The Segregated African Americans
The Relationship Between American Movies and Segregation Policy

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In 19th century, the American Civil War caused the emancipation of American slaves. By the Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments to the U.S. Constitution, some of the basic civil rights were secured. However, there was a struggle of putting these rights under the protection of federal level, states continued their segregation policies in practice. In Southern states, African Americans were segregated and struggled with various kinds of oppression, especially race-inspired violence. This segregation policy had gained a legal framework by Jim Crow Laws that seperated African Americans and White Americans from all parts of daily life, such as theaters, schools, restaurants, parks, sports, transportation and so on. By the second half of the 1950s, civil rights protests increased. These civil rights movements included boycotts, sit-ins and marches. The Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955–56) in Alabama, the Greensboro sit-ins (1960) in North Carolina, the March on Washington (1963) and the Selma to Montgomery Marches (1965) in Alabama were the examples of these protests. The aim of these social movements was to make racial segregation against African Americans unworkable. As a result, in 1964, Civil Rights Act was accepted which intended to end discrimination based on race, colour, religion, or national origin. Moreover, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Civil Rights Act of 1968 were also the other remarkable legislative developments. Although some legal regulations put into practice for ensuring positive discrimination through African Americans, the segregation can still be seen in some part of America. In order to emphazize with African Americans, some American movies began to discuss segregation issues. The aim of this paper is to examine whether the movies are used as a political instrument that emphasized the African Americans’ problems. And also it will be analyzed the possibility to understand the feelings of African Americans for White Americans, via these movies.

Key Words: Segregation Policy, Civil Rights Movements, Civil Rights Act, Jim Crow Laws, African Americans, American Movies.
The racial segregation in America can be defined as the endeavors of white Americans to keep African Americans in a subordinate status. It is stated that by denying the African American people’s equal access to public facilities and also ensuring that blacks lived apart from whites. (Lawson, p. 1)

Segregation can be seen in various forms. According to a Supreme Court decision in 1857, the U.S. citizenship was not given to the African Americans. Via this decision, black people had been excluded by whites from seats on public transportation and barred their entry to most of the hotels and restaurants. The only way of entrance was being a servant. If blacks could enter into auditoriums or theaters, they would have separate sections. This situation was the same in schools and churches also. (Lawson, p. 1)

The South employed a large force of black slave labor. This was an economic advantage, but it gave them a political advantage too. They were overrepresented in Congress and national party conventions since three-fifths of their black slaves were counted of southern congressmen. So that, the Southern white population had much greater power than equal white population in the free-labor states. (Nichols 1950, p. 156-157) In a social and economic perspective, the slave labor was the basic source of all problems in the South. To remove the black man from competition with white labor did not directly affect the economy. The most important effect was to give to slaveholders the monopoly and control of the most desirable kinds of labor, and to enable them to degrade and impoverish the white laboring man. (Turner 1929, p. 478-479) Amistad (Amistad, 1997) is based on a true story done in the movies showing about how African American were brought to American continent in order to be used as a slave.

The film begins in the depths of the schooner La Amistad, a ship carrying Africans captured from Sierra Leone and sold in Cuba into slavery. Cinqué freed a number of his companions. Cinqué initiates a rebellion on the ship. Most of the ship's crew are killed, except the owners Ruiz and Montez, who the Africans believe can navigate for them to return to West Africa. After six weeks, La Amistad is found by a United States military vessel; the Spaniards tricked the Africans by sailing up the Atlantic coast. The Africans are imprisoned in New Haven, Connecticut while awaiting the court trial to determine property ownership of the vessel and the Mende as slaves, or whether the people will be recognized as free. At this time, Great Britain, the United States had prohibited the international slave trade. The Spanish owners claimed the slaves were born on a Cuban plantation and thus legal as domestic slaves. The USA's leading abolitionists the freed slave Theodore Joadson and activist Lewis Tappan, seek former president John Quincy Adams' help for the court case. Adams refuses to help, claiming he neither condemns nor condones slavery. The current President of the United States, Martin Van Buren, is under pressure by the Spanish Queen Isabella II, who is demanding compensation for the ship and the market value of the slaves.

