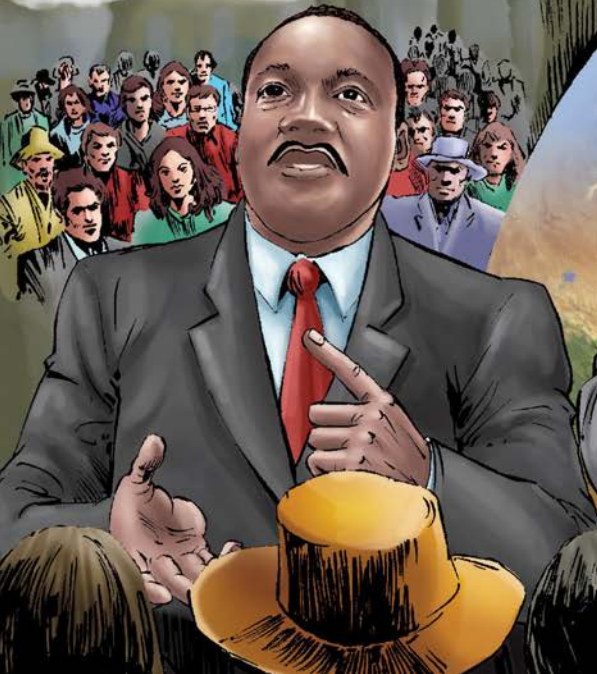
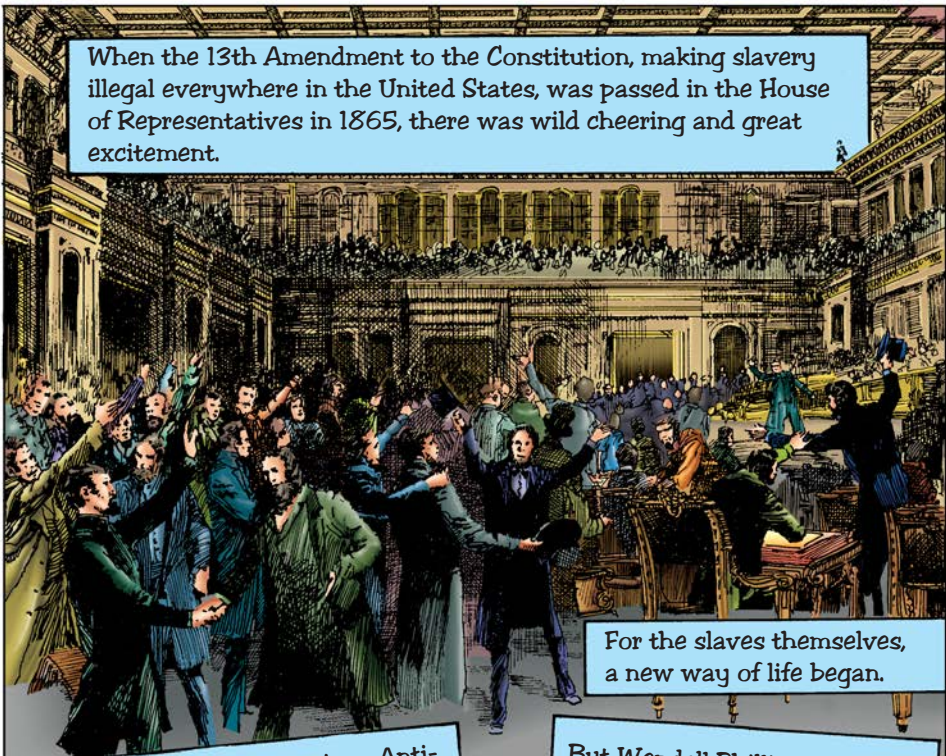




# THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT & VIETNAM

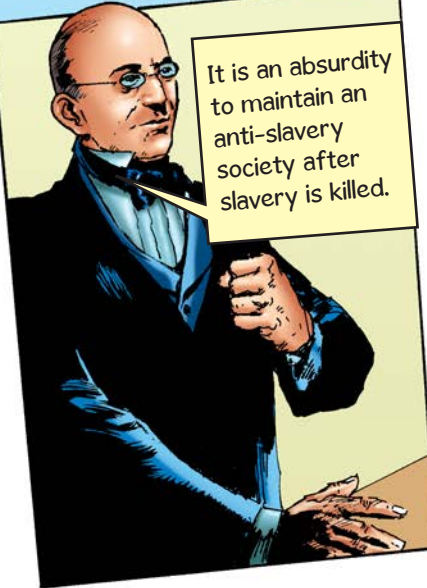




When the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, making slavery illegal everywhere in the United States, was passed in the House of Representatives in 1865, there was wild cheering and great excitement.

