

I.G.13

The Other Side of Modernity

Discrimination in the USA – Von „Separate but equal“ zu „Black lives matter“

Nach einer Idee von Ekkehard Sprenger



Der Tod von George Floyd im Mai 2020 hat deutlich gemacht, wie sehr die USA noch mit Rassismus zu kämpfen haben. Seit den 1960er Jahren kommt es immer wieder zu Unruhen, die meistens mit harter Polizeigewalt beendet werden. In dieser kurzen Einheit blicken Ihre Lernenden auf die wichtigsten Stationen eines amerikanischen Problems, das historische Wurzeln hat und bis heute nicht gelöst ist.

KOMPETENZ

Klassenstufe: 9–11

Dauer: 2 Stunden

Kompetenz: 1. Leseverstehen; 2. interkulturelle Kompetenz erweitern

Thematische Bereiche: Geschichte der USA

Medien: Texte, Farbseiten, Bilder

Auf einen Blick

1/2. Stunde

Thema: Spot on: "Black lives matter"

M 1 What happened in Ferguson?

M 2 Black lives matter

3./4. Stunde

Thema: "The Civil Rights Movement" – the black fight for equal treatment

M 3 The black fight for equal treatment

M 4 The Civil Rights Movement

5./6. Stunde

Thema: No lesson learned from history?

M 5 "Separate but equal" – Is there still segregation today?

M 1

What happened in Ferguson?

The USA's society still has to deal with prejudice¹ and racism towards African Americans because of the country's history of slavery and segregation². Find out which event caused a new discussion about racism.

Tasks

1. Read the text and note down aspects you find especially tragic or worrying.
2. Discuss the aspects you chose with a partner.

The shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri

On 9 August, 2014 Michael Brown, an unarmed³ African American teenager, was shot at least six times by Darren Wilson, a white police officer, after stealing cigars at a supermarket. Brown died from the injuries. Before the shooting, Brown and Wilson had a violent conflict at Wilson's car. Eyewitnesses don't agree on how exactly the shooting happened. Nevertheless, many people argued that Wilson would not have shot if Brown had been white instead of black.

A nationwide debate about the police's treatment of African Americans started. When on 24 November a grand jury⁴ decided not to indict⁵ Officer Wilson, riots and demonstrations broke out in Ferguson and in many other cities in the USA. News teams showed images from the streets which included looting⁶, cars set on fire and people in riot gear⁷ firing gunshots and using tear gas. Though there were also many peaceful protesters demonstrating in Ferguson's streets, Governor Jay Nixon declared a state of emergency⁸.

Although the United States has the greatest⁹ laws to protect civil rights⁹, some Americans say that the nation has not yet completely succeeded.



Peaceful protest in New York City on December 6, 2014: Demonstrators are lying on the floor of Grand Central Terminal to protest the death of Michael Brown.

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¹ **prejudice:** das Vorurteil

² **segregation:** die Rassentrennung

³ **unarmed:** unbewaffnet

⁴ **grand jury:** part of the legal system in some states of the US: a group of citizens decides if a case should be given a trial in court

⁵ **to indict so.:** jmdn. anklagen

⁶ **to loot:** plündern

⁷ **riot gear:** die Schutzausrüstung

⁸ **to declare a state of emergency:** den Notstand erklären

⁹ **civil rights:** die Bürgerrechte

The black fight for equal treatment

M 3

Civil rights leader Dr Martin Luther King Jr. said in his famous speech about ending racism in 1963, "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed¹: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident²; that all men are created equal ...'"

Task

1. Describe and interpret the sculpture.



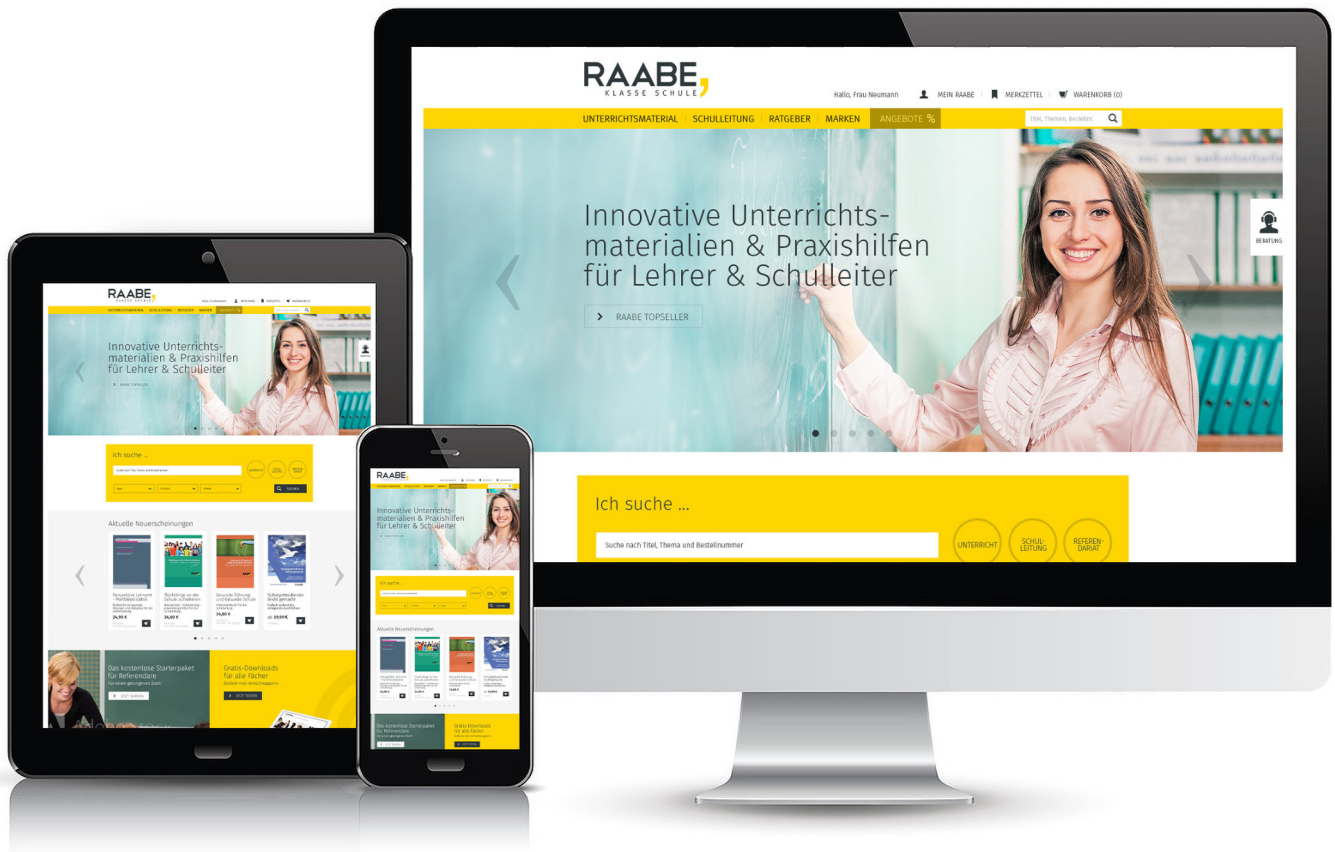
The photo shows the Civil Rights Memorial in Richmond, Virginia.

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¹ **creed:** der Glaube

² **self-evident:** selbstverständlich

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