally well known is Coretta Scott King, the widow of Martin Luther King, Jr., and a formidable force in her own right. But a majority of Americans would have a hard time naming other important female leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, although there were many more than two. In *Lighting the Fires of Freedom*, newly published in paperback, Janet Dewart Bell weaves together the deeply personal and untold accounts of nine of these women to shine a light on their often-overlooked achievements (Derek).

1.7.1. Leah Chase

Known as “the Queen of Creole Cuisine”, Leah Chase was born to Catholic Creole parents on January 6, 1923, in New Orleans, Louisiana. In 1937, she moved to New Orleans to live with her aunt and complete her high school education at St. Mary’s Academy. The Oriental Laundry in the French Quarter was where she landed her first job after graduation. Chase was recruited at the Colonial Restaurant on Chartres Street a week later. Since then, she has worked in the restaurant sector. She married Edgar “Dooky” Chase II, a musician whose parents founded the Dooky Chase Restaurant, in 1945. When her kids were old enough to start school, Chase started working three days a week at the restaurant instead of spending her time raising her kids and sewing. She altered the lunchtime menu to include hot meals for the black males who were starting to work in offices. She began her career as a hostess but quickly moved into the kitchen and redecorated the entire establishment. Because of Chase, the Dooky Chase Restaurant is known for its excellent food, antiques, and unique African

American art. The prestigious New Orleans Times-Picayune 1997 Loving Cup Award, the Weiss Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Torch of Liberty Award, the University of New Orleans Entrepreneurship Award, the Outstanding Woman Award from the National Council of Negro Women, and numerous awards from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People are just a few of the accolades that Chase has received for both her culinary prowess and her volunteer work. She serves on the boards of many organizations, including the Urban League, the New Orleans Museum of Art, and the Arts Council of New Orleans. Chase frequently appears on television food programs and taught cooking as a guest lecturer at Nichols State University in 1996. Leah Chase hosted Martin Luther King Jr., Thurgood Marshall, members of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, and many others of all races and backgrounds at her family restaurant. She has four children, sixteen grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Chase passed away on June 1, 2019 (“Leah ‘Dooky’ Chase”).

1.7.2. Dr. June Jackson Christmas

One of the first African Americans to graduate from Vassar College, she championed the cause of interned Japanese Americans during World War II. As a trailblazing psychiatrist, she specialized in community mental health care, especially for low-income African Americans, and served as mental health commissioner for New York City under three mayors. With her husband, Walter Christmas, she waged a personal fight against housing discrimination that changed New York City law. During the Civil Rights Movement, she and her husband opened their New York City home to provide respite, as well as counseling and fundraising support, for civil rights workers from the South (Crute).

1.7.3. Aileen Hernandez

She began her activism as a student leader at Howard University during World War II in then legally segregated Washington, D.C. In 1964, she became the first woman and the first African American to be appointed to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, from which she resigned because of its unwillingness to address sexual harassment. She was the first African American president of the National Organization for Women, which she left after it elected an all-white officer slate. She later co-founded the National Women's Political Caucus and Black Women Organized for Political Action. She also served on the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. A pioneer in issues concerning the intersectionality of race, sex, and class, she was socially active for her entire life, until shortly before she died at age ninety in 2017 (Ehrlich).

1.7.4. Diane Nash

She led the Nashville Sit-in Movement, which preceded the founding of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and coordinated the Birmingham, Alabama to Jackson, Mississippi Freedom Ride after the Congress on Racial Equality was forced to discontinue it. Her tactical and unwavering support of the Freedom Riders was critical to their success throughout the South. In 1962, Martin Luther King, Jr., nominated her for an award from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's New York branch, acknowledging her as the "driving spirit in the nonviolent assault on segregation at lunch counters". After 2019 at the age of ninety-six. During her work with the Freedom Riders, she returned to her hometown of Chicago and became an advocate for fair housing (Stafelli).

1.7.5. Judy Richardson

During her freshman year at Swarthmore College, she joined the Students for a Democratic Society group on campus that was organizing against segregation in nearby cities. She left Swarthmore after her freshman year to join the staff of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Among many other duties, she helped to monitor the Committee's 24-hour, 800-like telephone line literally a lifeline for the activists of the organization. She later co-founded Drum and Spear bookstore and Drum and Spear Press in Washington, D.C., both of which were instrumental in publishing and promoting black literature. She later became the series associate producer and education director for *Eyes on the Prize*, the seminal fourteen-hour Public Broadcasting Service series on the Civil Rights Movement. She continues to lecture, write, and conduct teacher workshops about the Movement then and now ("Judy Richardson").

1.7.6. Gay McDougall

Gay McDougall is a lawyer who was born on August 13, 1947, in Atlanta, Georgia, to Louis and Inez Johnson. McDougall worked at the firm of Debevoise, Plimpton, Lyons, and Doors from 1972 to 1974, preceding enlisting in the Public Meeting of Dark Legal Advisors as broad direction in 1975. She worked as a staff attorney in the New York City Board of Correction's minimum standards unit in 1976, at the African National Congress Office to the United Nations in New York in 1978, and as associate counsel in the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Criminal Justice in 1979. McDougall was the executive director of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights under Law's Southern Africa Project from 1980 to 1994. While there, she helped establish the Commission on Independence for Namibia and secured the release of thousands of political prisoners in South Africa and Namibia. McDougall was appointed to the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa in 1994, where she collaborated closely with Nelson Mandela. In 1995, she was appointed executive director of

Global Rights; additionally, in 1997, she was elected to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination for a four-year term as an independent expert.

McDougall became the first United Nations Special Rapporteur on minority issues in 2005. She was the Father Robert F. Drinan Visiting Professor in Human Rights at Georgetown University Law Center in 2011 and was a distinguished scholar in residence at American University Washington College of Law in 2006. She was appointed vice-chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination after being elected to another four-year term in 2015. McDougall was a board member of Africare, the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Foundation, and the Southern Africa Legal Services and Education Project. She also chaired the governance committee of Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere International from 1994 to 2003 and vice chaired the board of Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere from 2001 to 2003. She joined the Global Fund for Women's board in 2005. Additionally, McDougall was a member of the American Society of International Law's executive council and the Realizing Rights advisory council. In 1999, McDougall got the MacArthur Establishment "Virtuoso Award" for her work for worldwide basic freedoms. She also received the Candace Award in 1990 from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, the Thurgood Marshall Award in 2010 from the District of Columbia Bar, and the Goler T. Butcher Medal in 2011 from the American Society for International Law ("Gay McDougall").

1.7.7. Gloria Richardson

Gloria Richardson was the first person outside of the Deep South to lead a grassroots Civil Rights organization. During the civil unrest that erupted more than 50 years ago as a result of racism and lingering segregationist practices, she helped establish and led the Cambridge Nonviolent Action Committee. One of the most persuasive heads of Social

equality Development, even at 99 years old, she was a transcending figure in American history. She stood up to authority and continued to inspire people all over the world and in her hometown. Ms. Richardson became a role model of leadership for younger activists, particularly women from all racial backgrounds, because she was never one to give up on Black people's rights (“Gloria Richardson”).

1.7.8. Myrlie Evers-Williams

Myrlie Evers-Williams was born on March 17, 1933, in Vicksburg, Mississippi, to Mildred Washington Beasley and James Van Dyke Beasley. She is a civil rights activist. In 1954, Evers-Williams moved to Jackson, Mississippi, where her better half was employed as the principal Mississippi field secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and she functioned as his secretary. After Medgar Evers was killed in 1963, two all-white juries failed to reach a verdict, leading to two mistrials the following year. Evers-Williams relocated to Claremont, California, following the second trial. In 1987, Evers-Williams was named by Los Angeles City Hall leader Tom Bradley as magistrate of the Leading group of Public Works, a position she held until 1991. She was elected vice chair of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1994 and held the position of chairperson of the board of directors in 1995. She was named one of Ebony magazine's 100 Most Fascinating Women of the Twenty-First Century in 2001. In 2009, the Memphis, Tennessee-based National Civil Rights Museum presented her with the National Freedom Award. She additionally joined the governing body of the Oregon expressions schooling association Caldera. In 2013. In 2016, she was conferred an honorary degree by the College of New Rochelle (“Myrlie Evers-Williams”).

1.7.9. Shirley Chisholm

Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm was the first African American woman elected to Congress in 1968 and the first African American woman to run for president from one of the two major political parties. Throughout her seven terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, her outspoken advocacy for women and minorities is exemplified by both her motto and the title of her autobiography, *Unbought and Unbossed*. Brought into the world in Brooklyn, New York, on November 30, 1924, Chisholm was the most seasoned of four girls to foreigner guardians Charles St. Slope, an assembly line laborer from Guyana, and Ruby Seale St. Slope, a needle worker from Barbados. Chisholm ran for and won a congressional seat in 1968 after a new district in her neighborhood was created through court-ordered redistricting. This district was heavily Democratic. There, "Battling Shirley" presented in excess of 50 bills of regulation and supported racial and orientation correspondence, the predicament of poor people, and finishing the Vietnam War. She was a fellow benefactor of the Public Ladies' Political Gathering in 1971, and in 1977 turned into the very first Person of color and second lady to serve on the strong House Rules Board of Trustees. Chisholm's campaign for the Democratic Party presidential nomination in 1972 was met with discrimination. She was denied access to the televised primary debates and was only permitted to deliver one speech after filing a lawsuit. Nevertheless, minorities, women, and students followed the "Chisholm Trail." She entered 12 primaries and won 152 delegates (10 percent of the total), despite a poorly funded campaign and contention from the Congressional Black Caucus, which is dominated by men. Chisholm resigned from Congress in 1983. She co-founded the National Political Congress of Black Women and taught at Mount Holyoke College. She moved to Florida in 1991, and later, due to her declining health, she was nominated to be the U.S. Ambassador to Jamaica (Michals).

1.7.10. Sojourner Truth

A previous slave, Sojourner Truth turned into a blunt backer for cancelation, moderation, and common and ladies' privileges in the nineteenth hundred years. In 1864, she was invited to meet President Abraham Lincoln because of her work during the Civil War. Truth was conceived by Isabella Bomfree, a slave in Dutch-speaking Ulster Province, New York in 1797. She was bought and sold four times, forced to work hard, and punished violently. In her youngsters, she was joined by one more slave with whom she had five kids, starting in 1815. Truth fled with her infant daughter Sophia to a nearby abolitionist family, the Van Wageners, in 1827, a year before New York's law freeing slaves went into effect. The family got her opportunity for twenty bucks and assisted truth with effectively suing for the arrival of her five-year-old-child Peter, who was wrongfully sold into servitude in Alabama. Truth made her way to New York City in 1828 to work for a local minister there. She became a charismatic speaker and participated in the state's religious revivals by the beginning of the 1830s. In 1843, she pronounced that the Soul approached her to teach reality, renaming herself Sojourner Truth. As a nomad evangelist, Truth met abolitionists William Lloyd Post and Frederick Douglass. Truth was supported in giving speeches about the negative effects of slavery by the anti-slavery organization of Garrison. She never figured out how to peruse or compose. She dictated her autobiography, *The Narrative of Sojourner Truth*, to Olive Gilbert in 1850, and Gilbert helped with its publication. Truth made due on deals of the book, which additionally brought her public acknowledgment. She met advocates for temperance and women's rights, including Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, and she quickly supported both causes. Truth began her lecture tour in 1851, which included a women's rights conference in Akron, Ohio, where she gave her well-known speech titled "Ain't I a Woman?" speech. In it, she tested winning thoughts of racial and orientation mediocrity and disparity by helping audience members to remember her consolidated strength

(Truth was almost six feet tall) and female status. Truth eventually parted ways with Douglass, who thought that men who had been enslaved should have the right to vote before women did; she believed that they ought to occur simultaneously. Truth settled in Battle Creek, Michigan, in the 1850s, where she had three daughters. She gave speeches all over the country and helped free slaves. At the point when the nationwide conflict began, Truth encouraged young fellows to join the Association's cause and coordinated supplies for dark soldiers. She was invited to the White House after the war, and she got involved with the Freedmen's Bureau, which helped freed slaves get jobs and start new lives. While in Washington, DC, she campaigned against isolation, and during the 1860s, when a trolley guide attempted to fiercely hinder her from riding, she guaranteed his capture and won her ensuing case. In the last part of the 1860s, she gathered a huge number of marks on a request to give previous slaves land, however, Congress never made a move. Almost visually impaired and hard of hearing towards the finish of her life, Truth spent her last a long time in Michigan (Michals).

Conclusion

African American women have been in a social position to resist oppression since they were brought to the United States as slaves in the 17th century. They have fought for centuries to break free from the oppressive structures of race, gender, and class, using various forms of resistance to gain better education and civil rights. It is no surprise that black women became active agents in the civil rights movement, serving in a variety of capacities, as bridge leaders, organizers, etc. Black women used their structural position to support the movement when needed. Structural racism influenced the development of egalitarian relationships between black men and women because it made black women's labor necessary for family survival. Although black women lacked institutional power (due to racial and gender

discrimination), financial contributions to family income gave black women some power in their own right. Their existence as Black women shaped their roles as mothers, wives, workers, and women and gave them more power in their relationships with Black men than with their White counterparts. Black women also held power within their communities as important agents of socialization and owners of invaluable social networks. The resilience and durability of black women before and during the Civil Rights movement led the way for more black women to be courageous and passionate about a higher role in the American social and political system, such as Condoleezza Rice, Oprah Winfrey, Michelle Obama, and Kamala Harris.

