

“Our American heritage is threatened as much by our own indifference as it is by the most unscrupulous office or by the most powerful



foreign threat. The future of this republic is in the hands of the American voter.”

**Dwight D. Eisenhower**, President, U.S. Army General, quote from an address he gave as President of Columbia University for the 18th Annual New York Herald Tribune Forum, October 24, 1949

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Almost from the passage of the 15th Amendment, various discriminatory practices were used to prevent African Americans, particularly those in the South, from exercising their right to vote. During his re-election campaign, Eisenhower proposed a civil rights bill designed to provide federal protection for African American voting rights.

Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1957 which established the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division. The act had little impact on African American voting.

Eisenhower’s quote cautions us not to take our rights and privileges of voting for granted.

Look through the news, in print or online, for articles about the voting process, rights and privileges granted to people in other countries. Select one and compare and contrast it with the United States.

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