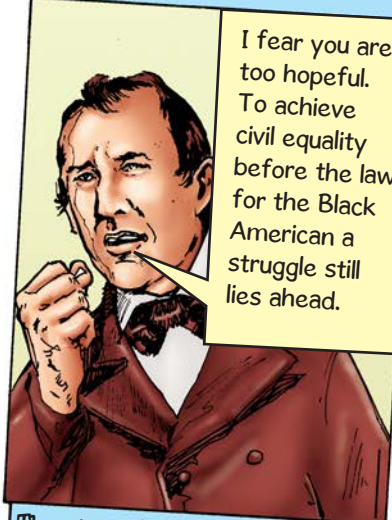
For the slaves themselves, a new way of life began.

At a meeting of the American Anti-Slavery Society in New York, William Lloyd Garrison proposed disbanding.



It is an absurdity to maintain an anti-slavery society after slavery is killed.

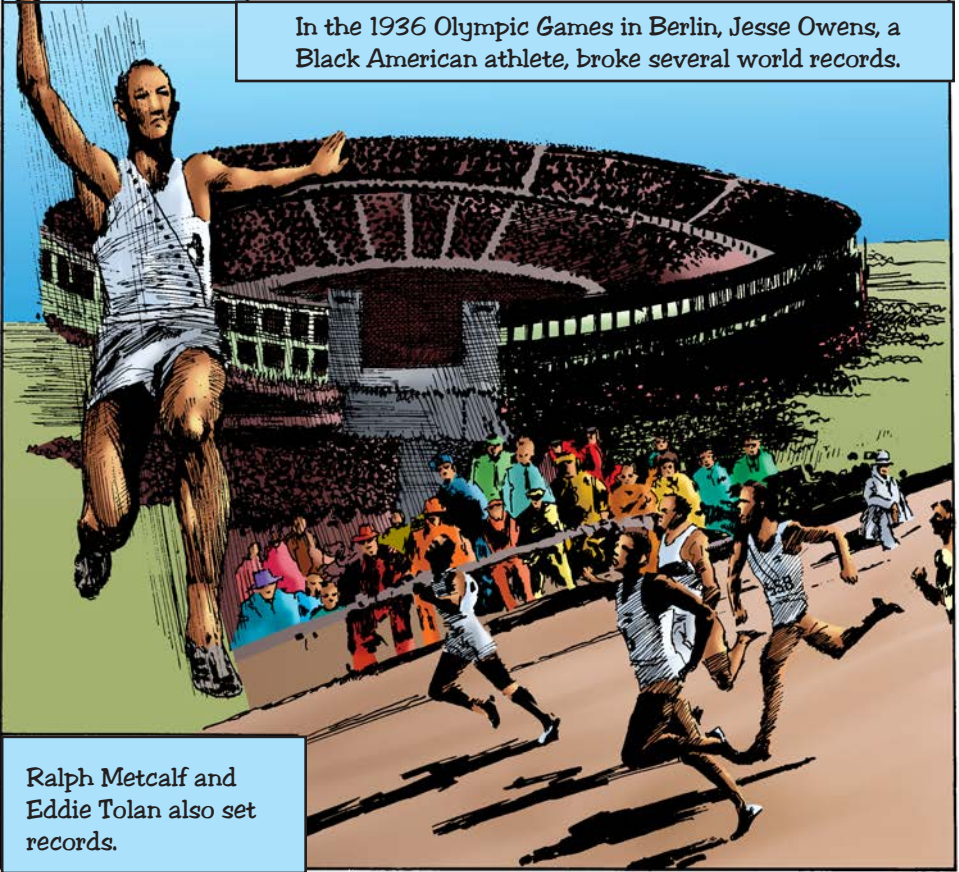
But Wendell Phillips disagreed.