Chapter Two

“Kamala Harris: For the People”

Introduction

African Americans and especially women have absorbed a great amount of pain in order for them to get equal rights and to be treated fairly and for their concerns to be taken care of like the white people by the white people. The majority of the American white population thinks that black Americans did not contribute to the development or the emergence of American political, economic, and social power, they think that African Americans were meant only to serve the needs of the upper white class in America, in a more specific word, they believe that they are “unacknowledged”, but the wife of the first African American President of the United States Michelle Obama stood for the black Americans when she said: “I wake up every morning in a house that was built by slaves” (Waxman); the first and former African American first lady of the United States in her speech during the 2016 Democratic National Convention reminded the American nation that African Americans have a major role in constructing the White House, especially when an approximate number of two hundred slaves helped build the White House and more than one hundred other slaves worked as servants in it (Mann and “Slavery and the White House”).

Throughout time, famous African American women activists such as Sojourner Truth, Elizabeth Keckly, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Condoleezza Rice, Oprah Winfrey, and Michelle Obama have affected women’s suffrage, civil rights, education, and social activities; thus, helping the African American women to gain a voice and seek to reach new heights in the political, economic, and social fields (Mobley). The inspiration that these women made has and is motivating many African American women and one of the most influential and successful and powerful black women in America is Kamala Harris.

In this chapter, we will demonstrate the biography of the first African American woman vice president of the United States of America in chronological order, starting firstly with her family, early life, and education. Then we will demonstrate the career of the highest-ranking female official in the history of the United States from being hired as a deputy district attorney in Alameda County, California in 1990 until she became the district attorney of San Francisco and then attorney general of California, after that, her journey to becoming the first Indian American and the second black woman in the Senate will be focused on. And finally, we will explain her run from being a candidate for president of the U.S. in the United States presidential election to approving Joe Biden for president.

2.1. Short Biography of Kamala Harris

Kamala Devi Harris was born on October 20, 1964, in Oakland, California (Rothberg), her name means “lotus flower”, which is a plant that has a meaning in the Indian culture ("How to Pronounce Kamala"), it is also a name for “Lakshmi”, who is a famous and a well-known goddess of Hindu mythology, and she is identified as the goddess of wealth and purity ("Religions - Hinduism"). The name was chosen by her mother due to the fact that it reflected their Indian culture and puts respect for women (Schwartz 9).

Her father, Donald Jasper Harris, was born on August 23, 1938, in Brown’s Town, Saint Ann’s Parish, Jamaica (Nielsen). Donald entered the University of the West Indies and decided to leave Jamaica in 1961 for the United States in order for him to get his PhD at Berkeley’s University in California after he received his BA in 1960 from the West Indies University and being the recipient of a prestigious government scholarship (Adero Ch. 1). He then admitted to the citizenship of the United States of America. Donald then taught at the Illinois and Northwestern Universities for a short time, and before him being relocated to California and obtained a position as a professor of economics at the University of Stanford,

he first became an associate professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He now holds the title of emeritus professor after retiring in 1998 (Tonelli). He was leading the new program in Alternative Approaches to Economic Analysis at Stanford University. And worked on boosting the economic status of Jamaica, which is his native country (Stanford University).

And her mother, Shyamala Gopalan, who was born in 1938 in Chennai, India, left her country for the United States in 1958 when she just reached nineteen years old after she received her diploma from the University of Delhi a year before. In 1964, she received her doctorate at the University of Berkeley in California in nutrition and endocrinology. After receiving her Ph.D. at Berkeley, she stayed at the University as a breast cancer researcher, due to the great work Shyamala did as a breast cancer researcher, she conducted many researches and taught across different Universities around the world, she made her researches at the Universities of Illinois, Wisconsin, Italy, and France, and then she received tenure at McGill University at Montreal (Goldsmith).

Donald and Shyamala were immigrants and knew each other at one of the protests that stood with the Civil Rights movement at the University of Berkeley in the early 1960s, they fought racism and discrimination and sought to gain their equal rights (Schwartz 9), the pair then married in 1963 and they protested together before and after they had Kamala, they granted her an early introduction into politics when they brought her to protests. Harris said about her parents in her first public appearance as Biden's running mate: "That's how they met – as students, in the streets of Oakland, marching and shouting for this thing called justice, in a struggle that continued to this day", she also added: "And I was part of it. My parents would bring me to protests – strapped tightly in my stroller" (qtd in. Kopan). When Kamala became three years old, her family got bigger by having their second daughter Maya,

she was born on January 30, 1967, in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, United States. (Schwartz 10). Kamala and Maya Harris grew up in a society of black and brown people, they both mentioned the community they faced in their books, interviews, and speeches as an atmosphere of love and encouragement. Her family were neither rich nor poor but were cultured. The Harris family forged ties with their extended families in Jamaica and India, becoming a part of the Bay Area's cultural landscape. The girls' parents took them on trips to both Jamaica and India to get them to know their original cultural background and to explain their ancestry to them (Adero Ch. 1). Alongside taking trips to Jamaica and India, Kamala and her sister grew up knowing more about their parents' origins by attending a Black Baptist church as well as a Hindu temple on weekends. (Schwartz 10)

The relationship between Kamala's parents started to collapse over the passing of time which led to Donald and Shyamala being divorced in 1972 when Maya was four years old and Kamala was seven years old. (Adero Ch. 1). Kamala was raised alongside her sister Maya by their mother Shyamala Gopalan after she was granted their custody by court-ordered settlement. ("The Famous People"). Shyamala kept her ongoing fight for equal rights, she then taught black students and guided African American women battling breast cancer, she inserted the sense of being political in Kamala and Maya, and she taught them know how to handle their issues and face them with giving their absolute best effort. (Schwartz 10). Gopalan raised Kamala and Maya on her own and thus developed a close relationship in comparison to the relationship that Kamala had with her father. Kamala posted on Twitter about her mother: "My mother, Shyamala Gopalan, came from India to the U.S. to become a scientist. She had two goals in life: to cure breast cancer and to raise my sister, Maya, and me", Kamala said in her autobiography "My mother had been raised in a household where political activism and civic leadership came naturally," she also said "From both of my grandparents, my mother developed a keen political consciousness. She was

conscious of history, conscious of struggle, conscious of inequities. She was born with a sense of justice imprinted on her soul.” (Harris Ch. 1).

Shyamala along with her two daughters moved to a duplex on Bancroft Way in West Berkeley a year after her separation from Donald. ‘The Flatlands’ which is the name of the area they moved to is a working-class part of Berkeley, California that contains a significant population of African Americans, she said that they called them ‘Shyamala and the girls’ in the neighborhood, and they took care of each other and made sure everyone on that neighborhood is safe (Adero Ch. 1). Kamala recalls in her autobiography that her favorite day of the week was Thursday because Shyamala used to take her and Maya to the Rainbow Sign, a place that used to be a performance space, cinema, art gallery, dance studio and so many other things, she describes it as “an unassuming beige building at the corner of what was then Grove Street and Derby. Once a mortuary, the building I knew was bursting with life, home to a pioneering black cultural center” (Harris Ch. 1). The Rainbow Sign was a safe place for “Shyamala and the girls” to spend their time there, it was also a place that Maya Angelou, James Baldwin, and Huey P. Newton used to come to. (Adero Ch. 1)

Kamala’s education began when she attended a local Montessori school for kindergarten, then, she started her first grade when she was bused from her neighborhood to a flourishing white neighborhood to attend Thousand Oaks Elementary School. Kamala was a part of the busing program to increase the desegregation of schools (Schwartz 11), this program transported students far from the places they lived in an attempt to decrease racial segregation. (Dale), but she stated that it was magnificent for her to experience the feeling of growing up in that diverse environment (qtd in. Adero ch.1).

Kamala then moved to Canada with her sister and her mother when she was twelve years old after Shyamala took a job as a teacher at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec

and a breast cancer researcher at the Jewish General Hospital. Kamala did not want to move to Canada because she adored the community that used to live in, in addition to that, she did not want to move because she said: “The thought of moving away from sunny California in February, in the middle of the school year, to a French-speaking foreign city in twelve feet of snow was distressing, to say the least”, but thanks to the courage that was given to them by their mother, they lived there for five years, in addition to that, she and Maya spent summers with Donald in Palo Alto, thus they were connected to California despite moving to Canada. Gopalan enrolled her in a school that was exclusively for students who can speak French, her mother had enrolled her in a French-speaking primary school so she could learn the language and was aware that if Kamala was immersed in the language, she would learn it more quickly and efficiently. (Schwartz 11)

After that, she began studying the violin, French horn, and kettle drum at a middle school for arts. During that period of time, she managed to plan her first-ever protest with her sister, children were not allowed to play on the front lawn of their apartment complex, according to the policies they made, they did not think that was fair. They obtained permission to play there by protesting (Schwartz 11). Kamala eventually finished eighth grade at the bilingual Fine Arts Core Elementary, some of her colleagues who graduated with her have done things related to politics, social themes, community, music, or theater (Adero Ch. 1).

Kamala Harris then attended Westmount, it is one of the most diverse public schools in Quebec with a population then of 60 percent white and 40 percent Black students. Westmount is a high school for students who speak English. As reported in the New York Times, “Her childhood friends recalled a confident young woman who showed seeds of activism, found cultural affirmation in her Black identity, and complained about French

class” (qtd in. Adero Ch. 1). After Kamala graduated from Westmount high school in 1981, the family returned to the Bay area. They were expecting Maya and Kamala to pursue higher education, and the young women themselves aspired to earn advanced degrees. “During high school, I started thinking more concretely about my future—college and beyond. I’d always assumed I would have a career; I’d seen the satisfaction my parents derived from their work,” Kamala wrote (qtd in. Adero Ch. 1).

After high school, the time came for Kamala to choose where she would study in the future. Kamala’s dream was to become a lawyer, and she eventually chose to attend Howard University in Washington, D.C (Schwartz 12), and the reason for her choosing is because the former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, who is Kamala’s hero and inspiration studied in. She felt like this University would be the place that signifies the beginning of a successful career Kamala studied political science and economics, and it was more comfortable for her to study there alongside some of the civil rights movement leaders such as Andrew Young and Jesse Jackson, studying at Howard University made her feel more connected to her black identity, and she also met people that were similar to her, and by similar meaning that they had one black parent and the other coming from another culture. Harris was able to strengthen her political character during the time she spent at the University (Schwartz 12-13), besides holding a number of outside jobs, from interning at the Federal Trade Commission and doing research at the National Archives, and being a tour guide at the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing, to securing an internship with Senator Alan Cranston of California (Adero Ch. 2), she joined the debate team and protested against Apartheid, which is a system in South Africa that discriminated the black people over the white people in terms of the economic and political rights. She also ran her first-ever political campaign, which she won thus becoming the freshman representative of the Liberal Arts Students Council (Schwartz 13), and she joined the Alpha Kappa Alpha, which is the oldest

black organization that was established by educated African American women who want to promote unity and friendship among women and help them to solve their problems in order to improve their social status and to be a ‘service to all mankind’. (AKA)

Kamala graduated from the University of Howard in 1986, and then she enrolled in Hastings College of the Law University in California where she worked as a prosecutor in law enforcement, she said that she had to defend the decision of working as a prosecutor to her family who was not excited to see her become a prosecutor like a researcher defending his thesis (Adero Ch. 2). Harris used to be the leader of the Black Law Students Association; she also provided more opportunities for the colored people when she worked in the Legal Education Opportunity Program (Schwartz 13). Kamala delivered an internship at the Alameda County district attorney’s office in the second year she spent at Hastings College of the Law. According to Adero:

Her office was once headed by chief justice of the Supreme Court Earl Warren, who wrote the majority opinion in *Brown v. Board of Education*. This was the court decision that ended the idea that “separate but equal” was justice and affirmed that all citizens, including African Americans, are entitled to equality, period. The internship led to her first job as a lawyer after her graduation in 1989. (Ch. 2)

2.2. Political Career of Kamala Harris

2.2.1. Primary Career from 1990 to 2004

After graduating from Hastings and successfully passing the bar exam in 1989, Harris became a deputy district attorney with the Alameda County District Attorney’s Office who was specialized in prosecuting criminals accused of child sexual assault cases, homicides, and robbery, including gang violence and drug trafficking, her idea was to fight the system from

the inside in order to modify it and her idea led her to gain a reputation for not going easy and being strict on criminals (Schwartz 13). After four years of working as a deputy district attorney, Harris took a six-month leave of absence in order to join the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board, she was appointed by Willie Brown, a former speaker of the California State Assembly and the mayor of San Francisco from 1996 to 2004 whom she dated back then (Doescher; Hornsby-Gutting), she later was appointed by Brown to the California Medical Assistance Commission, where she served there until 1998 (Morain).

