

Warm-Up: Executive Order 9981



Black and white soldiers fight alongside each other in the Korean War

In February 1948, Truman moved ahead on civil rights by using his executive powers. On July 26, 1948, he issued an executive order abolishing **segregation**, legal separations based on race, in the armed forces and ordering full **integration**, inclusion of both races, of all the armed services. Executive Order 9981 stated that *"there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed forces without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin."* The order also established an advisory committee to examine the rules, practices, and procedures of the armed services and recommend ways to make desegregation a reality. There was considerable resistance to the executive order from the military, but by the end of the Korean conflict, almost all the military was integrated.

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1. According to the video, what major change took place in the US military between WWII and the Korean War?
2. What is the difference between **segregation** and **integration**?
3. Why did President Truman issue Executive Order 9981?
4. Despite initial opposition, support for Executive Order 9981 increased by the end of the Korean War. Explain why this happened.