At a preliminary hearing in a federal district court in New Haven, the Africans are charged with "insurrection on the high seas." The case has complicated conflicting claims of property ownership by Spain, the United States, the Spanish owners of the slaves and of La Amistad, and the American captain and first mate of the US revenue cutter that took the ship into custody, as laws of the sea entitled them to salvage rights to the property. The two abolitionists enlist the help of a young attorney specializing in property law: Roger Sherman Baldwin.

Adams advises to Baldwin and Joadson that in court, the side with the best story usually wins. He asks them what their story is. Unable to answer, they realize it's imperative to communicate with the Africans. At the city docks, they find a black sailor in the Royal Navy, James Covey, who speaks an African language. They have also been trying to teach English to Cinqué and others.

Baldwin and his companions are able to talk to Cinqué with James Covey's help. Cinqué tells the story of how he became a slave. He was a farmer and family man, kidnapped by African slave-hunters and taken to the fortress of Lomboko, an illegal slave facility in Sierra Leone. He and hundreds of other captured Africans were loaded onto the transatlantic slave-ship (Tecora). Upon their arrival in Cuba, Cinqué was sold at a slave market and purchased by the owners of La Amistad.
The District Attorney William S. Holabird and Secretary of State John Forsyth dismiss Cinqué's story as fiction. While exploring the impounded vessel La Amistad for evidence, Baldwin finds a notebook, which gives accounts of their illegal slave-trading. In a district court ruling, Judge Coglin dismisses all claims of ownership of the Africans. He rules that the Africans were captured illegally and not born on Cuban plantations; orders the arrest of the Amistad's owners on charges of slave-trading; and authorizes the United States to convey the Amistad Africans back to Africa at the expense of the nation. Cinqué, Joadson, Baldwin, and the Africans celebrate their victory. In Washington, senator John C. Calhoun from South Carolina attacks President Van Buren; stressing the economic importance of slaves in the South, Calhoun suggests that, if the government frees the Amistad Africans, the South will go to war. President Van Buren orders that the case be submitted to the US Supreme Court on appeal. The Court is dominated by Southern slaveholder justices. Baldwin and Joadson meet again with John Quincy Adams to ask his help. Adams decides to assist the case. During preparations, Cinqué tells Adams that he is invoking the spirits of his ancestors. Adams' father, President John Adams, was one of America's founding fathers. At the Supreme Court, John Quincy Adams argues that the Africans' mutiny to regain their freedom was no different to the Americans' rebellion against their oppressors in the Revolution. Arguing that condemning the Amistad Africans to slavery would render the principles and ideals of the Constitution worthless. Adams invokes the spirits of America's founding fathers and the Declaration of Independence.

The Supreme Court's ruling: since the Amistad Africans were illegally kidnapped. As free men, the Africans had the right to fight to escape their illegal confinement. The Supreme Court authorizes the release of the Africans and their transportation to Africa, if they so wish. The film's last scenes convey British Royal Marines assault the Lomboko Slave Fortress, killing the slavers and freeing Africans from its dungeons. Martin Van Buren losing his re-election campaign, Cinqué and his fellow Africans return to Sierra Leone but the country was in civil war and his wife and child missing, likely sold into slavery.

Like pointed at Amistad there was a quarrel between the North and the South which was about slavery. The broke up of the Union began in 1860-1861. The one was detesting slavery, and the other one was glorifying it, that was reason why the division caused to the Civil War. (Geyl 1951, p. 147) The population of the South was divided into four social classes: the planters, the small farmers, the poor whites, and the Negroes. (Duroselle1962, p. 22) The South was the place that African Americans were mostly resided, generally in rural areas. Blacks and whites lived in close proximity on farms. However, the free people of color lived in cities and towns of the North areas of America. (Lawson, p. 1) The role of black people began to change during the Civil War. There were approximately four million slaves and all of them wanted a radical transformation of American race policies. The desire was not only a simple abolition but also a political and civil equality via a constitutional change. (Foner 1987, p. 863-864)