I fear you are too hopeful. To achieve civil equality before the law, for the Black American a struggle still lies ahead.

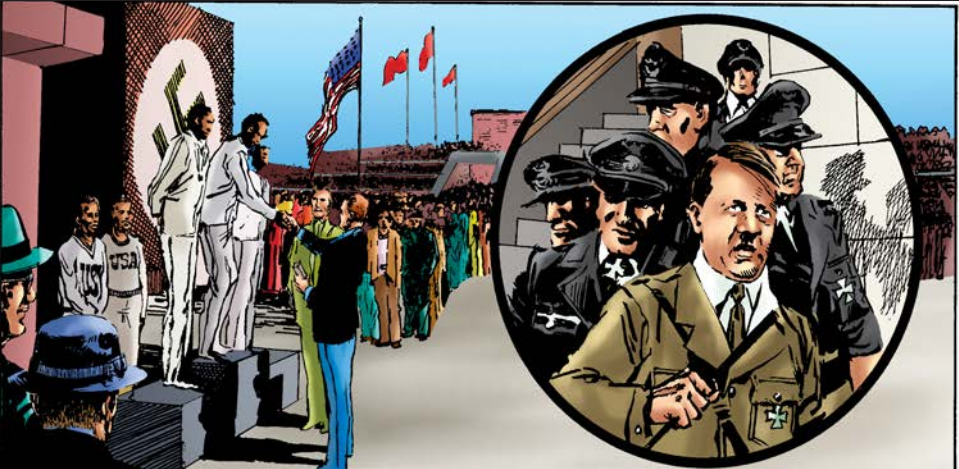
The struggle did continue. Some of the greatest civil rights achievements have taken place since World War II.

In the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, Jesse Owens, a Black American athlete, broke several world records.



Ralph Metcalf and Eddie Tolan also set records.

Adolph Hitler, the most bigoted racist leader of modern times, was furious. He left the stands rather than watch Owens and other African Americans receive their medals.



In World War II, more than a million African Americans fought in the armed forces against Hitler and the Nazis. Gradually, types of service and training were opened to them that had been closed to them in previous wars.



Integration in Army ground troops began in 1945 when volunteer Black infantrymen fought beside white soldiers in Germany.

Eighteen Liberty ships were named for African Americans.

Captain Hugh Mulzac, report to the SS *Booker T. Washington* to take command.



Yes, sir.



In the Merchant Marine, 24,000 African Americans served in mixed crews, some commanded by Black officers.

Under Colonel Benjamin O. Davis Jr., the 332nd Fighter Group, all Black, flew more than 3,000 missions in Europe.



They destroyed 300 enemy planes. Eighty-eight pilots, including Colonel Davis, received the Distinguished Flying Cross.



In 1950 in the Korean War, Black and white soldiers fought together in integrated units, and Davis served as chief of staff of United States forces.



In 1946, President Truman set up the President's Committee on Civil Rights.

The preservation of civil liberties is the duty of every government—state, federal, and local.



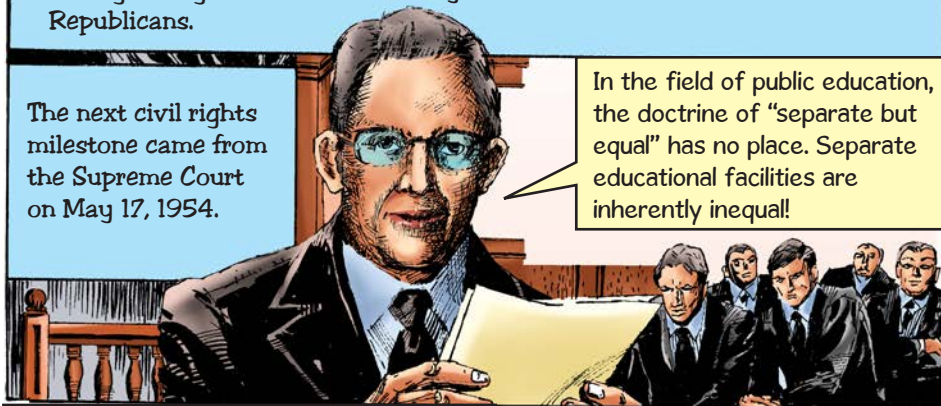
But when state or local governments fail, the obligation falls back onto the federal establishment.