Kamala joined the San Francisco District Attorney's Office by becoming managing attorney of the Career Criminal Unit in 1998, then she was able to aid and focus on underprivileged people by becoming the head of the San Francisco City Attorney's Division on Families and Children, after that she decided to run against Terence Hallinan, the San Francisco district attorney in 2002 because she was frustrated working under him, Harris said that she believed Terence was undercutting the whole idea of what a progressive prosecutor could be (Schwartz 14), Bayview was the place where Harris stationed her campaign, she wanted the people of San Francisco to know that she is against the death sentence and that she wants to impose a treating program for the sentence prisoners instead of ending up in jail for the rest of their life. And thanks to the help she got from her family and friends and the self-confidence she gained from talking to her audience and also her serious plans and strict policies to change the system, she was able to beat Hallinan with 56.5 percent of the votes in 2003, Terence immediately left the office and then she began working as the first African American, first South Asian, and women district attorney in the San Francisco's legal department in the history (Schwartz 13-14).

2.2.2. San Francisco's District Attorney from 2004 to 2011

After she became the district attorney in 2004, she faced some difficult situations but she was able to stick to her values, a year later, she launched Back on Track, a program that suggested the commitment to a twelve-to-eighteen-month reentry program that involves certain aspects of life from education, employment, to parenting, this program helped about three hundred citizens to get their high school degrees and find jobs. It was effective and it eventually led to the creation of other similar programs, after two years of using the program, it was adopted by the Obama Justice Department. She also challenged the housing system by participating in the creation of a mortgage fraud unit to “make up for what the federal government was failing to do for homeowners subject to unfair mortgage terms and treatment by banks” (Adero ch. 2), in 2008, Kamala pushed for the controversial decision to consider truancy or skipping school without a permission a crime (Schwartz 18), the office she led punished the parents who did not send their kids from kindergarten through eighth grade to miss more than 10 percent of school, they would punish the parents with a \$2000 fine up to a year in jail, she thought that this decision would give a better future for their kids, the truancy rates decreased, but most of the people agreed that the decision harmed them more than it benefited them, so the policy was put to an end with her apologizing by saying that she regrets that this policy happened. (Jones).

Despite of the challenging mission that Harris faced, she was able to complete two terms as the district attorney of San Francisco. Kamala received her most terrible news in February, 2008 when her mother, Shyamala told her and her sister that she was diagnosed with colon cancer, so the Harris family decided to focus more on helping and standing with Shyamala through her hard times especially when she was undergoing chemotherapy and other treatments. But her mother's dilemma did not stop her from making changes, Kamala

wanted to demonstrate her ideas beyond the boundaries of San Francisco, as she announced on November 12, 2008 that she would run for attorney general of California in the 2010 election. A year later, the most important and influential person to Kamala Harris lost her battle against cancer on February 11, 2009 (Adero ch. 2).

Nine months later, precisely on October 17, 2009, Kamala published a book that is called *Smart on Crime: A Career Prosecutor's Plan to Make Us Safer*, the book shows and details ideas of Kamala to try and put an end to crime and try to find a more suitable punishment to convicted criminals and also preventing the convicted criminals from falling into the wrong decisions again, she said considering the ideas she wrote: "Instead of just reacting to a crime every time it is committed, we have to step back and figure out how to disrupt the routes of infection." In June 2010, Kamala was nominated as the Democratic candidate against Steve Cooley (Schwartz 19), the Republican who was the Los Angeles County District Attorney for three terms beginning from 2000 to 2012, Cooley publicly stated that she would not win because she is a woman, a minority, an anti-death penalty supporter, and who is district attorney of wacky San Francisco, and also because Kamala supported the same-sex marriage policy, the use of medicinal marijuana, and the controversial anti-death penalty policy. In opposite to Steve Cooley, who supported the death penalty, contradicted same-sex marriage, and opposed the use of medicinal marijuana. On the day of the election, exactly on November 10, 2010, the results were not leaning for Kamala's side, the vote count showed that Cooley was about to win it made him give a victory speech to his supporters, the following day, Harris surpassed Steve by approximately twenty-two thousand votes, and then, after twenty-one days closing and counting the ballot and after a long fight between her and Steve Cooley, Kamala Harris was declared the winner by a margin of less than 1 percent, precisely about fifty thousand votes (Adero ch. 2; Schwartz 19). After the results, she emphasized the values of democracy in her victory speech by saying: "[It] is about

recognizing the needs of poor people,” she also said: “It is about recognizing the needs of people who have been the subject of hate or bias. It is about protecting all vulnerable people. We will be tough and smart to get the job done” (qtd in. Schwartz 20). When she was sworn in January 3, 2011, she became the first Black, first Asian, and first female attorney general in the state of California (20).

2.2.3. California’s Attorney General from 2011 to 2017

Harris did not take long to become a certified attorney general due to her ability to solve issues under pressure, one of the biggest issues she faced was dealing with involved settlement money for homeowners who were unable to pay their mortgages, homeowners were given huge amount of money from the banks that they cannot repay later, which made over 235000 homeowners to lose their homes in 2008, banks offered California a 2 billion settlement, the settlement price was not going to help the Californians, so Harris refused the offer, many politicians, including the president Barack Obama wanted her to accept the offer, but she supported the homeowners because she was at the same spot they were in, she was sticking to her decision until 2012 when the banks offered California 20 billion, she eventually accepted the offer that would cover the needs of the homeowners, the stand that Kamala did for the people of California made her politically famous, and some predicted that she would run for a higher post (Schwartz 21-22).

What made Harris become more popular politically is her appearance at the Democratic National Convention in September 2012, Kamala spoke for six minutes to support Obama’s run for a second term, she mentioned the housing issue and praised Obama on how he handled the issue despite the disagreement of their opinions. Before her term would end, Kamala took a stand against California state law, the California Supreme Court contradicted same-sex marriages, but Harris refused to support the decision, thus leading to

the ruling being refused, this decision opened the door for marriage equality (Schwartz 23-24).

In 2013, Kamala's best friend Chrisette Hudlin arranged a blind date between Kamala and Douglas Emhoff, an entertainment attorney who is born and raised in New Jersey, he is divorced and he is the father of Ella and Cole Emhoff. Eventually, they had their wedding on August 22, 2014, which was officiated by Maya Harris (Adero ch. 2).

Kamala would be reelected in November as California's attorney general; she had fifty-five percent of the votes (Schwartz 25). After being reelected again, she adopted a body camera program for local police officers in California and she also had a unique law enforcement training, the aim of this training is to treat society fairly by law enforcement (Jones). She then launched Open Justice in September 2015, this initiative made law enforcement's work easier due to its ability to track data on crime and the criminal justice system (Schwartz 25-26).

2.2.4. The Senator of California from 2017 to 2021

In the early days of January 2015, after serving for twenty-four years or four terms as a U.S. senator of California, Barbara Boxer announced her retirement, the retirement of Barbara was a big opportunity for Kamala to take because the open senate seat would take her ideas and solutions to a higher level (Adero ch. 2). So, Kamala Harris announced on January 13, 2015, that she would run for the U.S. Senate. Harris was focusing on her campaign which was promising, due to her continuous support for the middle-class families, immigrants, students, children, and senior citizens of California, in February 2016, the Democratic Party chose Kamala as she had backup from President Barack Obama and other political figures. Harris focused in her campaign on speaking out for immigration and criminal justice reform, her desire was to defend women's reproductive rights and to increase

the minimum wage. Kamala Harris was able to defeat her opponent, fellow Democrat Loretta Sanchez (Schwartz 26).

On November 8, 2016, with more than 60 percent of the total vote, Harris won the election, setting another record, she became the first-ever Black, Latino, and Asian U.S. senator of California, and the second Black women to be elected as U.S. senator in the history of the United States after Carol Moseley Braun of Illinois who was elected in 1993 and served one term (Adero ch. 2). She stretched in her victory speech on fighting for the principles that will lead the entire population of America for a better future by saying: “Our ideals are at stake right now and we all have to fight for who we are,” she also added “I believe did not a pivotal moment in the history of our country. We are a great country. And part of what makes us great is fighting for our ideals.” Harris then started working on January 3, 2017, on the same night she secured her seat in the upper house of the U.S. Congress, Donald Trump, the Republican candidate won the presidential election and became the president of the United States, and Harris was upset like most of her Democrat fellows that he won, she contradicted most of his policies and especially his comments about refugees and women (Schwartz, 27).

Harris told the members of her campaign that their fight is not over despite the end of the senate run, she said “It’s gonna be a campaign that motivated us to run for this office in the first place,” she also said, “Because I think there is no question that everything that we have been talking about in terms of everything from criminal justice reform to climate change to immigration...is now really on the line.” Harris then made clear that she is against the policies that Trump picked, she was against his order to ban Syrian refugees and limit refugees from other countries, especially Muslims because she said that the move was racist because Trump discriminated against refugees for their religion, in response to his decision,

she introduced a bill in February that would help the refugees who were not able to enter the United States to facilitate their situation (Schwartz, 28).

In the same month, Kamala did not support Trump's choice for the U.S. Secretary of Education and U.S. Attorney General, she voted against Betsy DeVos the Secretary of Education because she thought that Betsy does not have enough experience concerning education. And she also voted against Senator Jeff Sessions, the U.S. attorney general who was chosen by Trump because of his background being against civil rights, she even called on him to resign after several rumors saying he lied about his communication with the Russian government. Two months later, Kamala contradicted the decision of nominating Judge Neil Gorsuch for the U.S. Supreme Court by Donald Trump because of Neil's history of favoring corporations over workers. Harris checked on the U.S. troops and the people who are living in Syrian refugee camps in April, she then was determined to find a solution for them by creating U.S. policies that would help them after she knew about the terrible life they are living (Schwartz 29).

In June 2017, the allegations that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election were investigated in a Senate Select Committee on Intelligence hearing that featured political figures from both political parties (McNamee), Kamala was recognized as a tough political figure since the hearing because she first questioned the Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein and claimed that he is not answering the questions or he is skipping the answers, but she was silenced by the committee chair, Senator Richard Burr, other senators, including Democrat Elizabeth Warren supported Harris because she was unfairly silenced and that her way of investigation is the right way to uncover the truth since she has experience from being a prosecutor. She then questioned Attorney General Jeff Sessions about some suspicious

conversations he had with Trump, she eventually was stopped by Burr again because Sessions was nervous (Schwartz 30-31).

Harris was a member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Senate Committee on the Budget. She was appointed to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee in January 2018, the committee interferes to solve the issues of criminal justice reform, federal criminal law, human rights, immigration law, consumer protection, and internet privacy, she stated:

I look forward to the chance to continue to provide a voice for our most vulnerable communities, work on issues I've handled since my earliest days in the Alameda County District Attorney's office, and defend California in the face of this Administration's repeated attacks on our values (qtd in. Schwartz 31).

Kamala questioned Mark Zuckerberg, the CEO of Facebook in a Senate hearing in April 2018, the hearing was about Mark's decision to hide a data leak of personal information from eighty-seven million users, the leaked data was used by Russia to promote Trump during the presidential campaign, Mark did not answer the questions of Kamala because they were direct. She then questioned Kirstjen Nielsen, the Homeland Security secretary about the decision made by Trump's administration to separate the families who entered the U.S. illegally a month after the hearing of Mark Zuckerberg, she contradicted the policy because it took children from their families without any sign or clue of their existence, meaning that it is hard for the family to reunite again after their separation (32).

Kamala went to San Diego, California to visit the Otay Mesa Detention Center to check on mothers who had been infected by Trump's policy, at the time of the visit, he signed an executive order to end the separation policy but it was too late for the families who were separated, so Harris took a stand with the women who were separated and called for Donald

to reunited the families who were separated by his decision and also demanded Kirstjen Nielsen to resign immediately (33).

2.2.5. Kamala Harris' Presidential Run from 2019 to 2020

The year 2019 was different and special for Kamala Harris, the first month of the year was stacked for her. She published two books in January 8, the first book she published is *Superheroes Are Everywhere*, a children's book that talks about finding superheroes in real life from family to friends, and this book is inspired by her life story. And the second book she published is her autobiography called *The Truths We Hold: An American Journey* (Nicolaou). After that, Kamala announced that she would run for president of the United States of America on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, exactly on January 21, 2019, she set her eyes on the biggest political spot in the world with the slogan "Kamala Harris: for the People". Harris launched her campaign on January 27, 2019 with a powerful speech that criticized the policies and the catastrophic ruling period of Donald Trump by saying: "We are here because the American Dream and our American democracy are under attack and on the line like never before" she said "We are here at this moment in time because we must answer a fundamental question. Who are we? Who are we as Americans? So, let's answer that question to the world and each other right now. America: we are better than this" (Schwartz 33-34).