The struggle of blacks during the Civil War, accelerated the administration progress of Lincoln toward emancipation. (Foner 1987, p. 864) Lincoln was a strong advocate of colonization of black people on the differences between the races would prevent grounds them from living together on terms of political and social equality. (Endy 1975, p.237) President Lincoln used emancipation as a military weapon to subdue his enemies and that was not a proclamation of human liberty. (Brauer 1977, p. 463) In 1863, the former rights of slaves as free men and women, was the massive enrollment of blacks in military service. It can be said that during the war, 180,000 blacks had served in the army. The movie, Glory was made to demonstrate contribution of African Americans to North’s victory. In the movie, After fighting in the Battle of Antietam Robert Gould Shaw is promoted to Colonel and given command of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry; the first all-black regiment. At the military camp, the company is forced to endure the unyielding and strict discipline. Shaw ensures that the troops are trained effectively and properly equipped despite institutional racism, thus earning the respect of his men. The 54th is deployed to Georgia and is assigned mostly menial work. Shaw confronts his commanding officers Charles Garrison Harker and James M. Montgomery, accusing them of war profiteering and corruption and threatening to
report them if the 54th infantry is not deployed for combat. Shaw's request is granted and the regiment participates in a skirmish in South Carolina where they successfully repel a Confederate attack. Soon after, Shaw volunteers to lead an assault on Fort Wagner. As his troops march into battle, the supporting white brigades, who had been skeptical of black soldiers. Though the 54th succeeds in breaching the fort, the attack is repulsed and many die in the fighting. But news of the regiment's courage spurred the recruitment of more than 180,000 African American volunteers, a fact which President Lincoln considered instrumental in the Union's victory. This showed the new status of black men in America. They played a crucial role not only in winning the Civil War but also in defining the consequences of the war. It was the first time in American history that large numbers of blacks were treated as equals before the law. (Foner 1987, p. 864)

Reconstruction after the Civil War in the South where most African Americans continued to live, posed serious challenges to white supremacy and segregation. The most important part of these challenges were the amendments. (Lawson, p. 1) In American history, the body of laws adopted in 1787, called the American Constitution, does not mention about civil rights. The first ten Amendments to the Constitution called the Bill of Rights, was adopted in 1789 with the Declaration of Independence. The Bill of Rights protected the individual against government or federal usurpation of power. Thus it began, the black’s great loss and detriment, the theory of rights of states so frequently imbedded in the laws and judicial decisions. (Alexander 1945, p. 119) However, the blacks were not considered as a separate class or any minority. After the War of Independence, there can be seen the twenty years of heated sectional disputes between the North and the South on abolition and slavery, ending with the Civil War, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the three important War Amendments (the 13th, 14th and 15th) to the Federal Constitution. (Alexander 1945, p. 120) In 1865, The 13th Amendment was passed and abolished slavery.

Lincoln (Lincoln, 2012) recounts President Abraham Lincoln's efforts, during January 1865, to obtain passage for the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution in the United States House of Representatives, which would formally abolish slavery in the country. Expecting the Civil War to end within a month but concerned that his 1863 Emancipation Proclamation may be discarded by the courts once the war has concluded and the 13th Amendment defeated by the returning slave states, Lincoln feels it is imperative to pass the amendment by the end of January. The Radical Republicans fear the amendment will merely be defeated by Republicans in the border states is not yet assured either, since they prioritize the issue of ending the war.

Lincoln's hopes for passage of the amendment rely upon the support of the Republican Party founder Francis Preston Blair, the only one whose influence can ensure that all members of the western and border state conservative Republican faction will back the amendment. Blair insists that Lincoln allow him to immediately engage the Confederate government in peace negotiations. Lincoln reluctantly authorizes Blair's mission.

Even if all of them are ultimately brought on board, the amendment will still require the support of several Democratic congressmen if it is to pass. With dozens of Democrats having just become lame ducks after losing their re-election campaigns in the fall of 1864. In the meantime, Lincoln and Secretary of State William Seward work on the issue of securing the necessary Democratic votes for the amendment. Lincoln suggests that they concentrate on the lame duck Democrats. Since those members also will soon be in need of employment and Lincoln will have many federal jobs to fill as he begins his second term, he sees this as a tool he can use to his advantage. He authorizes agents to quietly go about contacting Democratic congressmen with offers of federal jobs in exchange for their voting in favor of the amendment.

