

## Liebe Lehrerinnen und Lehrer,

in diesem **Themenheft** werden wichtige Persönlichkeiten aus Politik und Gesellschaft vorgestellt, wie z. B. Barack Obama und Ketanji Brown Jackson. Weiterhin werden die *Jim Crow Laws* als Grundlage für systematischen Rassismus und Chancenungleichheit gegenüber Afroamerikaner:innen erläutert. Die Bedeutung der *Jim Crow Laws* für das reale Leben von Afroamerikaner:innen in den USA wird an einem konkreten historischen Beispiel aufgezeigt. Den Abschluss des Heftes bildet eine Einheit über Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Ein besonderes Plus dieses Heftes ist die Materialvielfalt: Sachtexte, Videos, Podcasts, Cartoons, Infografiken, Online-Übungen und Trainingseinheiten inkl. Lösungen festigen das Verständnis und bereiten u. a. auf den Mittleren Schulabschluss (MSA) im Fach Englisch vor.

Anhand von Text 2 wird die Fertigkeit Hören trainiert. Die Audiodateien (mp3 Files) finden Sie als Download auf unserer Homepage unter: <https://www.sprachzeitungen.de/extra-audios-englisch>  
Die interaktiven Übungen finden Sie unter: <https://sprachen-online-lernen.sprachzeitungen.de/h5p/>

Viel Erfolg und einen interessanten sowie abwechslungsreichen Unterricht wünscht



## Ihre Englisch-Redaktion

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# Obama – What He Meant Then and Now

BY SAMUEL CHESNEY

**1** IN THE LEAD-UP to the 2004 election cycle, a young senator from Illinois was asked if he would ever plan on running for president. I remember hoping he would say “yes” because I had never seen a politician so well-spoken and comfortable in front of the camera. However, he answered in the negative. I was just a young teenager at the time. However, I asked my father who this man was because I planned to keep an eye out for him in the future. He told me that the man I was watching was Senator Barack Obama. Little did I know that I would be seeing a lot more of him in the years to come.

**2** Three years later, in 2007, Obama announced that he would run for president of the United States. I knew this was a big moment. Although he was not the first African American to run for president or to be considered as a possible candidate of a party, something felt different. There was momentum and a desire for change. After the Bush Presidency and errant wars in multiple countries, we needed something new.

**3** Barack Obama was a candidate who could rally different constituencies. He sent a clear signal to minority voters, young and old, that they would be heard. His first election in 2008 was an ecstatic time. Voters had not only the chance to change the future but also the opportunity to make history by electing the first African American president of the United States. The infatuation that Obama’s voters felt for him was also reflected in the enormous crowd in Chicago that celebrated his election victory in November 2008. This momentous occasion was also so close to home as friends traveled with their families to Washington DC the following January to witness the inauguration of the first Black president of the United States of America.

**4** His election as president was a historical moment, given the fraught history of the country regarding race and discrimination. It was also a reemergence of the United States on the world stage. A new, fresh face unlike typical winners of elections in Western society would now represent the US at international meetings and forums. The bitter taste of the years of war and mismanagement that preceded Obama’s presidency would hopefully be redeemed by real change and good faith dialogue. People at home were optimistic that the country could finally move beyond its troubled past.

**5** The first challenges for Obama’s presidency were the



**Barack Obama.** | PHOTO: Getty Images

2008 recession as well as the Occupy Movement, which was the first large political movement of my generation. Though these issues stemmed from problems inherited from the previous presidency, they were a test for young people as to whether or not they would be heard. The difficult years following the Great Recession had already caused Obama’s popularity to slump by the time he was due for re-election. He was having trouble convincing young people to have hope with promises that things would soon get better.

**6** In other arenas, however, he was exactly what many were hoping for. One of his first executive actions was a breath of fresh air, no pun intended – Obama recognized climate change as a real threat to humanity and to the future of young people as well as generations to come. The Affordable Care Act (ACA), which was passed in 2010, was a step in the right direction that many Americans needed, especially young Americans trying to make a future for themselves after the recession. Although the law left a lot wanting, many young people employed by small businesses saw it as a positive change.

