

# Citizenship and 14th Amendment



**Dec. 15, 1791**

The original 10 Amendments or Bill of Rights were ratified by Congress (became law) on Dec. 15, 1791.



**Feb. 7, 1795**

11th Amendment: Lawsuits against states. The rules about the legal power of the United States say that they cannot be used to take a lawsuit to court if someone from one state wants to sue another state, or if someone from another country wants to sue the United States.



**Jun. 15, 1804**

12th Amendment: Presidential elections. Each state's representatives gather and vote for the Presidency. They cannot vote for both the President and Vice-President from their own state. The votes are counted, and if someone gets the majority of votes for President and the count is more than half, they become the President. If there is no clear winner, the House of Representatives determines who will become President.



**Apr. 12, 1861 -  
May 26, 1865**

Civil War. The conflict between the Northern states (Union) and the Southern states (Confederacy) about issues such as slavery, states' rights, and the preservation of the Union.



**1815 - 1861**

Black Codes. Many states passed black codes which limited the rights of Black people (e.g. jobs, property, and marriage to a person from a different race).



**Dec. 6, 1865**

13th Amendment: Abolition of slavery. Slavery and forced labor are not allowed in the United States, except as a punishment for someone who has been fairly convicted of a crime. Congress has the power to enforce this rule.



**March 1867**

The Reconstruction Act of 1867. This law passed by the U.S. Congress helped to rebuild the Southern states after the Civil War. It divided the South into military districts, required the states to create new constitutions that included voting rights for Black men, and laid the foundation for a more equal and integrated society.



**1867 - ??**

Terror campaign. In response to the Reconstruction Acts, the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) and other white supremacist groups attacked, murdered, and terrorized African Americans. Although they are less active and less visible now, white supremacist groups like the KKK still exist today.

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**Jul. 9, 1868**

14th Amendment: Civil Rights. This amendment gave citizenship to former slaves and set three rules for states: 1) They cannot take away a person's rights; 2) they cannot take away life, freedom, or property without a fair process; and 3) they must treat everyone equally under the law. These rules provided equal protection of laws, including the Bill of Rights, to all U.S. citizens at local, state, and federal levels of government.



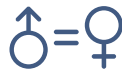
**1870-1965**

Jim Crow Laws. These laws enforced racial segregation in the South and denied black people the same opportunities and quality of life as white people. Many of the laws remained in effect until the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965.



**Feb. 3, 1870**

15th Amendment: Black suffrage. Every citizen in the United States has the right to vote. No one can take that away or make it harder because of their race, color, or past servitude



**Mar. 1, 1875**

Civil Rights Act. This act aimed to end segregation and discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. It played a crucial role in advancing equal rights, desegregating public facilities, and prohibiting employment discrimination



**Oct. 15, 1883**

Civil Rights Cases of 1883. The Supreme Court ruled that the Civil Rights Act was unconstitutional. They argued that the 14th Amendment only prevented states, not individuals, from discriminating against others.

## References

Ferris State University. (n.d.). Jim Crow era. Jim Crow Museum. <https://jimcrowmuseum.ferris.edu/timeline/jimcrow.htm>

Independence Hall Association. (n.d.). Bill of Rights and later amendments to the United States constitution. [ushistory.org. https://www.ushistory.org/documents/amendments.htm](https://www.ushistory.org/documents/amendments.htm)

ChatGPT was used to summarize constitutional amendments and write the descriptions at an 8th grade lexical level.