With Confederate envoys ready to meet with Lincoln, he instructs them to be kept out of Washington, as the amendment approaches a vote on the House floor. A rumor circulates that there are Confederate representatives in Washington ready to discuss peace, prompting both Democrats and conservative Republicans to advocate postponing the vote on the amendment. Lincoln explicitly denies that such envoys are in or will be in the city and the vote proceeds, narrowly passing by a margin of two votes.
In 1868, the Fourteenth Amendment extended citizenship and equal protection of the law to African Americans. (James 1956, p. 477) “To all citizens of the United States, in every State, the same political rights and privileges; and to all persons in every State equal protection in the enjoyment of life, liberty, and property.” The basic framework of the Fourteenth Amendment was laid with these two proposals. (Heiny 2007, p. 193) Finally in 1870, racial discrimination in voting was barred by the Fifteenth Amendment which threatened to overturn the barriers whites had erected to keep blacks separate and unequal. (Lawson, p. 1) By the Fifteenth Amendment, It was forbidden to make a discrimination among voters related with race or color. However, the blacks could not have a right to vote, it can be seen that the Fifteenth Amendment outlawed the use of race as a test for voting. (Swinney 1962, p.203-204)

The practice for blacks that means using railroad coaches or compartments separate from those for whites, commonly referred to as "Jim Crow" legislation. (Folmsbee 1949, p. 235) Although it was said that there was admission to public accommodations, racial segregation has been still continued. This custom symbolized with Jim Crow Laws. The earliest public use of "Jim Crow" appeared as a name of a character in an 1832 minstrel show, where whites performed in black face. In 1841, the term of Jim Crow was used in Massachusetts to apply to a rail-road car set apart for the use of blacks. The phrase, then, have considered only as an opprobious comparison of the color of the blacks with that of the crow. (Smythe 1949, p. 45) The possibilities of blacks sharing public conveyances and public accommodations with whites increased after 1865. Blacks gained access to streetcars and railroads on an integrated basis, because of the many transportation companies’ fear of losing black business. (Lawson, p. 2)

The Civil Rights Act of 1875 (that barred racial discrimination in public accommodations) and the Supreme Court rulings in the Civil Rights Cases (especially in Plessy v. Ferguson) were important episodes of Jim Crow Laws in the nineteenth century. (Sandoval-Strausz 2005, p. 53) White southerners tried to reduce further African American citizenship rights and enforce Jim Crow, in order to maintain solidarity and remove possible political threats. The Supreme Court’s 1883 ruling in the Civil Rights Cases spurred states to enact segregation laws. From 1887 to 1892, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Maryland, North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia did not accept equal access to African Americans on public accommodations and transportation. (Lawson, p. 2) Public accommodations, such as hotels, trains, restaurants, steamboats, theaters, buses, and motels were located at the center of political and legal struggles for racial equality. (Sandoval-Strausz 2005, p. 53) For example, blacks were forced to sit in the back of the bus, on separate cars in trains, and in the balcony at theaters. With these laws, segregation became a rigid legal system that caused separation of races from cradle to grave, no longer tolerated any flexibility in the racial interactions which had previously existed. (Lawson, p. 2)

In contrast with the South, in the early 1890s, Indiana, Nebraska, Ohio, Michigan, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and New York accepted laws that prohibited racial discrimination in public facilities. Rather than through de jure segregation, most northern whites and blacks lived in separate neighborhoods and attended separate schools largely through de facto segregation. Even though the Supreme Court inscribed the doctrine of “separate but equal” into law, in practice this did not really happen. Local and state authorities never funded black education equally nor did African Americans have equal access to public accommodations. After the 1890s, most of the southern blacks lost their right to vote through measures such as poll taxes, literacy tests, and the white primary. For the next fifty years racial segregation continued. (Lawson, p. 3)