Harris had backup from a very expert campaign team, three members of the team were her family members, her husband, Doug Emhoff; her brother-in-law, Tony West, who was a senior officer in the Obama administration's Justice Department, and Maya Harris, who used to serve as one of Hilary Clinton's three senior policy advisers in 2016 and Ford Foundation's vice president for democracy, rights, and justice for five years, Maya would also lead Kamala's campaign (Adero ch. 3). Kamala was part of the largest presidential

candidates in an American political party since 1972, she and twenty-eight other men and women were running for president in the Democratic Party, if chosen by her party, she would have the opportunity to become the First Black, Asian American women president in the history of the United States, the chances of her being nominated would be tough against Senator Elizabeth Warren, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Senator Bernie Sanders, Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, Senator Cory Booker, former Vice President Joe Biden, and so many other capable figures (Adero ch. 3; Schwartz 34). Kamala earned the spotlight in an August Democratic Debate (Schwartz 34-35), Kamala reminded and criticized Joe Biden because the former Vice President attempted to stop the Department of Education from implementing school busing program during the 1970s in order to integrate schools (Reston), Harris said “There was a little girl in California who was part of the second class to integrate her public schools and she was bused to school every day”, she told Biden “And that little girl was me” (Schwartz 35). Joe responded and described the remarks of Harris a mischaracterization of his position across the board, he said “I did not oppose busing in America”, Biden replied “What I opposed is busing ordered by the Department of Education, that’s what I opposed” (Reston). Kamala did not surrender to the challenges she was facing, but the charisma she was having did not prevent her from ending her 2020 presidential campaign in December 2019 when she released a video on Twitter announcing the end of her run for president, Kamala said “To you my supporters, my dear supporters, it is with deep regret – but also with deep gratitude – that I am suspending our campaign today”, the reason of her resignation was the financial struggle her campaign team were facing for months, she said “So here’s the truth today. I’ve taken stock and looked at this from every angle, and over the last few days have come to one of the hardest decisions of my life”, she also said “My campaign for president simply doesn’t have the financial resources we need to continue”. Harris finally stated “I’m not a billionaire. I can’t fund my own campaign. And as the

campaign has gone on, did not become harder and harder to raise the money we need to compete”, but despite the end of Harris’s campaign, she said that she will fight for justice and oppose Trump’s ruling (Merica and Sullivan).

Kamala began the year 2020 speaking at Trump’s first impeachment trial on January 16 under the conduction of U.S. Supreme Court chief justice John Roberts (President Trump Impeached), Donald asked the president of Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden and His son Hunter, who are his political rivals, and Trump concealed the demand for help from Ukraine. Harris found the opportunity to take Donald down, as she voted to convict him with charges of misusing his political power and obstructing Congress (Schwartz 36). But John Roberts voted to acquit Trump from the two charges on February 5, 2020, (President Trump Impeached).

Shortly after the acquittal of Donald Trump, the Corona pandemic changed the world and it brought a lot of issues with it (Schwartz 36), but the other event that rocked the American people is the case of George Floyd, the case of the 46 years old black man that was killed in Minneapolis, Minnesota by police officer Derek Chauvin by kneeling on his neck for more than nine minutes, this act of discrimination led to several protests in support of racial justice in America and the world (McGreal et al.). The protestors did not Kamala Harris because of her history as the attorney general of California because they thought that she would stand on the side of the police officers, and also for her record of not going easy on criminals, but Harris proved the protestors wrong when she stood against systematic racism and called for police reforms (Schwartz 37).

2.2.6. Vice Presidential Pick

Joe Biden was selected by the Democratic Party to run for president, but before his nomination, he announced that he will choose a woman to be his running mate, many

qualified women were taken into consideration by Joe (Schwartz 37), but Senator Elizabeth Warren, Florida's House of Representative member Val Demings, Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, and Kamala Harris were the four women he put in consideration, Joe was wise enough to think about Harris despite of the misinterpretation that happened between the two of them (Zeleny et al.). Eventually, Joe Biden chose Kamala Harris on August 11, 2020, to be his right hand and called her "fearless fighter for the little guy", and "one of the country's finest public servants" (Schwartz 37). The *New York Times* posted:

In the end, Mr. Biden embraced Ms. Harris as a partner for reasons that were both pragmatic and personal. No other candidate scored as highly with [his] selection committee on many of their core criteria for choosing a running mate, including her ability to help Mr. Biden win in November, her strength as a debater, her qualifications for governing and the racial diversity she would bring to the ticket. No other candidate seemed to match the political moment better (qtd in. Adero ch. 3).

The New York Times analysis explains why Joe chose Harris to be his running mate, he also chose her because he knew her for a very long time even before their political debate, and he also knows that she is skilled because she and Joe's son, Beau Biden, worked together on housing policy issues when she was attorney general of California and he was attorney general of Delaware (Adero ch. 3).

Kamala Harris became the first African American, the first Indian American, and the third woman nominated for a national office by a major party after Sarah Palin and Geraldine Ferraro (Biden VP Pick), she is also the first Western American resident to be listed on the Democratic Party's national ticket (Ostermeier). The decision to nominate Kamala angered Donald Trump who said that she is wrong for the country, but she had support from her family and many politicians and wished victory for her and Biden at the election. Harris

accepted the nomination at the Democratic Convention less than three months before the 2020 presidential election, Kamala joined Biden and spoke out on the problems that are facing the nation (Schwartz 38).

The United States presidential election was held on November 3, 2020, approximately 160 million Americans voted for the incumbent President Donald Trump who represented the Republican Party, and Joe Biden, the former Vice President who represented the Democratic Party in person or via mail due to Covid-19 (Walker 15), it took several days to count the votes until November 7 when the media declared Joe Biden and Kamala Harris the winners against Donald Trump and Mike Pence, Kamala said that she will be the vice president of all the Americans, she promised to focus on fighting the pandemic, economy, racial justice, and climate change (Schwartz 39). The victory was confirmed on December 14 by securing 306 Electoral College votes, against Trump's 232, he also won with a total vote of over 81 million votes, which is the highest popular vote received in a presidential election in history, against over 74 million votes of President Donald Trump who did not accept the results and raised allegations of electoral fraud, including claims that some mail-in ballots were handled improperly, in addition to filing many cases across several states, he refused to concede the election and urged his supporters to protest against the election after claiming that the Democratic Party faked the election to make Biden president. On January 6, 2021, on the day of confirming Joe Biden's victory in Congress, and for the first time since 1812, the U.S. Capitol building was breached by the supporters of Trump, they marched into the chamber of the House of Representatives thus halting the proceedings, Trump finally told his supporters to go home, this incident led to many deaths and hundreds of injuries between protestors and police officers. The Capitol Police regained control of the building and certified Joe Biden's win, after the events of the capitol, Trump became the first president to be impeached twice, but he was acquitted in both trials (Walker 3, 18-19).

On January 20, 2021, Joe Biden became the 46th president of the United States and the first president from Delaware at the age of 78, becoming the oldest president to be inaugurated, and his running mate Kamala Devi Harris resigned from the Senate on January 18 to take the oath of office two days later to become the 49th vice president of America, Kamala became the highest ranking woman elected in the history of American Government (Adero ch. 3; McNamee), She became the first woman of color and the second person of color to serve as vice president after Charles Curtis, a Native American who did the honors of serving President Herbert Hoover (Solender).

Conclusion

To conclude, this chapter demonstrated the life of the highest-ranking Black and South Asian Female in the entire American political system from her birth as a supporter of the Civil Right movement to inspiring other women alongside other famous influencers like Rosa Parks, Opera Winfrey, and Michelle Obama, her life was not easy but she always defied the odds and moved forward, her political journey from serving as a deputy district attorney for the Alameda County District Attorney's office to being the 49th vice president and the most remarkable African American and South Asian female figure in the United States of America proved that regardless of one's gender, race, or ethnicity, new heights can be reached by working hard and focusing on the task at hand. Kamala Harris stood against all odds and strengthened women's identity and especially the black and Asian women in America, she gave women confidence, strength, and a sense of leadership, she made the women's voice more visible and heard in the upper class of America, and her toughness and way of solving the issues were also set as an example for women who want to seek higher grade in not only the political field but all the fields.

The historical achievement of electing Kamala to be the first Black women Vice President of the United States has impacted the mindset of Black women in a very positive way, she inspired them to pursue political leadership roles instead of just seeking to get a role, her leadership and fight for equality and racial justice paved the way for other black women to overcome obstacles and try to change things the way she did before and after being the running mate of President Joe Biden.

This chapter showed the fights that Kamala had to win for her rights and the difficulties she faced to reach leadership before she became vice president, and the following chapter will show the fights that Kamala is dealing with after becoming vice president, and the third and final chapter will also delve deeper into the influence she made after becoming the 49th Vice President of the United States of America and how she changed the perspective of black women to seek authority in the political field.

Chapter Three

The Accomplishments and the Influence of Kamala Harris on Women

Introduction

Kamala Harris and Joe Biden were at the Chase Center on November 7, in Wilmington, Delaware where they were declared the winners after four days after Election Day, they both celebrated their historical and unprecedented victory with their audience who sat in their vehicles keeping the distance because of the COVID 19 pandemic, Harris addressed the audience concerning her new position as the running mate of the president by thanking everyone from her mother for inspiring her and Joe Biden for choosing her to every person that helped and voted for her and also for choosing the right side (Otfinoski ch. 6). Harris also stated concerning her new position “While I may be the first woman in this office, I will not be the last. Because every little girl watching sees that this is a country of possibilities” (qtd in. Otfinoski ch. 6).

The historical victory of Kamala Harris in the 2020 presidential election made her join the list of black women that became an inspiration for the whole black community along with Rosa Parks, Oprah Winfrey, Michelle Obama, Sojourner Truth, Maya Angelou, and her hero Shirley Chisholm, and so many memorable figures, however, being an inspiration does not mean that her job is over, it was time for Kamala Harris and Joe Biden to face the social and political challenges that are facing the United States of America, the Democratic president and his Democratic running mate are obliged to repair the damages that were made by the Administration of the former Republican president Donald Trump and former vice president Mike Pence.

The third and final chapter focuses on the difficulties that faced the administration of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris from inside and outside the country and the procedures taken

by them to terminate these issues. In addition to this, Kamala Harris inspired many black women to pursue their goals whether on the political side or any other side since she became famous for her way of handling issues, this chapter will show how her career, mentality, and personality influenced other women in general and Black and Asian women in specific inside the United States political system.

3.1 The Accomplishments of the Biden-Harris Administration

After their victory against Donald Trump and Mike Pence, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris started working immediately, one of the first official acts Kamala did after taking the obligation of being vice president freely and swearing to protect the United States Senate and Constitution was to swear in three new Democratic senators, Alex Padilla, who was taking her senate seat in California, and Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff of Georgia, the Democratic Party now had superiority in the Senate and the House of Representatives for the first time in years, it was an opportunity for Joe Biden, the newly elected president to advance a visionary plan that included a trillion-dollar infrastructure investment, moreover, he launched a vigorous effort to increase awareness for Americans who did not receive the Coronavirus vaccine, which was still sickening and killing thousands of people (Otfinoski ch. 6). The 117th Congress was evenly split between Democrats and Republicans upon her arrival, as a result, Kamala regularly had to use her ability to break ties as the Senate's president, she eventually cast her first two tie-breaking votes on February 5, 2021. No one from the Republican Party aided the proposition of President Joe Biden concerning the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 stimulus package, therefore the tie-breaking votes that were cast by Harris in February and March were crucial for the passing of Biden's proposed stimulus package (Singh et al. and Segers). Kamala Harris was able to cast seven tie-breaking votes in her first six months, breaking the record of six tie-breaking votes that was made by Mike Pence in a year. And she cast thirteen tie-breaking votes after a year in service, making

her cast the most tie-breaking votes in a single year in the history of the United States overpassing a record that was made in 1790 by John Adams who cast twelve votes at that time (“Votes to Break Ties” and Cohn). With twenty-nine votes, Kamala Harris and John Adams are tied for the second-most tie-breaking votes by a vice president after John C. Calhoun, who had 31 votes as of March 2023, and based on how quickly she cast twenty-one votes, she may be able to break the record for tie-breaking votes as Vice president (Cohen et al.).

After serving as Barack Obama’s active vice president, Biden wanted to give Kamala the same kind of authority he had, they used to meet once a week in the administration’s first days to discuss certain issues until Biden and his advisors found a challenging role for Harris to deal with, the president told his running mate to focus her efforts on the immigration crisis. Some aspects of Donald Trump’s anti-immigration policy were still in effect even after the border wall had stopped being constructed, moreover, the administration was criticized by Republicans for being lenient in allowing more immigrants to cross the border. Progressives on the left complained that the White House wasn’t doing enough to look after the immigrants, including children, who were waiting in detention centers while their cases were being handled (Otfinoski ch. 6). On March 2021, Harris was tasked by Biden to lower the number of adult and unaccompanied minor asylum seekers after reaching 11000 unaccompanied children in U.S. custody according to US Border Patrol, she was also tasked with directing the talks with Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico, and Honduras. The President believes that the experience Kamala gained from fighting organized crime and upholding human rights as California’s attorney general and senator will help the administration to put an end to the immigration crisis (Lahut).

In April 2021, a discredited report published by the *New York Post* claimed that Kamala Harris’s children’s book *Superheroes Are Everywhere* was being distributed to

migrant kids in “welcome kits” at a temporary housing facility in Long Beach, California. However, what actually happened is that only a single copy of the book was given by a member of the public. A few days after the incident, the writer of the story Laura Italiano resigned from the New York Post after alleging that she wrote the report against her will and that she was forced (Neumann).