**7** Obama also had a rough time with other domestic issues throughout his presidency. He had to plead for gun control measures in the wake of the Sandy Hook Shooting and was not able to capitalize on the Black Lives Matter movement after the numerous murders of unarmed Black men and women at the hands of law enforcement. One unfulfilled

**0-3** IN THE lead-up to im Vorfeld — **election cycle** Wahlen — **to run for the executive office** für das Präsidentenamt kandidieren — **momentum** Dynamik — **errant** fehlgeleitet — **to rally** mobilisieren — **constituency** Wählergruppe — **infatuation** Vernarrtheit — **momentous** bedeutsam — **to be close to home** (fig) von persönlicher Bedeutung sein — **inauguration** Amtseinführung

**4-5** **fraught** problematisch — **reemergence** Rückkehr — **to precede s.th.** etw. vorangehen — **tenure** Amtszeit — **to redeem** wiedergutmachen — **to stem from s.th.** auf etw. zurückzuführen sein — **as to whether or not ...** ob ... oder nicht — **to slump** stark sinken

**6** **arena** Bereich — **no pun intended** kein Wortspiel beabsichtigt — **executive action** Amtshandlung — **ACA** US-Bundesge-


setz, das den Zugang zur Krankenversicherung regelt — **to leave a lot wanting** (fig) viel zu wünschen übrig lassen

**7** **domestic** innenpolitisch — **to plead for s.th.** inständig um etw. bitten — **in the wake of** nach — **to capitalize on s.th.** h.: aus etw. politischen Nutzen ziehen — **at the hands of** durch — **law enforcement** Polizei — **operational** in Betrieb —



2 **Online** Read the text “Obama – What He Meant Then and Now.” Then decide if the statements about the text are true (T), false (F), or not in the text (N). Mark your answers.

Statements	T	F	N
a) Before running for president, Barack Obama served as US Senator.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) During the Bush Presidency, tens of thousands of US soldiers died.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) Barack Obama started work as US president in November 2008.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d) For many Americans, President Obama represented a hope for change.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e) The Occupy Movement was mainly active on the east coast of the USA.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f) During his presidency, Obama’s Climate Action Plan was often updated.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g) Obama couldn’t tackle the economic recession successfully.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h) The Affordable Care Act was his greatest achievement.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i) Republicans refused to work together with President Obama.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3  What information does the text provide on the following prompts? Take short notes, and compare them with a partner.

a) ACA (*five details*)

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b) War in Iraq (*two details*)

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4 Find information online about two of the prompts below, which are only mentioned in the text but not explained.

a) Guantánamo Bay prison

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# Ketanji Brown Jackson Becomes First Black Woman to Sit on US Supreme Court

Jackson's appointment shows the US has moved one step closer towards equality, but the battle to get there has been intense.

BY JOHN BILSTEIN

**1** ON APRIL 7, 2022, the US Senate confirmed Ketanji Brown Jackson's appointment to the Supreme Court by 53 to 47 votes. Jackson is the first Black woman to rise to this position. She replaces her mentor Justice Stephen Breyer, who retired. Just as Breyer was, Jackson is seen as one of the more liberal judges on the panel. Therefore, some Republicans gave her a hard time during the confirmation hearings.

**2** Supreme Court justices are appointed for life. One of their duties is to uphold the Fourteenth Amendment to the US Constitution (1866). That amendment promises all citizens equality before the law. However, the court itself has been slow to achieve equality.

**3** "It has taken 232 years and 115 appointments for a Black woman to be selected to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States, but we've made it – all of us," said Ketanji Brown Jackson at a ceremony at the White House the day after her appointment. "We've taken another step toward making our highest court reflect the diversity of America," President Joe Biden later wrote on Twitter.

**4** Jackson was President Biden's personal choice for the role as Supreme Court justice – and with good reason. She is one of the US's most experienced legal professionals. Because she is only 52 years old, she is also young enough to remain in office for many years. Her role as a Black woman and a mother will give the court a better image regarding racial equality and gender balance.

**5** With over 500 rulings and because of her legal expertise, Jackson was supported by many top human rights groups as well as the National Fraternal Order of Police. Even with support, the selection process for a Supreme Court justice is tough. Candidates must face several rounds of questioning that test their character and resilience.

**6** In Jackson's case, political infighting and elements of racism were apparent at these hearings: several Republicans started asking unreasonable questions to prevent her



**Ketanji Brown Jackson.** | PHOTO: Picture Alliance

from becoming a Supreme Court justice. They accused her of being too soft on child sex offenders and crime in general.

**7** They were wrong. According to US legal experts and independent fact checkers, almost all of Ketanji Brown Jackson's decisions and judgments have been within the norm.

**8** Republicans have called her an "activist judge" who is biased towards the Black community as well as women and minorities. However, Jackson actually wants "equal justice under the law," which is written above the main entrance of the US Supreme Court. Her whole career has been about turning this ideal into a reality.