In 1912, Woodrow Wilson won the elections and became the president. According to him, slavery was a part of the civilization process. Wilson and his Cabinet saw segregation as a rational scientific policy. (O'Reilly 1997, p. 117-118) While white America had fought to make the world safe for democracy, it was not about to let blacks participate in that democracy. This kind of realization was a confirmation that racial injustice was endemic to American society, that made blacks more militant in their demands for equality. As one black leader told Wilson in 1919: “I fear, Mr. President, before the negroes of this country again will submit to many of the injustices which we
have suffered in this country, the white man will have to kill more of them than the combined number of soldiers that were slain in the great world war.” (Lundberg 1984, p. 381) Woodrow Wilson had close ties to the South, and through his presidency, the federal government imposed racial segregation in government offices in Washington, D.C. This policy could not be reversed until the Franklin D. Roosevelt’s administration in the 1930s. (Lawson, p. 3)

Blacks were treated better in World War II than in World War I, but even so the armed forces were still segregated, and few blacks were given command positions. However, there was an irony about the war, the United States was fighting against Nazi racial policies but still continued to consider a tenth of its citizens racially inferior. (Lundberg 1984, p. 386) Thus, after the World War II, The bedrock of Jim Crow began to crack. The war had exposed the horrors of Nazi racism. Black nations in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia struggled to end the colonial rule. In 1948, Harry S. Truman became the President and issued an executive order desegregating the armed forces. In 1954, the Supreme Court justices in Brown v. the Board of Education reversed Plessy and decided that legally sanctioned racial segregation was inherently unequal and a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment. Nevertheless, the Brown ruling signaled only a first step, and it took another decade and a mass movement for civil rights for African Americans to tear down the racist edifices of segregation in the South. (Lawson, p. 3)

The American civil rights movement was as old as the introduction of human slavery in the New World. From the beginning, the most important conflict of the civil rights movement was inherent in the contradiction between the economic and status advantages associated with slavery and racial oppression. The cultural differences of African slaves and their color of skin intensified this conflict that demanded resolution. (Clark 1966, p. 239)

The civil rights movements were organized and sustained activities that directed toward the attainment of specific racial goals or elimination of certain racial problems. This kind of definition would suggest that the civil rights movement was related with civil rights organizations. (Clark 1966, p. 241)

The first civil rights movement began with the Brown v. Board of Education decision (1954) proceeds through public protests, and culminates with the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. (Hall 2005, p. 1234) The Montgomery bus boycott in Alabama, was seen as the beginning of modern style civil rights movement in December, 1955. Rosa Parks’ refusal of giving her seat to a white passanger and going to the back of the bus, became the symbol of collective resistance. (Letort 2012, p. 31) This event was made in a movie named as a Rosa Parks Story. (The Rosa Parks Story, 2002) At the movie On December 1, 1955, after a long day at work, Rosa Parks took a seat in the designated "colored" section of a Montgomery city bus. When the "white" section at the front fills up, the white driver orders Parks to relinquish her seat, as was the practice. She refused to quit her seat to a white man. Thus, she was arrested and jailed. Civil rights activists organized a one-day bus boycott the day of her trial. Due to its success, they founded the Montgomery Improvement Association, and began a citywide bus boycott, led by a new local minister, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The boycott lasted 381 days many making sacrifices of time and energy to walk to work and other destinations. The boycott really hurt the business. Eventually a ruling by the United States Supreme Court in the case declared bus segregation unconstitutional. The boycott was important for mobilizing people in the civil rights movement both in the South and nationally. The boycott did not change the situation suddenly, even a year after, the buses have continued to be segregated. In 1956, the United States Supreme Court has taken a decision to stop the city enforcing segregation on the buses. As a result of this decision, Martin Kuther King Jr. was the first person who rode in front of the bus. This attracted the public attention to the civil rights movement. (Glennon 1991, p. 60) The Montgomery bus boycott and the others showed that by acting collectively, the African-Americans can be succeed to stop segregation. Because of its significance, it became the symbol of nonviolent resistance to oppression. (Glennon 1991, p. 59)

Martin Luther King Jr. who became a civil rights leader, invoked religious and legal symbols to inspire the collective defiance In the first speech at the Holt Street Baptist Church on the evening of December 5, 1955, he said that “We are not wrong, if we are wrong, the Supreme Court of this
nation is wrong. If we are wrong, the Constitution of the United States is wrong. If we are wrong, God Almighty is wrong.” (Kennedy 1989, p. 1000) King believed that the racial issue in America is not a sectional but a national problem. (Hall 2005, p. 1234)