In the same month, Kamala Harris told Dana Bash, the host of Cable News Network’s “State of the Union” that she was the last person in the room with Joe Biden before he decided to withdraw all American soldiers from Afghanistan by September 11. Harris said that staying with Biden until he makes his decisions is an essential step for the vice president and the president to agree on a better outcome and also to enhance the relationship between each other. The reason America invaded Afghanistan in October 2001 is because of the 9/11 attacks, Kamala complimented the president for having the courage to make this historic decision by saying “This is a president who has an extraordinary amount of courage”, she also said, “He is someone, who I have seen over and over again, make decisions based on what he truly believes ... is the right thing to do” (Bice).

The first international trip Kamala Harris conducted was to the Central American nations of Mexico and Guatemala. She went there to discuss addressing the core causes of illegal immigration with the leaders of the Central American nations. This meant addressing the political and economic injustices that drove people, particularly in Central America, to immigrate to the United States (Otfinoski ch.6). During her visit, Harris made a plea to progressive migrants during a press conference with Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei stating “At the same time, I want to be clear to folks in the region who are thinking about making that dangerous trek to the United States-Mexico border: Do not come. Do not come”, she also added “I believe if you come to our border, you will be turned back” (qtd in. Rodriguez). The reason for this powerful speech that was delivered by Kamala and

for the increase in the percentage of illegal migration is because of the Coronavirus, the pandemic increased the percentage of unemployment which forced the helpless citizens of the Northern Triangle of Central America to migrate illegally to the United States of America.

Although it was a worthy cause, Harris received harsh criticism from Republicans for not visiting the Mexican-American border, where they believed the actual issue lay, they even accused her of ignoring the issue of illegal immigration and drug trafficking. Kamala eventually traveled on her first trip to the United States-Mexico border as vice president to El Paso, Texas, on June 25. Kamala Harris visited the El Paso Border Patrol station and the El Paso del Norte Port of Entry accompanied by Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, and U.S. Representative Veronica Escobar, she met with representatives of non-governmental organizations that assist immigrants during her four-hour visit to the border city, moreover, she met with five immigrant girls aging from nine to sixteen years old inside the border facility, Harris then told reporters that migrants want to stay in their regions but they have to escape suffering (Barragán).

Despite the criticism that was delivered for Kamala and the entire administration on immigration, Kamala Harris played a crucial role in controlling Immigration and rebuilding relations between the United States and the leaders of Central America led to the formation of an anti-corruption task force, a human smuggling and trafficking task force, a program on women's empowerment, and funding for housing and business in the Northern Triangle. In December 2021, she announced that the administration will invest 1.2 billion dollars in Central America, the money will help U.S. companies in the Northern Triangle countries to stimulate economic growth in order to stop illegal migration (Rothkopf).

Harris traveled to Southeast Asia on her second international tour at the end of August 2021, the outcomes of the trip were not positive just like her first trip, but she did not take the

blame for what happened, the trip was meant to fortify American ties with nations like Vietnam and Singapore, where China was gaining ground, Harris visited those nations to reassure them that the United States would support them economically and in the fight against the pandemic. Yet as soon as she arrived in Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, the dramatic military pullout of the United States from Afghanistan after twenty years dominated the news. The Taliban's swift seizure of the Afghan government surprised the entire globe. Reporters grilled Harris about the situation in Afghanistan and how it affected Americans who were still there. Harris supported the evacuation and did her best to reassure the other Southeast Asian nations that they could rely on American backing (Rubin).

On November 19, 2021, Kamala Harris became the first woman to act as U.S. president for a brief amount of time, the president Joe Biden alerted leaders in Congress and transferred power to vice president Harris at 10:10 a.m. and took back control at 11:35 a.m. because he was under anesthesia for the colonoscopy and was undergoing a routine physical at the Walter Reed military hospital outside Washington. The 25th Amendment of the United States Constitution outlines a procedure for the president to transfer power to the vice president when he is unable to perform his duties, with the brief transfer in power, Harris became the third person overall and the first woman to serve as the president of the United States of America after George W. Bush transferred power twice in 2002 and 2007 when he also had colonoscopies (Mason).

From November 21 to 22, vice president Kamala Harris traveled to the Philippines with second gentlemen Douglas Emhoff to reaffirm American commitment to the security alliance with the Philippines and to fortify the bilateral economic ties. She had meetings with vice president Sara Duterte-Carpio and President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos, Jr., moreover, Harris met with civil society leaders and took part in a moderated discussion with a group of young Filipino women to show her sustained support for human rights and

democratic principles. The first event of its kind she has done abroad since taking office, the discussion's theme was "Empowering Women and Girls". Kamala Harris became the first United States official to visit Palawan, the providence of the Philippines (Manila), the move made by the Biden-Harris administration to visit the Philippines is strategic, and they aimed to send a message to China, the second most powerful country after the United States.

Kamala went to the Philippines to restore the relationship between her country and Marcos Jr.'s country, and also to support them militarily concerning the issue of the South China Sea, losing the waterway that is claimed by the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Taiwan will surely put the Chinese political and economic status in danger thus giving advantage to the United States in midst of the ongoing shift in the global balance of power (De Guzman).

In the same month, Kamala Harris visited Paris, France, and met with French President Emmanuel Macron. Three years after the Trump administration's refusal to join the program, Vice President Harris announced that the United States had joined a French-led international effort to protect people from cyber-attacks and discourage digital electoral interference. The agreement is a largely symbolic, non-binding proclamation, but so too is the presence of Harris in Paris. Kamala and Macron also discussed the Libya forum topic, the climate crisis, the global health crisis, and regional security concerns, they also talked about collaborating in the area of space, and most importantly, they met to strengthen ties after the cancellation of the submarine program that the French had with the Australians (*The White House* and Rogers).

In December 2021, the Biden administration decided to handle the issue of maternal mortality. At the White House's first Maternal Health Day of Action, vice president Kamala Harris announced that the call to action is being made to the public and private sectors, she said that being pregnant and giving birth in the United States of America and in the 21st century should not carry great risk. She also announced that hospitals around the U.S. will be

rated based on the quality of their maternal health care. In addition to that, more than 20 million dollars was invested in maternal health efforts by companies and nonprofits in the U.S., and more than 150 million dollars was invested by companies and nonprofits from around the world. The focus on the maternal health crisis by Kamala Harris goes back to her time in the U.S. Senate, where she introduced several pieces of legislation on maternal health, and she proclaimed the three billion dollars investment in maternal health in the Build Back Better Act (Kindelan).

The main reason for the acts and decisions made by Harris concerning maternal mortality is because of the danger black women face in this situation, to be precise, and according to multiple sources, black women in the United States are exposed to death more than white, Asian or Latina women regardless of who they are and how much do they make. Harris's history of fighting the discrimination against black lives goes back to the beginning of her political career, Harris desired and is desiring to bring justice for black people in general and black women in specific.

After one year of service, Kamala Harris received the lowest approval ratings in public opinions polls, according to the poll, Harris's approval rating is much lower at 28% while Biden's is at 38%, she is less popular than both Congressional Democrats and Congressional Republicans, which is not supposed to occur. Harris is also less popular than Mike Pence, Joe Biden, Al Gore, Dick Cheney, and others who were serving as vice president at the time. It is shocking that Harris's disapproval rating is under 30% because Dick Cheney, who is often regarded as the least popular vice president in contemporary American history, did not have a disapproval rating of under 30% until the end of George W. Bush's second term (Ting).

The audience criticized Kamala Harris for not being visible too much and thus not doing her job seriously, but the constitutional roles of the vice president of the United States are to preside over the Senate, break ties as needed in the Senate voting, and serve as President if the sitting President is removed or incapacitated. She broke the most Senate ties in modern history, all of Joe Biden's nominations have been successfully confirmed by vice president Harris, which is essential for the administration to be able to carry out the tasks required to achieve their program, she is the principal ambassador for diplomatic relation abroad for the Administration of Biden, she pushed the Biden Administration to provide billions of dollars in financing to Historically Black Colleges and Universities especially Howard University, the university that she graduated from, extending her support during her time as U.S. Senator. She is the American official to visit the Philippine province of Palawan, Kamala Harris also helped with the passing of the American Rescue Plan that was stalled by Senate Republicans, she has championed maternal health and toured the nation calling for a woman's right to choose. Vice president has been a successful advocate for early childhood education funding and for reforming the criminal justice system, she has been a vocal supporter of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics education, and women's rights. She has been a vocal opponent of President Trump's policies that help the wealthy and harms the working class since she is a supporter of the middle class. In addition to actively promoting the Affordable Care Act or the Patient Protection Act, Harris has campaigned to strengthen the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Harris has also led programs including The Justice is Coming Home Campaign, which sought to increase veterans' access to mental health care. Harris had also put out new legislation that would make it simpler for consumers to sue large corporations and financial institutions (Hines).

Vice President Harris has been a strong advocate for voting rights, utilizing her position to push for the passage of the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting

Rights Advancement Act, she is also in charge of many crucial aspects of the American government as vice president, including health, immigration, and education. She has defended progressive policies such as raising the minimum wage and extending healthcare coverage to millions of Americans, the vice president has contributed to increasing diversity in the government by appointing more women and people of color to important and high posts. Moreover, Kamala Harris has been a strong advocate for criminal justice reform in order to lower the jail population and enhance rehabilitation programs. In addition to that, she has campaigned to minimize gun violence by supporting background checks that are expanded and the bipartisan assault weapons prohibition. She has fought for environmental concerns like boosting the generation of renewable energy and halting climate change, she also fought to enhance infrastructure by raising money for transportation and creating a strategy to tackle climate change. She also pushed for legislation that would give low-income Americans easier access to affordable housing, healthcare, and education, she also thinks that debt-free higher education is essential to enhancing the economy for every American citizen (Barnes). After the turbulent Trump years, which alienated so many allies, Harris made significant international trips, meeting with presidents and heads of state in Japan, Korea, Poland, Thailand, Singapore, and so many other nations to discuss border control, the underlying causes of border migration, strengthening economic and security ties with allied countries, and maintaining support for human rights and democratic values. Harris also addressed the leaders of the world at the Munich Security Conference in February 2022 to reaffirm the United States' dedication to the alliance of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. On her journey to Munich, she met with the Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelensky to discuss the matters of the Russian-Ukrainian war (Hines).

The audience is criticizing Kamala Harris because her time saw many of her staff leaving and she has been "rarely" entrusted with high-profile assignments also because they

believe that the immigration situation is larger than she is and that, despite her unprecedented efforts to resolve it, she has failed to find a solution. The vice president has regularly had support below 40 percent, while Harris and Biden have both maintained approval ratings below 50 percent for the past year. In the meantime, voter support for the president has been gradually increasing over the past few months as a result of some big victories in Congress and a decrease in fuel prices under his administration. Prior to the 2024 presidential election, Harris' polling results have been in the upper 30 percent range. Which is not helping the Biden-Harris Administration for the next Presidential Elections, Republicans think that the age of President Joe Biden and the blame Vice President Kamala Harris is taking will help them win the 2024 Presidential Elections (Carbonaro).

3.2. The Influence of Kamala Harris on Women

After winning the Vice President seat, Kamala Harris said “While I may be the first woman in this office, I will not be the last. Because every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities”, she reflected on the former African American female figures that inspired her to achieve what no Black woman has ever achieved before, and motivated the following generations of Black women and also Asian women to go beyond what she has accomplished (Harper).

Kamala’s victory marked a major milestone in the political leadership of Black women, her achievement was followed by the success of other Black women in other levels of office. Despite the low record, Black women scored a record number of 117 women for running and 61 women for winning congressional offices in 2020, Black women also reached a record high in state legislative representation in 2021. Black women’s votes were crucial for the success of the Biden-Harris administration, more than two-thirds of Black women voted in the 2020 presidential election, and 90% of them voted for the Democratic Party.

Moreover, Biden did not only choose Harris to be a part of his administration, he also chose Marcia Fudge, a former U.S. Representative, to serve as the secretary of Housing and Urban Development, he also picked Cecilia Rouse who served for two years as the chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, and Linda Thomas-Greenfield to serve as the United States Ambassador to the United Nations, this is the largest number of Black women who have served continuously in a presidential Cabinet (Dittmar 3-4). Black women were 23.5% of Democratic women nominees and 11.2% of all Democratic nominees for the U.S. House in 2020. 25 Black women won full terms for U.S. House seats in the 2020 election; including three non-incumbents who are all Democrats, the first woman is Cori Bush, she is the first Black and non-white woman from Missouri to serve in Congress. Bush is a preacher and licensed nurse who has been involved in the Black Lives Matter movement since 2014. In the 2020 Democratic primary, Bush defeated the incumbent Representative William “Lacy” Clay by nearly three points after losing her primary contest for the same district in 2018. The second woman is Marilyn Strickland, she is the first Black woman from Washington State to serve in Congress. Black and Korean-American are two racial identities that Strickland claims. Marilyn served as the Mayor of Tacoma, Washington, from 2010 until 2018 before serving in Congress. She is one of the first three Korean-American women to serve in the U.S. Congress. And the third woman is Nikema Williams, she is the one who took over as the U.S. House’s representative from longtime member and Civil Rights pioneer John Lewis. Williams was selected to take Lewis’ place on the general election ballot after his passing in July 2020. Williams held positions as the chair of the Georgia Democratic Party and a member of the Georgia State Senate before entering Congress (Dittmar 7). Most of the records mentioned above were broken in the 2022 Congressional election. Black women have set newer records as candidates for the U.S. House, U.S. Senate, and governorships in 2022, according to the Center for American Women and Politics. For the U.S. House, major parties

fielded at least 134 Black women. 29 Republicans and 105 Democrats were present. There were at least 22 Black women running for the U.S. Senate from major parties. Six Republicans and sixteen Democrats were present. At least 12 Black women ran for governor in the major parties. One Republican and 11 Democrats were present (Roberts).

