

THE CIVIL RIGHTS CASES, 1883

In 1875, Congress passed a civil rights act banning racial discrimination by private individuals and corporations. In 1883, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the Civil Rights Act of 1875 was unconstitutional. Read the following constitutional passage below to try to figure out the Court's reasoning.

Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.