In the summer of 1963, there was an extraordinary example of mass interest group pressure. It can be said that approximately 200,000 people participated in a March on Washington in order to protest against the discrimination. (Lytle 1966, p. 275) The most important part of the March was a speech by Martin Luther King Jr. who expressed his ideas and feelings with the speech that was called “I have a dream”. It was the speech about a dream of a colorless society which delivered on the occasion of accepting the Nobel Peace Prize. (Rathbun 1968, p. 53)

In order to show American Society how was difficult African Americans’ life circumstances and how segregation policy hurts to American Society movies made about this theme. Segregation policy besides causing some problems in the USA at the same time, was damaging American image which represents supremacy of democracy, liberalism, multilateralism. Three movies will be discussed in this article about this era.

First of them is Mississippi Burning (Mississipi Burning, 1988) is based on the real-life murders of three civil rights workers in Jessup County, Mississipi in 1964. After the three are reported missing, two FBI agents are sent to investigate the incident. The two agents take completely different approaches: Agent Alan Ward, a young liberal northerner, takes a direct approach to the investigation; Agent Rupert Anderson, a former Mississippi sheriff who understands the intricacies of race relations in the South, takes a more subtle tack.

It is very hard for the two to work in the town, as the local sheriff's office is linked to a major branch of the Ku Klux Klan, and the agents cannot talk to the local black community, due to their fear of Klan retaliation. Slowly but steadily, relations between the FBI and the local Jessup County sheriff's office deteriorate, as do relations between Ward and Anderson. Things boil over when the bodies are found and the deputy sheriff, Clinton Pell, realizes that his wife gave their locations to Anderson, and he assaults her. The two agree that they will work together and bring down the Jessup County branch of the Ku Klux Klan using Anderson's as yet untried approach.

The new tactics begin when the mayor is abducted. He is taken to a remote shack and left on his own with a black man wearing a rudimentary mask, similar to those used by KKK members in the film. Relating a story of how a young black man was castrated by the KKK, he implies that the mayor will likewise be mutilated unless he talks. The mayor gives the operative a comprehensive description of the killings, including the names of those involved; although not admissible in court, this information proves invaluable to Anderson and Ward and moves the investigation forward. Lester Cowens as being particularly nervous and unable to stop talking, picked up by the FBI and driven prominently around town to make it appear that he may be cooperating with them. Anderson pays a visit to the barbershop where Deputy Sheriff Pell is getting a shave with a straight razor, then beats him, both for his role in the murders and his assault of his wife.

When Lester Cowens is at home when his window is shot out. On the lawn is a burning cross. Cowens tries to flee in his truck but is caught by three hooded men who begin to hang him. The FBI arrive, rescue Cowens, and chase the thugs to the sound of gunshots. Out of sight, the abductors stop running away and remove their masks to reveal that they are also FBI agents. Cowens, believing his life is in danger because his KKK co-conspirators think that he will talk, does just that. The FBI now has evidence admissible in court and can prosecute the culprits. They charge them with civil rights violations to ensure that they will be tried at the federal level; most are found guilty and receive sentences from three to ten years.

The second one is the Help. (The Help, 2011) This movie shows that how African Americans and whites live together, but at the same time seperated strangely in Mississipi like other southern states. The main characters of the movie are Aibileen Clark, Minny Jackson, and Eugenia Phelan. Aibileen Clark is a 50-year-old black maid who has spent her life raising white children and has recently lost her only son. Minny Jackson is another black maid and Aibileen's best friend. Eugenia “Skeeter” Phelan has recently moved back home to her family's plantation after graduating to find that her beloved childhood maid, Constantine, has quit while she was away.
Unlike her friends, Skeeter is single, has a university degree, and wants to begin a career as a writer. Her first job is as a "homemaker hints" columnist in the local paper. Skeeter becomes uncomfortable with the attitude her friends have towards their "help," especially Hilly Holbrook and her "Home Help Sanitation Initiative", a proposed bill to provide for separate toilets for black help because she believes that "black people carry different diseases to white people." Skeeter decides to write a book based on the lives of the maids who have spent their entire lives taking care of white children.