**9** Jackson has big shoes to fill. The last prominent Supreme Court justice of color was the charismatic civil rights lawyer Thurgood Marshall. Marshall is best known for winning the "Brown v. Board of Education" case (1954), which ended segregated education in the US.

**10** But Jackson has the skills and the family background to make her own mark on history. Her parents, Johnny and Ellery Brown, were both teachers and school board administrators. Jackson eventually made it into Harvard Law School. While at Harvard, she became one of the editors on the Harvard Law Review.

**0-3** SUPREME COURT Oberster Gerichtshof der USA — **appointment** Ernennung; s.w.u. **to appoint (for life)** (auf Lebenszeit) ernennen — **intense** hart — **justice** Richter(in); s.w.u. Gerechtigkeit — **judge** Richter(in) — **panel** Gremium — **confirmation hearing** Anhörung von Kandidaten(-innen) für den Supreme Court — **to uphold** wahren — **amendment** Zusatzartikel — **equality** Gleichheit

**4-7** legal professional Jurist(in); s.w.u.

**legal** Rechts- — **gender balance** ausgewogenes Geschlechterverhältnis — **ruling**; s.w.u. **judgment** Urteil — **National Fraternal Order of Police** US-Berufsverband der Polizisten(-innen) — **selection process** Auswahlverfahren — **tough** hart — **resilience** Belastbarkeit — **political infighting** politische Machtkämpfe — **child sex offender** Straftäter(in), der/die Kindesmissbrauch begangen hat

**8-9** **biased** voreingenommen — **minority**

Minderheit — **civil rights lawyer** Bürgerrechtsanwalt(-anwältin) — **v. = versus** gegen — **board of education** Schulbehörde — **segregated education** Trennung von Schwarzen und Weißen im Bildungswesen

**10-11** **to make one's mark on s.th. (fig)** etw. prägen — **school board administrator** Schulverwaltungsbeamter(-in) — **eventually** schließlich — **law school** juristische Fakultät — **editor** Herausgeber(in) — **review** Zeitschrift —

4 Would you like to live in a monarchy? Why or why not?

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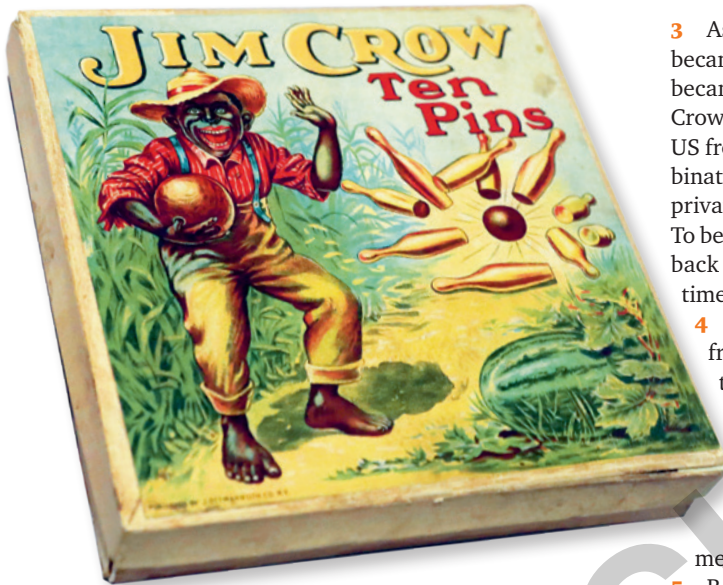
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5 Listen to the first part of the text (paras. 1–5). The transcript contains ten mistakes. Underline each wrong word in the text, and write your corrections on the lines to the right. Listen twice.