The historic achievement of electing Kamala Harris as the first female Vice President in the United States has had a significant influence on women in America, she became an inspiration for them and showed them after her nomination that everything is possible and that no matter how women are marginalized, they can reach what they desire as long as they work hard, focus on the task at hand, and believe in themselves.

Several important pieces of legislation were passed thanks to Harris's tie-breaking votes, and she also made it possible for women to go up the corporate ladder and hold important leadership roles. As a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Lisa DeNell Cook was officially confirmed as the first Black woman to hold that position. Jennifer Snug was also confirmed as the first Asian American woman to serve as a U.S. circuit judge on the Ninth Circuit. The Consumer Product Safety Commission commissioner, Mary T. Boyles, has been confirmed. A former prosecutor named Rachael S. Rollins was appointed as the District of Massachusetts' first Black woman United States attorney. In addition to that, Ketanji Brown Jackson's historic confirmation by the Senate to the Supreme Court was presided over by Kamala Harris (Hines).

Women of color such as Stacey Abraham made history by becoming the first African American woman to win a major party nomination for governor in the United States as the Democratic nominee in Georgia. According to Howard University Provost and Chief Academic Officer Anthony K. Wutoh, "Stacey Abrams is a respected voice in American politics, known for her advocacy for voting rights, criminal justice reform, environmental

justice, and economic empowerment for marginalized communities” (qtd in. Cornelius).

Adams used to be an influential figure in the Democratic Party and a role model for young women and people of color who aspire to enter the policy arena to realize advocacy for voting rights, criminal justice reform, environmental justice, and economic empowerment for marginalized communities.

3.2.1 Other African American Figures

3.2.1.1 Keisha Lance Bottoms

She is a political commentator on Cable News Network. She is a pioneering leader who has elevated equitable outcomes to the top of politics and business. Keisha, who had previously held positions as a judge and a city council member, made history by becoming the first mayor in Atlanta's history to have experience in all three levels of government. As mayor, she pledged to work toward making "One Atlanta" a reality; an affordable, resilient, and equitable Atlanta. In order to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic's effects on the City and its departments, Keisha took preventative measures. As a result, the Bottoms Administration produced four years of balanced budgets without resorting to property tax increases, layoffs, or furloughs of City employees through one of the worst economic downturns the world has ever seen. The City's reserves remained at a near-high of \$181M at the end of her term, greatly above the limits imposed by the City Charter. The Bottoms Administration recovered its title as operating the busiest and most effective airport in the world while also making ground-breaking advancements in criminal justice reform and making the city a leader in LGBTQ issues. Keisha led a life that was shaped by an upbringing and job that brought to light the disparities among Americans ("President Biden Announces").

3.2.1.2. Ayanna Pressley

She is another woman of color that changed the political map, on January 3, 2019, Ayanna Pressley was sworn in as the 7th congressional district representative for Massachusetts. From 2010 until 2019, Pressley was a member at large of the Boston City Council. Pressley is the first African American woman to be elected to Congress from Massachusetts and the first African American woman to be elected to the Boston City Council. Pressley was born in Chicago, Illinois, on February 3, 1974. Pressley studied at Boston University's College of General Studies from 1992 to 1994, but she had to drop out to help her mother. Later, she attended Boston University Metropolitan College, although she did not finish her degree there. Pressley interned for United States Representative Joseph P. Kennedy II before graduating from Boston University and went on to work for him as a district representative. She then worked for Joseph as an intern while in college. Later, she was Kennedy's scheduler and subsequently his director of constituencies. Pressley worked as the political director for U.S. Senator John Kerry in 2009 ("Ayanna Pressley").

3.2.1.3. Glynda C. Carr

She is the president, chief executive officer, and co-founder of Higher Heights for America and Higher Heights Leadership Fund, is at the forefront of the national effort to increase the political influence of Black women from the ballot box to elected office. She is the daughter of immigrants who instilled civic engagement values in her from an early age. She has applied these values to her work as the current campaign manager at Higher Heights and as the former executive director of Education Voters of New York, chief of staff to New York State Senator Kevin Parker in Brooklyn, and chief of staff to two of Parker's successful reelection campaigns. The foundation she co-founded named Higher Heights was created in 2011 by her and Kimberly Peeler-Allen to address the obvious lack of organizing options for

politically engaged Black women and the absence of backing for individuals who were thinking about running for politics. Under her direction, Higher Heights created a number of ground-breaking initiatives and activities that have quickly cemented the organization's position as the go-to hub and residence for Black women in political leadership. Glynda is also a co-founder of #BlackWomenLead, a potent coalition movement that is fostering an environment in which Black women can run for office, win, and lead, as well as the Higher Heights-backed #BlackWomenVote voter activism campaign, which acts as a nonpartisan platform for the political concerns of Black women. Through her efforts, 11 Black women have been elected to the U.S. Congress, one to the Senate, and more Black women now hold statewide executive offices, including the first Black woman to hold that position ("Glynda C. Carr").

3.2.1.4. Alicia Garza

She is a civic leader, she was born in Los Angeles, California, on January 4, 1981. She graduated from the University of California, San Diego in 2002 with a B.A. in anthropology and sociology. Garza worked in a number of social justice positions after graduating. She held the position of executive director for the San Francisco Bay Area's People Organized to Win Employment Rights in 2009. She was chosen as board chair for Oakland's Right to the City Alliance in 2011, an organization that opposed gentrification and police violence. Garza was a co-founder of the activist group Black Lives Matter in 2013, which fought against racism and brutality against African Americans. Garza became the director of special projects for the National Domestic Workers Alliance in Oakland, California. She also established the Black Futures Lab in 2018, which encourages African Americans to test out fresh strategies for establishing autonomous, progressive black political power. Garza worked to create a movement at the intersections of racism, gender, and the economy as the National Domestic Workers Alliance's Director of Strategy & Partnerships.

As a board member for Oakland's School of Unity and Liberation, Black Organizing for Leadership and Dignity, and Forward Together, she has also helped the community. *Time*, *Mic*, *Marie Claire*, *Elle*, *Essence*, *The Guardian*, *The Nation*, *The Feminist Wire*, *Rolling Stone*, *HuffPost*, and *Truthout* have all published her editorial work. Garza has won a lot of honors and distinctions. Together with Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi, she was ranked third on the *Politico50* 2015 guide to Thinkers, Doers, and Visionaries. She also received recognition from the 2016 Fortune Magazine World's Greatest Leaders list, the 2016 Glamour Women of the Year Award, the 2016 *Marie Claire* New Guard Award, the 2016 Glamour 100 list of African American Achievers between the ages of 25 and 45, the 2016 Root 100 list of African American Achievers, and The Harvey Milk Democratic Club has awarded her with the Bayard Rustin Community Activist Award for her work fighting racism and gentrification in San Francisco. The Jeanne Gauna Communicate Justice Award from the Centre for Media Justice also recognized her. She received the Sydney Peace Prize in 2017 along with the other Black Lives Matter co-founders, Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi in Sydney, Australia. On May 26, 2017, Garza addressed 35,000 graduate students at San Francisco State University in a graduating speech that was devoted to black women. Garza was chosen as one of GO Magazine's 2018 list of the 100 Women We Love ("Alicia Garza").

Conclusion

To conclude with, the critics that Kamala Harris received were mostly because she was not showing herself to the audience whilst making decisions, and also because she did not keep her promise concerning several issues that she announced taking care of in the presidential campaigns, but what she and the administration did for the last two years is more than enough to America, she and Joe Biden saved America from other political, economic, and social problems that were about to occur if the Trump administration remained

in control, the decisions and the ideas she came up with since the beginning of her political career helped San Francisco, then California, and then the United States of America remains as the leading power in the entire world. Her accomplishments got neglected by the majority of the American people for the same reason she got mistreated when she was the District Attorney of San Francisco and then the Attorney General of California to be the United States Senator from California, she got and is discriminated and considered a minority because she is a woman and she is not a white person, her color and her gender did not help her gain a reputation amongst the list of the most powerful politicians in America despite having a strong political portfolio, the laws and policies announced by Kamala Harris were necessary for her to reach the highest political post a woman has ever reached in the history of the United States.

Kamala Harris is not the most perfect woman, not everything she have done is helpful, but most of the decisions she made in favor of the United States is helpful and at some point necessary for most people in America, except for her consent and her effort to help the LGBTQ community, which is inappropriate, the racism she was having and the amount of discrimination she endured only made her stronger and sharper, and it surely encouraged and motivated several upcoming female figures in the political field of the United States of America, the historic career of Kamala Harris surely became a beacon to other female figures in the American political structure and without a doubt she became one of the most powerful and influential female figures in the world and if she and Joe Biden announce their candidacy for the 2024 presidential elections, she will show the United States of America more creative and saving ideas for the future of the country despite people believing that she will not in the next presidential elections.

General Conclusion

This dissertation covered the long history of African American women's struggles from the times that the American Civil War occurred to fighting for their path to resisting all forms of racism and discrimination in the Civil Rights Movement so that they can have and acquire the same amount of social and political rights as White people. As well as emphasized the role of women who fought for their liberation and to establish their identities in society, particularly in politics, which is mostly governed, controlled, and operated by the hateful ideologies of the upper class of White people that devalue the ideas and principles of Black people in America. Names such as Diane Nash, Leah Chase, Myrlie Divers, Shirley Chisholm, and Sojourner Truth are a few of the courageous African American women who were mentioned in this dissertation who managed to handle pressure and worked hard to improve conditions for the Black community in the United States of America. Many women in the Civil Rights movement played significant roles, from organizing local civil rights organizations to representing clients in court cases involving school segregation. And by playing these important roles, African Americans were able to gain their freedom from the oppressive environment created by the White people in America. The brave actions motivated the following generations and brought attention to other strong African American women like Condoleezza Rice, Michelle Obama, Oprah Winfrey, and Kamala Harris. Among these women along with other brave women who are not mentioned in this dissertation.

The main focus in this research paper was on the biography of Kamala Harris and how she grew to be a role model for other female characters, the dissertation also added new information about the accomplishments of Kamala Harris after becoming Vice President and how the long journey of women from the Civil Rights Movement period and before created her strong political persona. Moreover, the dissertation also mentioned the effect of electing

Kamala Harris on African-American women from different political parties in the United States and how her popularity positively affected them.

Despite its importance, this study has several limitations and delimitations. One limitation is the concentration on Kamala Harris as a single case study, which can limit the applicability of the findings to other African American women's political experiences. While Vice President Harris's journey offers insightful information, it is vital to understand that every person's experiences are unique. Therefore, more case studies or a larger sample size might improve the validity and thoroughness of the results. Additionally, the analysis focuses primarily on Kamala Harris's journey to assist President Joe Biden in his administration and what she achieved afterward, and the research may not capture the full range of experiences, challenges, and achievements of African American women in politics. Delimitations of this study include the focus on the context of the United States of America, and specifically the Oval Office, thus precluding the study of political leadership at other levels and in other countries. Moreover, the study does not directly address the intersectional experiences of African American women with other marginalized identities, such as sexual orientation or disability. It is important to keep these limitations and delimitations when interpreting the results and suggesting avenues for future research to broaden and deepen the understanding of the journey of African American women to political leadership.

The reason for the focus on Kamala Harris was because she was among the women who experienced prejudice and segregation because of her race and gender, she challenged the toxic environment to become an inspirational figure and turned all the comments surrounding her to a motivation that helped her reach the highest political place African American women has ever reached.

The results of this study showed in the third chapter how Kamala Harris' election affected the representation and empowerment of African American women in political leadership positions, and defended the Vice President against the critics she received by showing what she accomplished and how her accomplishments affected the social and political status of the United States. The chapter also discussed the noteworthy advancements that Kamala Harris achieved since taking on the position of Vice President of the United States and the influence of her ideology on women in significant ways. Numerous women all over the globe have drawn inspiration from her historic election as the first African American and South Asian woman. Harris has fought for racial justice, healthcare access, and gender equality using her platform. She has been a vocal supporter of women's rights, fighting to solve problems including gender-based violence, pay equity, illegal migration, and reproductive rights. Additionally, Harris has been a key advocate for legislation that supports working families, including affordable childcare and paid family leave. Without question, the presence of Kamala Harris in the White House has dismantled glass ceilings and opened the door for future generations of women to strive for the highest positions of political leadership.