By executive order, Truman ended segregation in the armed forces and federal government. But his effort to push stronger civil rights laws through Congress were defeated by southern Democrats and conservative Republicans.

The next civil rights milestone came from the Supreme Court on May 17, 1954.

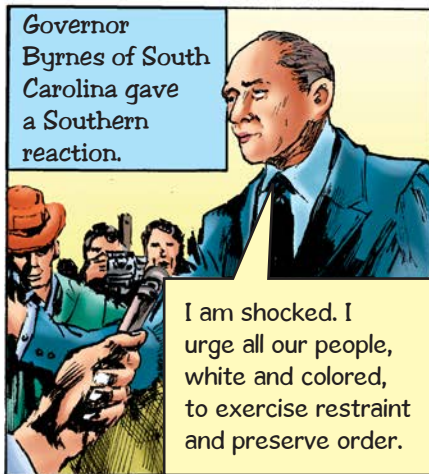
In the field of public education, the doctrine of "separate but equal" has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal!



George Hayes, Thurgood Marshall, and James Nabrit Jr., Black lawyers who led the fight against school integration, congratulated each other.

Governor Byrnes of South Carolina gave a Southern reaction.

I am shocked. I urge all our people, white and colored, to exercise restraint and preserve order.



In 1956, campaigning for reelection, President Eisenhower made a speech at the Miami Airport.

Equality must be achieved finally in the hearts of men rather than in legislative halls.



Between 1954 and 1956, several hundred school districts throughout the country abandoned racially segregated classes.

On September 3, 1957, a court-approved desegregation plan was to go into effect in Little Rock, Arkansas.

But the night before, Governor Faubus made a surprise television address.

The NAACP doesn't like this plan—the admission of only a few Black children to one senior high school.



It's not enough of course, but at least it's a beginning.

It will not be possible to restore or to maintain order if forcible integration is carried out tomorrow.

I am therefore posting National Guardsmen outside Central High, to act not as segregationists or integrationists, but as soldiers.



A message came from the school board.



The school board will appeal to the federal judge that Governor Faubus has not used the troops to preserve law and order.

The next morning the federal judge handed down a ruling.

I will take the governor's word that the troops are neutral. I order the desegregation plan into effect forthwith!



On September 4, nine Black children tried to exercise their legal right to go to Central High. The National Guard was there. So was a mob.

They're coming! Here they come!



Fifteen-year-old Elizabeth Ann Eckford walked quietly up to a school door.



A National Guardsman barred her way.

Go on home!





Alone, Elizabeth Ann walked back past the jeering, threatening crowd to the bus stop.



She's scared. She's just a little girl!

What are you doing, you loner?



By the next day, the FBI had agents at Little Rock investigating the situation. Governor Faubus spoke again.

I have wired the president to stop the unwarranted interference of federal agents!



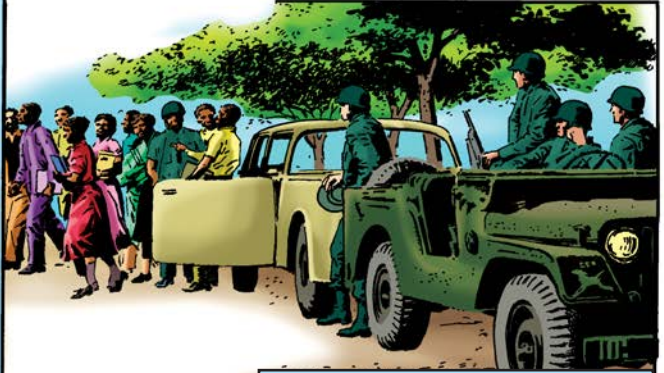
That's telling 'em governor!

President Eisenhower made public his reply.