1 On April 7, 2022, the US Senate confirmed Ketanji Brown \_\_\_\_\_  
 2 Jackson’s appointment to the Supreme Court by 53 to 47 votes. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 Jackson is the first Black woman to race to this position. She \_\_\_\_\_  
 4 replaces her mentor Justice Stephen Breyer, who retired. Just as \_\_\_\_\_  
 5 Breyer was, Jackson is seen as one of the more liberal judges on \_\_\_\_\_  
 6 the panel. Therefore, some Republicans gave her a hard time \_\_\_\_\_  
 7 during the confirmation hearings. \_\_\_\_\_  
 8 Supreme Court justices are appointed for life. One of their \_\_\_\_\_  
 9 duties is to unfold the Fourteenth Amendment to the US \_\_\_\_\_  
 10 Constitution (1866). That amendment promises all citizens \_\_\_\_\_  
 11 equality before the law. However, the court itself has been slow \_\_\_\_\_  
 12 to achieve equality. \_\_\_\_\_  
 13 “It has taken 232 years and 150 appointments for a Black \_\_\_\_\_  
 14 woman to be selected to serve on the Supreme Court of the \_\_\_\_\_  
 15 United States, but we’ve made it – all of us,” said Ketanji Brown \_\_\_\_\_  
 16 Jackson at a ceremony at the White House the day after her \_\_\_\_\_  
 17 appointment. “We’ve taken another stab toward making our \_\_\_\_\_  
 18 highest court reflect the diversity of America,” President \_\_\_\_\_  
 19 Joe Biden later wrote on Twitter. \_\_\_\_\_  
 20 Jackson was President Biden’s personal choice for the soul \_\_\_\_\_  
 21 as Supreme Court justice – and with good reason. She is one of \_\_\_\_\_  
 22 the US’s most experienced legal professionals. Because she is \_\_\_\_\_  
 23 only 52 years old, she is also young enough to restrain in office \_\_\_\_\_  
 24 for many years. Her role as a Black woman and a mother will \_\_\_\_\_  
 25 give the court a better image regarding racial equality and \_\_\_\_\_  
 26 gentle balance. \_\_\_\_\_  
 27 With over 500 rulings and because of her legal expertise, \_\_\_\_\_  
 28 Jackson was supported by many top human sites groups as well \_\_\_\_\_  
 29 as the National Fraternal Order of Police. Even with support, \_\_\_\_\_  
 30 the selection process for a Supreme Court justice is rough. \_\_\_\_\_  
 31 Candidates must face several rounds of questioning that test \_\_\_\_\_  
 32 their character and resilience.



# Jim Crow Laws: The Basis of Systemic Racism in the United States



A Jim Crow board game ca. 1890–1920.

| PHOTO: Picture Alliance

BY SAMUEL CHESNEY

**1** IF YOU have ever seen old photos or films set in the United States in the 1960s or earlier, then you have probably seen signs that don't look like they belong in today's world. These signs labeled "colored" and "white" placed above doors and drinking fountains were used to keep Black and white Americans separate. They were introduced as part of a group of laws commonly called Jim Crow laws.

**2** The name "Jim Crow" came from a Black character in minstrel theater. In medieval times, minstrels were traveling musicians and singers. Minstrel theater, however, was a strange, unique, and extremely racist form of entertainment that developed in America. In a minstrel show, white actors would wear blackface to play Black people. The Black characters in the shows were depicted as lazy, unintelligent, and childlike. Minstrel shows were the place where whites could see all their stereotypes about Blacks being played out on the stage. Even worse, minstrel theater had become a form of national entertainment by the 1850s. It faded away over the next fifty years, and by 1900, minstrel shows were no longer very popular. Jim Crow the character, however, lived on in American popular culture.

**3** As Jim Crow the character sang and danced on stage, he became well known to Americans. Eventually, "Jim Crow" became a racist synonym for Black people. The term "Jim Crow laws" then became the label for anti-Black laws in the US from the late 1800s until the 1960s. These laws, in combination with racist social codes, structured the public and private lives of Black people for the better part of a century. To better understand how this happened, one needs to look back at the Reconstruction era, which was the period of time after the Civil War.

**4** After the Civil War ended, slaves in the country were freed, became citizens, and had new rights to protect their freedom. These rights were guaranteed by the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments, known as the Reconstruction Amendments. Although these amendments apply to all Americans, they were especially important for the former slaves – the amendments abolished slavery, recognized former slaves as citizens, and gave them the right to vote.

**5** Because of the Civil War, there was also a lot of destruction throughout the South. With the war over, it was time to rebuild. But the federal government didn't just have to rebuild cities – they had to rebuild society based on the new rights given to all freed people. This period of US history is called "Reconstruction." However, this Northern occupation of Southern states and the new rights given to the former slaves didn't sit well with some people in the South. As soon as they could, the South made a deal to end Reconstruction and get the Northern army out of the South once and for all. This left the nearly four million freed population largely on their own to defend their rights against new racist state governments.

**6** Following the end of Reconstruction, the federal government abandoned the progress it had made for the now free Black populations of the Southern states. Local, diverse governments that were democratically elected were sometimes violently overthrown, and the new white governments enforced a new form of social control. These are the laws that we today call Jim Crow laws.