But ever since Kamala Harris assumed the office of Vice President, she has been subjected to a significant amount of criticism emerged from diverse sources. One aspect of critique concerns their political stances and policy choices, certain conservative individuals levied accusations against her, saying that she is too progressive, and arguing that her political stance was consistent with far-left policies. The individuals also expressed their concern about support for initiatives such as the reformation of the criminal justice system and the augmentation of the availability of healthcare services. Critics also say that she did not handle the illegal migration issue too well despite the humongous efforts she put in order to try and put an end to the mentioned crisis by making visits to several countries and districts

that no Vice President has ever been to before. Critics also contend that her experience as a prosecutor was not enough for her position and that she needs more experience neglecting her strong political persona, and that she did not fulfill all the things she promised in the presidential campaign. Kamala Harris was hugely criticized because she was not visible enough to the people, claiming that the decisions that came out of the administration had nothing to do with her, but the researchers of this dissertation defended her by demonstrating the most important decisions she made after two years of service, and also by claiming that the attacks she received provided an advantage to the Republican Party in order to promote for the next presidential elections. What Kamala Harris did since becoming Vice President is more than enough for her legacy and the researchers think that she deserves gratitude more than every other member of the Biden-Harris administration and even more than any Vice President in history, and that she became a beacon for the upcoming generations of the African American women who are seeking to reach the Oval Office.

Works Cited

1. Articles

Dittmar, Kelly. "Reaching Higher: Black Women in American Politics 2021." *Center for American Women and Politics*, 2021, cawp.rutgers.edu/node/4675. Accessed 04 May. 2023.

Walker, Nigel. United States of America: 2020 presidential election. *The House of Commons Library*. 19 Jan. 2021. <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefing/cbp-9115/>. Accessed 08 Apr. 2023.

2. Books

Adero, Malaika. *Vice President Kamala Harris: Her Path to the White House*. Union Square & Company, 2021.

Harris, Kamala D. *The Truths We Hold: An American Journey*. Penguin Publishing Group, 2019.

Otfinoski, Steven. *Kamala Harris: Politician*. Infobase Publishing, 2021.

Schwartz, Heather E. *Kamala Harris: Madam Vice President*. Lerner Publications, 2021.

3. Encyclopedias

Britannica, the Editors of Encyclopedia. "March on Washington". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 18 May. 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/event/March-on-Washington>. Accessed 20 May 2023.

Britannica, the Editors of Encyclopedia. "National Association for the Advancement of Colored People". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 23 May. 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/National-Association-for-the-Advancement-of-Colored-People>. Accessed 24 May 2023.

Britannica, the Editors of Encyclopedia. "National Organization for Women". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 28 Apr. 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/National-Organization-for-Women>. Accessed 26 May 2023.

Britannica, the Editors of Encyclopedia. "Women's Suffrage in the United States Key Facts". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 25 Sep. 2020, <https://www.britannica.com/summary/Womens-Suffrage-in-the-United-States-Key-Facts>. Accessed 26 Mar. 2023.

McNamee, Gregory Lewis. "Kamala Harris". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 16 May. 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Kamala-Harris>. Accessed 18 May. 2023.

4. Online News/Magazine Articles

Carbonaro, Giulia. "How Kamala Harris' Approval Ratings Fare as Joe Biden Stands by Her." *Newsweek*, 28 Apr. 2023, www.newsweek.com/kamala-harris-approval-ratings-joe-biden-2024-1797241. Accessed 04 May. 2023.

Dale, Daniel. "Fact Check: Kamala Harris Was Correct on Integration in Berkeley, School District Confirms." *Cable News Network*, 29 June 2019, edition.cnn.com/2019/06/28/politics/fact-check-kamala-harris-busing-in-berkeley/index.html. Accessed 15 Feb. 2023.

De Guzman, Chad. "Vice President Kamala Harris' Visit Puts the Philippines in a Tight Spot With China." *Time*, 22 Nov. 2022, <https://time.com/6236010/kamala-harris-philippines-visit-china/>. Accessed 12 Mar. 2023.

Derek. "9 Women Civil Rights Leaders to Celebrate This Black History Month." *The New Press*, 14 Feb. 2020, <https://thenewpress.com/blog/9-women-civil-rights-leaders-celebrate-this-black-history-month>. Accessed 26 Mar. 2023.

Goldsmith, Annie. "Kamala Harris's Mother, Shyamala Gopalan Harris, Taught Her Daughters Resilience." *Town & Country*, 20 Jan. 2021,

www.townandcountrymag.com/society/politics/a33623104/kamala-harris-mother-shyamala-gopalan-facts/. Accessed 12 Feb. 2023.

Jones, Alexis. "Kamala Harris' Attorney General Record, Explained." *Marie Claire*, 7 Oct. 2020, www.marieclaire.com/politics/a28571249/kamala-harris-attorney-general-controversy/. Accessed 18 Feb. 2023.

Lahut, Jake. "Biden Is Giving Kamala Harris the Thorniest Issue to Oversee as VP: Immigration." *Business Insider*, 25 Mar. 2021, <https://www.businessinsider.in/politics/world/news/biden-is-giving-kamala-harris-the-thorniest-issue-to-oversee-as-vp-immigration/articleshow/81676987.cms>. Accessed 05 Mar. 2023.

Marino, Katherine M. "The International History of the U.S. Suffrage Movement." *Origins*, Mar. 2020, https://origins.osu.edu/article/19th-amendment-suffrage-women-vote?language_content_entity=en. Accessed 22 Mar. 2023.

Mason, Jeff. "Harris Was Briefly First Woman to Be Acting U.S. President as Biden Underwent Colonoscopy." *Reuters*, 19 Nov. 2021, <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/biden-transfer-power-harris-during-colonoscopy-friday-white-house-2021-11-19/>. 11 Mar. 2023.

Merica, Dan, and Kate Sullivan. "Kamala Harris Ends 2020 Presidential Campaign." *Cable News Network*, 3 Dec. 2019, amp.cnn.com/cnn/2019/12/03/politics/kamala-harris-ends-presidential-bid/index.html. Accessed 20 Feb. 2023.

Neumann, Sean. "'New York Post' Deletes Then Edits False Report About Kamala Harris Book Being Given to Migrant Kids." *PEOPLE*, 28 Apr. 2021,

<https://people.com/politics/new-york-post-deletes-then-edits-false-report-about-kamala-harris-book/>. Accessed 05 Mar. 2023.

Nicolaou, Elena. "The Best Books by Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris to Read Ahead of the Inauguration." *Oprah Daily*, 9 Nov. 2020, www.oprahdaily.com/entertainment/a34619011/kamala-harris-book-list/. Accessed 20 Feb. 2023.

Ostermeier, Dr. Eric. "Will a Westerner Finally Land on a Democratic Presidential Ticket in 2020?" *Smart Politics*, 23 Jan. 2019, <https://smartpolitics.lib.umn.edu/2019/01/23/will-a-westerner-finally-land-on-a-democratic-presidential-ticket-in-2020/>. Accessed 24 Feb. 2023.

Reston, Maeve. "'That Little Girl Was Me': Harris' Attack on Joe Biden Steals Spotlight at Democratic Primary Debate." *Cable News Network*, 28 June 2019, amp.cnn.com/cnn/2019/06/27/politics/democratic-primary-debate-night-two-joe-biden-bernie-sanders-kamala-harris/index.html. Accessed 20 Feb. 2023.

Rothkopf, David. "Kamala's Conundrum: She's Doing a Great Job But Her Story's Not Getting Out." *The Daily Beast*, 17 Dec. 2021, <https://www.thedailybeast.com/kamala-harris-conundrum-shes-doing-a-great-job-but-her-story-not-getting-out>. Accessed 09 Mar. 2023.

Segers, Grace. "Senate Passes \$1.9 Trillion Covid Relief Resolution after All-Night 'Vote-a-Rama'," *Columbia Broadcasting Service News*, 5 Feb. 2021, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/covid-relief-package-senate-passes-budget-plan/>. Accessed 03 Mar. 2023.

Solender, Andrew. "Here Are The 'Firsts' Kamala Harris Represents With VP Candidacy." *Forbes*, 12 Aug. 2020,

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/andrewsolender/2020/08/12/here-are-the-firsts-kamala-harris-represents-with-vice-presidential-candidacy/?sh=44fe25303128>. Accessed 26 Feb. 2023.

Ting, Eric. "Kamala Harris Has a Comically Bad Approval Rating, Poll Finds." *SFGATE*, 8 Nov. 2021, <https://www.sfgate.com/national-politics/article/Kamala-Harris-approval-rating-poll-history-Biden-16602512.php>. Accessed 14 Mar. 2023.

Tonelli, Lucia. "Kamala Harris's Father, Donald J. Harris Is an Award-Winning Stanford Professor." *Town & Country*, 20 Jan. 2021, www.townandcountrymag.com/society/politics/a33598837/kamala-harris-father-donald-j-harris-facts/. Accessed 10 Feb. 2023.

Waxman, Olivia B. "Michelle Obama DNC Speech-History of a House Built by Slaves". *Time*, 26 July 2016, www.time.com/4423691/michelle-obama-dnc-speech-history/. Accessed 05 Feb. 2023.

Zeleny, Jeff, et al. "Nation's Reckoning on Race Looms Large Over Final Month of Biden's Running Mate Search." *Cable News Network*, 26 June 2020, <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/06/26/politics/joe-biden-running-mate/index.html>. Accessed 22 Mar. 2023.

"What Was the Protest Group Students for a Democratic Society? Five Questions Answered." *Smithsonian Magazine*, 4 May 2017, www.smithsonianmag.com/history/what-was-protest-group-students-democratic-society-five-questions-answered-180963138/. Accessed 26 Mar. 2023.

5. Newspaper Article

Bice, Allie. "Harris Says She Had Key Role in Biden's Afghanistan Withdrawal Decision."

POLITICO, 25 Apr. 2021, <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/04/25/harris-afghanistan-biden-withdrawal-decision-484581>. Accessed 07 Mar. 2023.

Cohn, Alicia. "Pence Became Ultimate Tie-Breaker in 2017." *The Hill*, 31 Dec. 2017,

<https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/366811-pence-became-ultimate-tie-breaker-in-2017/>. Accessed 04 Mar. 2023.

Harper, Averi. "What Kamala Harris Means to a New Generation of Black Female Leaders."

ABC News, 8 Nov. 2020, abcnews.go.com/Politics/kamala-harris-means-generation-black-female-leaders/story?id=74067238. Accessed 12 May. 2023.

Kopan, Tal. "Kamala Harris Was Shaped by Berkeley and a Mother Who Raised Her to 'Do

Something'." *San Francisco Chronicle*, www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/Kamala-Harris-was-shaped-by-Berkeley-and-a-mother-15485359.php. Accessed 12 Feb. 2023.

McGreal, Chris, et al. "Derek Chauvin Found Guilty of Murder of George Floyd." *The*

Guardian, 21 Apr. 2021, www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/apr/20/derek-chauvin-verdict-guilty-murder-george-floyd. Accessed 23 Feb. 2023.

Morain, Dan. "2 More Brown Associates Get Well-Paid Posts : Government: The Speaker

Appoints His Frequent Companion and a Longtime Friend to State Boards as His Hold on His Own Powerful Position Wanes." *Los Angeles Times*, 29 Nov. 1994, www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1994-11-29-mn-2787-story.html. Accessed 18 Feb. 2023.

Rodriguez, Sabrina. "Harris' Blunt Message in Guatemala: 'Do Not Come' to U.S."

POLITICO, 7 June 2021, <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/06/07/harris-message-in-guatemala-do-not-come-492047>. Accessed 08 Mar. 2023.

Rogers, Katie. "Harris Meets Macron, Signaling a 'New Era' After Sub Snub, Both Say." *The*

New York Times, 10 Nov. 2021,

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/10/world/europe/france-kamala-harris-macron.html>. Accessed 12 Mar. 2023.

Rubin, Jennifer. "Why Kamala Harris's Trip to Asia was so Important." *The Washington*

Post, 31 Aug. 2021, www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/08/31/why-kamala-harriss-trip-asia-was-so-important/. Accessed 10 Mar. 2023.

Singh, Maanvi, et al. "Kamala Harris Breaks Senate Tie to Begin Covid Relief Package

Debate – as It Happened." *The Guardian*, 5 Mar. 2021,

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/live/2021/mar/04/voting-rights-police-reform-george-floyd-for-the-people-joe-biden-covid-coronavirus-live>. Accessed 26 Feb. 2023.

6. Websites

Barnes, Randall. "Kamala Harris's Accomplishments as the 49th Vice President of the United

States." *HBCU Pulse*, 3 Mar. 2023, <https://hbcupulse.com/2023/03/03/kamala-harriss-accomplishments-as-the-49th-vice-president-of-the-united-states/>. Accessed 17 Mar. 2023.

Barragán, James. "In First Trip to U.S.-Mexico Border as Vice President, Kamala Harris

Focuses on Causes of Immigration." *The Texas Tribune*, 25 June 2021,

<https://www.texastribune.org/2021/06/25/kamala-harris-texas-mexico-border-immigration/>. Accessed 09 Mar. 2023.

Cohen, Zach C., et al. "Harris Nears Record for Tie-Breaking Votes as Vice President."

Bloomberg Government, 17 Mar. 2023, <https://about.bgov.com/news/harris-nears-record-for-tie-breaking-votes-as-vice-president/>. Accessed 04 Mar. 2023.

Crute, Sheree. "June Jackson Christmas: The Making of an Activist." *Medium*, 21 Dec. 2016,

<https://medium.com/urban-health-matters/june-jackson-christmas-the-making-of-an-activist-ee55445c01c9>. Accessed 26 Mar. 2023.