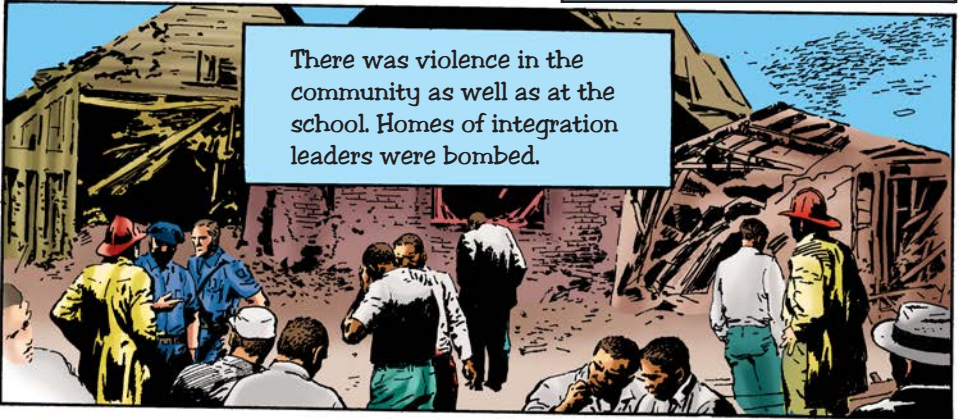
The only assurance I can give Governor Faubus is that the Federal Constitution will be upheld by me by every legal means at my command.

The violence and disorder continued. Finally, Eisenhower ordered 1,000 paratroopers to Little Rock and placed 10,000 members of the Arkansas National Guard on federal service to put down the mob. For the first time since Reconstruction, federal troops were sent into the South to protect African Americans.



On September 25, the nine African-American students joined the 2,000 white students at Central High.

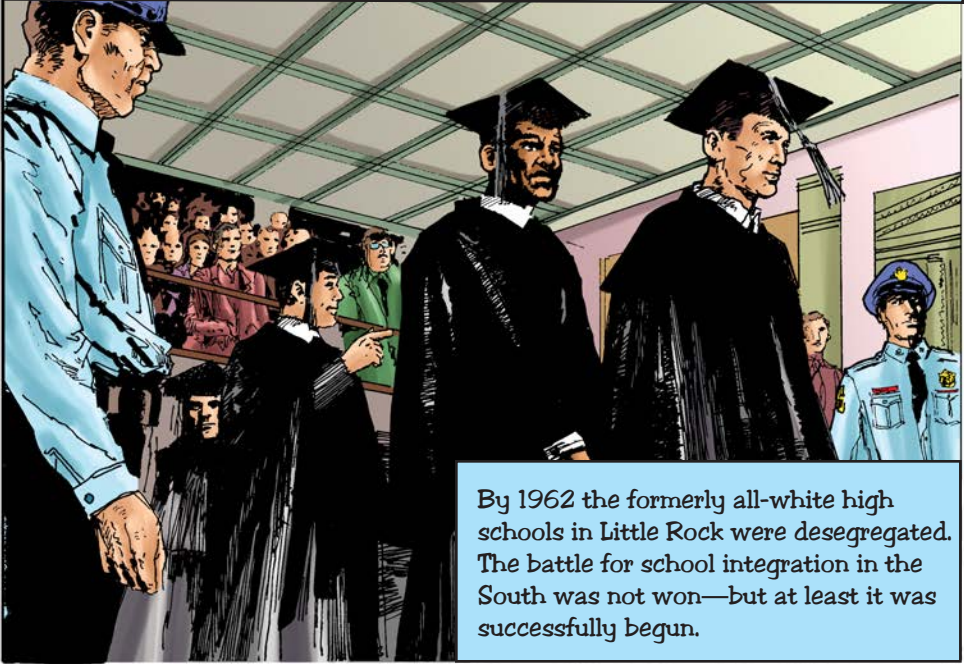
There was violence in the community as well as at the school. Homes of integration leaders were bombed.



Crosses were burned on their lawns.



Anti-integrationists kept violence alive in Little Rock for three years. But at last, Ernest Green became the first Black graduate of an integrated Central High School.



By 1962 the formerly all-white high schools in Little Rock were desegregated. The battle for school integration in the South was not won—but at least it was successfully begun.



The Civil War began in 1861, almost 100 years before the beginning of school integration. The 14th and 15th Amendments, passed at the end of the war, were virtually ineffective until the Civil Rights Movement.

There, on an evening in 1955, Mrs. Rosa Parks got on a bus tired from work.



In 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, the Civil Rights Movement began only a few miles from what was the Confederacy's capital for the first few months of the Civil War.





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