**7** These laws came into effect around 1877 and remained in effect until the 1960s. They were not, however, limited to the Southern states of the former Confederacy. Northern states also passed similar measures to control their Black populations. Jim Crow laws, passed by legislatures and upheld by courts, were a form of social control used to justify racial segregation and were a form of structural racism in the United States legal code.

**0-5** TO LABEL beschriften — commonly gemeinhin — minstrel theater Form des Theaters, bei dem Weiße stereotypisierte Schwarze darstellten — medieval times Mittelalter — to depict darstellen — stereo-




type Vorurteil — to fade away allmählich verschwinden — social codes Gesellschaftsnormen — destruction Zerstörung — occupation Besetzung — to sit well with s.o. jdm. gefallen

**6-10** to abandon aufgeben — to enforce durchsetzen — to justify rechtfertigen — segregation Trennung von Schwarzen und Weißen —





## Cartoon Analysis

- 8  Study the cartoon, and describe what you can see to a partner.
- a)  In class, split up into two groups.
- b) With your group, outline the negative effects of the Jim Crow laws as portrayed in the cartoon, and then discuss your results with the other group. 



| CARTOON: Meet the new Jim Crow, same as the old Jim Crow by Dave Whamond. Canada. PoliticalCartoons.com.  
<https://www.cagle.com/tag/racial/page/3/>. March 26, 2021.

### Useful Phrases for a Cartoon Analysis

The cartoon clearly shows ... / introduces the viewer to ...

In the middle / foreground / background there is / are ...

The cartoon is dominated by ...

The cartoonist / artist wants to show / explain ...

In my opinion, the cartoon is effective / not effective because ...

Perhaps the major intention is to show ...

# The Long and Winding Road to Race Equality in America

BY MICHAEL OWENS

**1** THE THIRTEENTH Amendment handed Blacks their freedom in 1865, and the Fourteenth Amendment gave Black men voting rights in 1870. However, many whites in power in the South refused to allow Blacks to vote.

**2** Mose Norman, a Black businessman and landowner who had and drove a car, was determined to vote in the presidential election of 1920 in the small town of Ocoee, about ten kilometers west of Orlando, Florida.

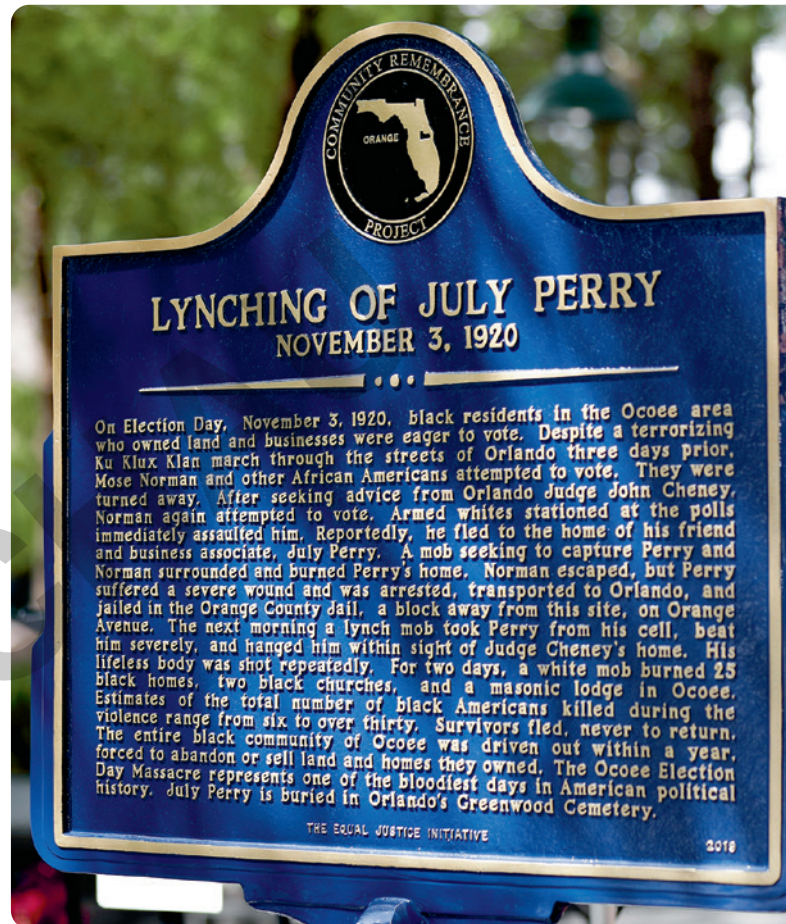
**3** A few minutes after voting began on November 2, Norman drove to the town center and tried to vote but was told he could not because he had not paid his poll tax. A poll tax was one of the methods that whites all across the American South used to keep Blacks from voting.

