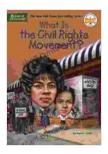
# What Is the Civil Rights Movement? What Was It?





## What Is the Civil Rights Movement? (What Was?)

by Sherri L. Smith

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The Civil Rights Movement was a period of social activism and protest that aimed to end racial discrimination and segregation in the United States. It began in the 1950s and lasted until the 1960s, and was led by African Americans who were fighting for their civil rights.

The Civil Rights Movement was a complex and multifaceted phenomenon, with a wide range of goals and strategies. Some of the key goals of the movement included:

- Ending racial segregation in public places, such as schools, restaurants, and transportation
- Passing laws that would protect the civil rights of African Americans
- Increasing the political participation of African Americans

The Civil Rights Movement used a variety of strategies to achieve its goals, including:

- Nonviolent protests, such as sit-ins, marches, and boycotts
- Lobbying and legal challenges
- Voter registration drives

The Civil Rights Movement was a major turning point in American history. It led to the passage of landmark civil rights legislation, such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which outlawed racial discrimination and segregation. The movement also helped to raise awareness of the issue of racial inequality and to build a sense of community among African Americans.

The Civil Rights Movement is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon, with a wide range of goals and strategies. Its legacy is still being debated today, but there is no doubt that it was a major turning point in American history.

#### Key Figures in the Civil Rights Movement

There were many key figures in the Civil Rights Movement, including:

- Martin Luther King Jr., who led the Montgomery bus boycott and was a major advocate for nonviolent protest
- Rosa Parks, who refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man, sparking the Montgomery bus boycott
- Malcolm X, who advocated for black nationalism and self-defense
- John Lewis, who was a leader of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)
- Roy Wilkins, who was the executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

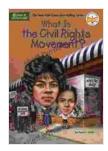
These are just a few of the many key figures who played a role in the Civil Rights Movement. Their work helped to bring about major changes in American society and to make the United States a more just and equitable place.

## The Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement

The Civil Rights Movement had a profound impact on American society. It led to the passage of landmark civil rights legislation, such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which outlawed racial discrimination and segregation. The movement also helped to raise awareness of the issue of racial inequality and to build a sense of community among African Americans.

The legacy of the Civil Rights Movement is still being debated today. Some argue that the movement achieved its goals and that racial equality has been achieved in the United States. Others argue that the movement did not go far enough and that racial inequality is still a major problem in American society.

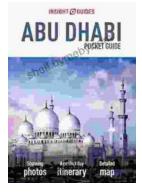
Regardless of one's views on the legacy of the Civil Rights Movement, there is no doubt that it was a major turning point in American history. The movement helped to make the United States a more just and equitable place, and its legacy will continue to be debated for years to come.



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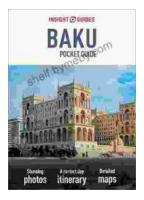
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