The maids are at first reluctant to talk to Skeeter, because they are afraid that they will lose their jobs or worse. Aibileen is the first to share her stories, after she overhears Hilly's initiative, and realizes that the children whom she has been raising are growing up to be just like their parents. Her friend Minny has just been fired as Hilly's maid as a punishment for Minny using the house bathroom during a thunderstorm instead of going to use the separate outdoor toilet. Hilly poisons all the other families against Minny, making it impossible for her to find other work.

With racial tensions running high, the maids realize that Skeeter's book will give them an opportunity for their voices to be heard, and Skeeter suddenly has numerous stories to include. Eventually, Skeeter manages to find out what had happened to Constantine. Her mother, Charlotte, explains that she very reluctantly fired her in order to save face during a reception. Soon afterwards, she felt guilty and sent Skeeter's brother to bring Constantine home from Chicago, Illinois, but he discovered that she had died, not long after leaving Jackson.

The book is accepted for publication and is a success, much to the delight of Skeeter and the maids. Skeeter is offered a job with a publishing company in New York City. She tells her boyfriend about the job and the book. Revolted by her ideas of racial equality, he immediately breaks up with her. Hilly later shows up at Skeeter's house and confronts her about the book, intending to tell Charlotte about her daughter's transgressions. However, Charlotte comes to her daughter's defense, ordering Hilly off of her property.

Meantime, Hilly hatches a plan to get rid of Aibileen as Elizabeth's help, by falsely accusing her of stealing silver. Elizabeth tries to defend Aibileen, but to no avail. As Aibileen tries to convince Hilly and Elizabeth of her innocence but Elizabeth is forced to accept the firing of Aibileen by Hilly. Aibileen leaves the house to start a new life.

The last movie is Remember The Titans, which a true story as well. (Remember The Titans, 2000) At the segregated Williams High School, a black head coach Herman Boone is hired to lead the school's football team in 1971. Boone takes over from the current coach Bill Yoast, As a show of respect, Boone offers an assistant coordinator coaching position to Yoast. Yoast takes up the position of defensive coordinator. Black and white football team members frequently clash in racially motivated conflicts at their football camp, including some between captain Gerry Bertier, and Julius Campbell. But after forceful coaxing and rigorous athletic training by Boone, the team achieves racial harmony and success. After returning from football camp, Boone is told by a member of the school board that if he loses even a single game, he will be fired. Subsequently, the Titans go through the season undefeated while battling racial prejudice, before slowly gaining support from the community. While celebrating the state semi-final victory, Bertier is in an automobile accident, after driving through an intersection. Although Bertier could not play due to injury, the team goes on to win the championship.

After a season of moral clarity, the country is beset by the Vietnam War, urban riots, and reaction against the excesses of the late 1960s and the 1970s, understood variously as student rebellion, black militancy, feminism, busing, affirmative action, or an overweening welfare state. A so-called white backlash sets the stage for the conservative interregnum that, for good or ill, depending on the ideological persuasion of a person. (Hall 2005, p. 1234)

From the very early beginning of the USA history, in spite of some exceptions African Americans were used as a slave. After the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments in the constitution, African Americans were accepted as equal to whites. But especially in southern states, African Americans and liberal people in Northern States started objecting to the situation due to Jim Crow Laws. After the rising of civil rights movement in the USA, lawmakers legislated new rules in favor of African
Americans. According to law, all citizens were accepted equal to each other. To compensate the effects of segregation policy, African Americans were provided some privileges such as to be hired or to have some scholarships. Due to these policies, many African Americans had a chance to change their fates. Thus, some of them were able to become university professors, generals, businessmen, judges, politicians, and president of the USA. However, prejudice and discrimination may have not been ended. It is doubtless that it is better than before. The movies which were made to help to realize American Society how slavery and segregation policy were damaging and cruel. These movies helped to construct the definition of American people and solidarity spirit. Moreover, they helped the politicians who want to make new regulations and legislations to prevent segregation and some changes in favor of African Americans.
REFERENCES