**4** Norman had paid his poll tax for himself and for many other Blacks in Ocoee who were too poor to pay but wanted to vote. And yet, he was turned away from the polling station. Other Blacks who tried to vote “mysteriously” could not find their name on the voting lists that the white poll workers showed them. They were also refused entry. After a short while, most of the disappointed Black voters gave up and went back home.

**5** Not Norman. He wanted to vote. He drove to the Orange County Courthouse in Orlando and met with Judge John Moses Cheney. Cheney signed a paper for Norman and other eligible Blacks who should be able to vote. Norman gathered up the Blacks in Ocoee and tried to vote again. Klansmen from the KKK, along with the Ocoee sheriff and other whites, formed a line and would not let the African Americans pass. The African Americans chanted “We will vote, by God!”

**6** Violence erupted, and then the Blacks were forced back to their homes. The whites surrounded them and began to burn the houses, churches, and businesses of the Black community. In the end, at least 30–35 Blacks were killed (some sources believe it was closer to 100), including pregnant women and small children. There were numerous stories about unimaginable brutality on some of the victims. Those fortunate to survive were all chased out of Ocoee, and no Blacks lived in Ocoee for the next 60 years.

**7** The Ocoee massacre was the largest violent political event in American history, but it is by no means the only barbaric act. In June of 1921, in Oklahoma, the Tulsa race massacre left at least 36 dead (perhaps up to four times higher). In addition, Tulsa’s Greenwood quarter, which was nicknamed “The Black Wall Street,” was where most Black businesses were located, and it was burned by torches thrown by whites. In 1919, as many as 26 different race riots took place across America, and that summer became known as the Red Summer. That Red Summer in Chicago, race riots killed more than 35 people and demonstrated to the world that America’s racial riots and discrimination were not limited to the South.



**A historical marker** to commemorate July Perry, who was killed by a lynch mob during the Ocoee massacre.

| PHOTO: Picture Alliance

**0-4** WINDING gewunden; h.: schwierig — race equality Gleichheit von Schwarzen und Weißen (r. Ethnie) — amendment Zusatzartikel zur US-Verfassung — determined entschlossen — poll tax Wahlsteuer — to turn s.o. away jdn. abweisen — polling station Wahllokal — poll worker Wahlhelfer(in)

**5-6** eligible wahlberechtigt — to gather up versammeln — Klansmen from the KKK Mitglieder des Ku-Klux-Klans — to chant skandieren — to erupt ausbrechen — to force drängen; s.w.u. zwingen — source Quelle — victim Opfer — those fortunate ... diejenigen, die das Glück hatten, ... — to chase s.o. out of ... jdn. aus ... verjagen

**7-8** by no means keineswegs — Tulsa race massacre Massaker von Tulsa — quarter Stadtviertel — to be nicknamed ... den Spitznamen ... tragen — race riot; s.w.u. racial riot gewaltsame Konflikte zwischen Schwarzen und Weißen (riot Unruhen) —



- 1 Watch the first five minutes of a documentary on the Ku Klux Klan (KKK), and decide if the following statements are true (T) or false (F). Make sure that you read the statements before watching the documentary.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyGZISG134Q](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyGZISG134Q)



Statements	T	F
a) The members of the KKK wore recognizable clothing.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) The KKK members called themselves “Knights of the Klan.”	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) The 1915 film Birth of a Nation portrayed African American men as violent and dangerous people.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d) The civil rights movement in the 1950s finally stopped the KKK.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e) In the 1970s, the KKK focused more on violent action than before.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- 2 Watch the documentary a second time, and use the following keywords to write a short summary of the documentary.

KKK • flaming cross • white patriots • present-day situation • CNN • Internet

Do not write more than six complete sentences.

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- 3 **Online** Read paragraphs 1 through 10 in detail, and decide if the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

Statements	T	F
a) Mose Norman did not have the legal right to vote.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) More than 30 African Americans were killed.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) There are no longer African Americans living in Ocoee.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d) Violence was the only strategy white people could think of to use against Blacks.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e) The Jim Crow laws supported African Americans to vote.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>