Dilley, Nicholas J. "Constitutional Amendments – Amendment 24 – 'Elimination of Poll

Taxes.'" *Ronald Reagan Presidential Library*, www.reaganlibrary.gov/constitutional-amendments-amendment-24-elimination-poll-taxes. Accessed 23 Mar 2023.

Doescher, Tiana Lowe. "The San Francisco Ghosts in Kamala Harris's Past." *Washington*

Examiner, 23 Jan. 2019, www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/the-san-francisco-ghosts-in-kamala-harris-past. Accessed 17 Feb. 2023.

Ehlich, Dorothy M. "The ACLU Remembers Aileen Hernandez." *American Civil Liberties*

Union, 28 Feb. 2017, www.aclu.org/news/womens-rights/aclu-remembers-aileen-hernandez. Accessed 26 Mar. 2023

Hines, Debbie. "The Impact of Vice President Kamala Harris." *Women's Media Center*, 19

Jan. 2023, womensmediacenter.com/news-features/the-impact-of-vice-president-kamala-harris. Accessed 12 May. 2023.

History.com, Editors. "Black History Milestones: Timeline." *History*, 11 May 2023,

www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-milestones. Accessed 20 Mar. 2023.

History.com, Editors. "Civil Rights Movement." *History*, 17 May 2023,

www.history.com/topics/black-history/civil-rights-movement. Accessed 20 Mar. 2023.

- History.com, Editors. "Jim Crow Laws." *History*, 11 Apr. 2023, www.history.com/topics/early-20th-century-us/jim-crow-laws. Accessed 20 Mar. 2023.
- History.com, Editors. "President Donald Trump Impeached." *History*, 17 Feb. 2021, www.history.com/this-day-in-history/president-trump-impeached-house-of-representatives. Accessed 21 Feb. 2023.
- Hornsby-Gutting, Angela. "Willie Brown, Jr. (1934-)". *BlackPast.Org*, 24 Feb. 2008, www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/brown-willie-lewis-jr-1934/. Accessed 17 Feb. 2023.
- Janken, Kenneth R. "The Civil Rights Movement: 1919-1960s." *Freedom's Story*. National Humanities Center. <https://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/tserve/freedom/1917beyond/essays/crm.htm>. Accessed 23 Mar. 2023.
- Kindelan, Katie. "White House Issues Nationwide Call to Action on Maternal Health Crisis." *Good Morning America*, 22 Dec. 2021, <https://www.goodmorningamerica.com/wellness/story/white-house-issues-nationwide-call-action-maternal-health-81604068>. Accessed 13 Mar. 2023.
- Klein, Christopher. "How Selma's 'Bloody Sunday' Became a Turning Point in the Civil Rights Movement." *History*, 18 July 2020, www.history.com/news/selma-bloody-sunday-attack-civil-rights-movement. Accessed 22 Mar. 2023.
- Mann, Lina. "Building the White House." *The White House History Association*, 3 Jan. 2020, www.whitehousehistory.org/building-the-white-house. Accessed 07 Feb. 2023.
- McPherson, James. "A Brief Overview of the American Civil War." *American Battlefield Trust*, 24 Aug. 2021, www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/brief-overview-american-civil-war. Accessed 20 Mar. 2023.

- Mobley, Tianna. "Prominent African-American Women and the White House." *The White House Historical Association*, 27 Jan. 2021, www.whitehousehistory.org/prominent-african-american-women-and-the-white-house. Accessed 07 Feb. 2023.
- Murphy, Nathan, and Andrea Stephenson. "The History of the 24th Amendment." *Study.Com*, 13 Nov. 2021, <https://study.com/learn/lesson/24th-amendment-summary-history-court-cases.html>. Accessed 23 Mar. 2023.
- Nielsen, Euell A. "Donald Jasper Harris (1938-)." *BlackPast.Org*, 14 Sept. 2020, www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/donald-jasper-harris-1938/. Accessed 10 Feb. 2023.
- Pilgrim, David. "What Was Jim Crow?" *Jim Crow Museum*, 2012, <https://jimcrowmuseum.ferris.edu/what.htm>. Accessed 21 Mar. 2023.
- Roberts, Treasure. "'This Is the Year of the Woman:' Historic Number of Black Women Run in Midterms Races." *WKMG*, 31 Oct. 2022, www.clickorlando.com/news/local/2022/11/01/this-is-the-year-of-the-woman-historic-number-of-black-women-run-in-midterms-races/. Accessed 12 May. 2023.
- Rothberg, Emma. "Kamala Harris." *National Women's History Museum*, 2020, www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/kamala-harris. Accessed 07 Feb. 2023.
- Staffelli, Philip. "Diane Nash: A Civil Rights Legend." *Tennessee State Museum*, <https://tnmuseum.org/junior-curators/posts/diane-nash-a-civil-rights-legend?locale=en>. Accessed 27 Mar. 2023.
- Tearle, Oliver. "A Summary and Analysis of Martin Luther King's 'Letter from Birmingham Jail.'" *Interesting Literature*, <https://interestingliterature.com/2023/03/letter-from-birmingham-jail-summary-analysis/>. Accessed 23 Mar. 2023.

- TheFamousPeople.com, Editors. "Maya Harris Biography". *TheFamousPeople.com*,
www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/maya-harris-43718.php. Accessed 13 Feb. 2023.
- The HistoryMakers. "Alicia Garza." *The HistoryMakers*, 2 Apr. 2018.
<https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/alicia-garza>. Accessed 12 May. 2023.
- The HistoryMakers. "Gay McDougall." *The HistoryMakers*, 22 Oct. 2019.
<https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/gay-mcdougall>. Accessed 27 Mar. 2023.
- The HistoryMakers. "Judy Richardson." *The HistoryMakers*, 4 Oct. 2022.
<https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/judy-richardson-41>. Accessed 26 Mar.
2023.
- The HistoryMakers. "Leah 'Dookie' Chase." *The HistoryMakers*, 15 Nov.
2002.[https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/leah-dookie-chase-40#biography-](https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/leah-dookie-chase-40#biography-tab)
[tab](https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/leah-dookie-chase-40#biography-tab). Accessed 26 Mar. 2023.
- The HistoryMakers. "Myrlie Evers-Williams." *The HistoryMakers*, 11 Dec. 2007.
<https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/myrlie-evers-williams>. Accessed 27
Mar. 2023.
- U.S. Embassy Manila. "Vice President Kamala Harris's Trip to the Philippines." *U.S.*
Embassy in the Philippines, 22 Nov. 2022, <https://ph.usembassy.gov/vpharrisinph/>.
Accessed 11 Mar. 2023.
- View, Jenice L. "Brief Outline of the History of SNCC." *Civil Rights Teaching*,
www.civilrightsteaching.org/voting-rights/brief-history-sncc. Accessed 23 Mar. 2023.
- "14th Amendment." *Legal Information Institute*,
www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/amendmentxiv. Accessed 23 Mar. 2023.
- "About." *Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority*, www.aka1908.com/about/. Accessed 15 Feb. 2023.

- “Ayanna Pressley.” *Archives of Women’s Political Communication*,
<https://awpc.cattcenter.iastate.edu/directory/ayanna-pressley/>. Accessed 29 Apr. 2023.
- “Biden VP Pick: Kamala Harris Chosen as Running Mate.” *British Broadcasting Corporation*, 12 Aug. 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-53739323>.
Accessed 24 Feb. 2023.
- “Birth of the Civil Rights Movement, 1941-1954.” *National Parks Service*, 7 Apr. 2016,
www.nps.gov/subjects/civilrights/birth-of-civil-rights.htm. Accessed 22 Mar. 2023.
- “Civil Rights Act (1964).” *National Archives and Records Administration*,
www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/civil-rights-act. Accessed 22 Mar. 2023.
- “Civil Rights Act of 1957.” *African American Civil Rights Movement*, www.african-american-civil-rights.org/civil-rights-act-of-1957/. Accessed 22 Mar. 2023.
- “Civil War Timeline.” *National Parks Service*, 6 Oct. 2022,
www.nps.gov/gett/learn/historyculture/civil-war-timeline.htm. Accessed 21 Mar. 2023.
- “Congress of Racial Equality (CORE).” *The Martin Luther King, Jr., Research and Education Institute*, <https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/encyclopedia/congress-racial-equality-core>. Accessed 24 Mar. 2023.
- “Donald J. Harris: Professional Career.” *Stanford University*,
web.stanford.edu/~dharris/professional_career.html. Accessed 12 Feb. 2023.
- “Fair Housing Act 1968.” *StudySmarter UK*,
www.studysmarter.co.uk/explanations/history/us-history/fair-housing-act-1968/.
Accessed 22 Mar. 2023.
- “Gloria Richardson.” *Maryland Commission for Women*, 2022,
msa.maryland.gov/msa/educ/exhibits/womenshallfame/html/richardson.html.
Accessed 27 Mar. 2023.

“Glynda C. Carr.” *Higher Heights for America PAC*,

www.higherheightsforamericapac.org/who-we-are/glynda-c-carr/. Accessed 29 Apr. 2023.

“How to Pronounce Kamala Harris' Name and What It Means.” *ABC7 San Francisco*, 19 Jan.

2021, www.abc7news.com/pronounce-kamala-name-pronunciation-harris-meaning/7611611/. Accessed 08 Feb. 2023.

“Jim Crow Laws.” *National Parks Service*, 17 Apr. 2018,

www.nps.gov/malu/learn/education/jim_crow_laws.html. Accessed 21 Mar. 2023.

“Jim Crow Laws.” *Public Broadcasting Service*,

www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/freedom-riders-jim-crow-laws/. Accessed 24 Mar. 2023.

“Landmark Legislation: The Fourteenth Amendment.” *Senate.Gov*, United States Senate,

www.senate.gov/about/origins-foundations/senate-and-constitution/14th-amendment.htm. Accessed 23 Mar. 2023.

“Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP).” *The Martin Luther King, Jr., Research*

and Education Institute, <https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/encyclopedia/mississippi-freedom-democratic-party-mfdp>. Accessed 25 Mar. 2023.

“National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).” *African American*

Civil Rights Movement, www.african-american-civil-rights.org/national-association-for-the-advancement-of-colored-people-naacp/. Accessed 24 Mar. 2023.

“President Biden Announces Former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms as Senior

Advisor for Public Engagement.” *The White House*, 15 June 2022,

www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/06/15/president-biden-announces-former-atlanta-mayor-keisha-lance-bottoms-as-senior-advisor-for-public-engagement/. Accessed 26 Apr. 2023.

“Religions - Hinduism: Lakshmi.” *British Broadcasting Corporation*, 24 Aug. 2009,
www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/hinduism/deities/lakshmi.shtml. Accessed 08 Feb.
2023.

“Right to Vote Not Denied by Race.” *National Constitution Center*,
<https://constitutioncenter.org/the-constitution/amendments/amendment-xv>. Accessed
23 Mar. 2023.

"Shirley Chisholm." Edited by Debra Michals, *National Women's History Museum*, 2015.
<https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/shirley-chisholm>.
Accessed 28 Mar. 2023.

“Slavery and the White House.” *The White House History Association*,
[www.whitehousehistory.org/press-room/press-backgrounders/slavery-and-the-white-](http://www.whitehousehistory.org/press-room/press-backgrounders/slavery-and-the-white-house)
[house](http://www.whitehousehistory.org/press-room/press-backgrounders/slavery-and-the-white-house). Accessed 05 Feb. 2023.

“Sojourner Truth.” Edited by Debra Michals, *National Women's History Museum*, 2015,
www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/sojourner-truth. Accessed
28 Mar. 2023.

“Statement by Vice President Kamala Harris on Her Trip to France.” *The White House*, The
United States Government, 8 Nov. 2021, [https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/11/08/statement-by-vice-president-kamala-harris-on-her-trip-to-france/)
[room/statements-releases/2021/11/08/statement-by-vice-president-kamala-harris-on-](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/11/08/statement-by-vice-president-kamala-harris-on-her-trip-to-france/)
[her-trip-to-france/](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/11/08/statement-by-vice-president-kamala-harris-on-her-trip-to-france/). Accessed 12 Mar. 2023.

“Students for a Democratic Society (SDS).” *Public Broadcasting Service*,
www.pbs.org/opb/thesixties/topics/politics/newsmakers_1.html. Accessed 26 Mar.
2023.

"15th Amendment to the United States Constitution.” *National Geographic Society*, 1 Nov.
2022, [https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/15th-amendment-united-](https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/15th-amendment-united-states-constitution/)
[states-constitution/](https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/15th-amendment-united-states-constitution/). Accessed 23 Mar. 2023.

"Votes to Break Ties in the Senate." *Senate.gov*, United States Senate,

<https://www.senate.gov/legislative/TieVotes.htm>. Accessed 03 Mar. 2023.

"Voting Rights Act (1965)." *National Archives and Records Administration*,

www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/voting-rights-act. Accessed 22 Mar. 2023.

"Young Americans for Freedom." *Omeka*,

<https://digilab.libs.uga.edu/exhibits/exhibits/show/civil-rights-digital-history-p/young-americans-for-freedom>. Accessed 26 Mar. 2023.