**Historical Overview**

**Introduction**

The degree of interracial marriage (or miscegenation) in a society is a good indicator of the degree of racial bias and racism in society.

- Anti-Miscegenation Laws ➔ State laws passed by individual states to prohibit interracial marriage.
- Miscegenation was once a felony and any form of srometerization was forbidden.
- Those who attempted to get married would face felony charges.
  - Adultery
  - Fornication

**Supreme Court Cases**

After WWI, constitutionality of anti-miscegenation laws began questioned.

- Perez v. Sharp (1948) [California Supreme Court] ruled that the California anti-miscegenation statute violated the 14th amendment where blacks could not be citizens.
- McLaughlin v. Florida (1964) [Walker Court] ruled that the Florida state law, which prohibited cohabitation between blacks/whites was unconstitutional because it was based on policy of racial discrimination.
- Cases were taken to the Supreme Court.

**Groundbreaking Case**

- Loving v. Virginia (1967) [U.S. Supreme Court]
  - Virginia enacted laws making it a felony for whites/Blacks to intermarry.
  - Restricted freedom to marry solely on the basis of race violated the Equal Protection Clause.
  - June 1965
  - Mildred Jeter (African American woman)
  - Richard Loving (White man)
  - Get married in District of Colombia, moved to Virginia, which banned interracial marriage.
  - October 1965
    - Loving's indicted for violating VA law, plead guilty, face one year in jail.
    - Trial Court suspended sentences for 25 years on the condition that the Loving's would leave VA and never return.
    - Loving's moved back to District of Columbia and filed a suit in the state trial court to vacate the judgments made against them on the grounds that it violated the Equal Protection and Due Process Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment.
    - The Supreme Court of Appeals affirmed the constitutionality of the Virginia statues and upheld the convictions.
    - In 1967, the U.S. Supreme court decided to rule on the remaining anti-miscegenation laws when it was presented with the Loving v. Virginia case.

**Effects of the Loving Case**

The loving case paved the way for intermarriages throughout the United States.

After all the anti-miscegenation laws were found unconstitutional hundreds of thousands of interracial couples went on to get married with each other.

Ever since then, the intermarriage rate for African Americans and Caucasians have been gradually increasing.

**States which were repealed from intermarriage Laws(up to 1969)**

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**Lasting Effects**

Even though interracial marriage may have been repealed in the United States, there are still people who carry ignorance and discriminate those who want to be interracially married.

- Kentucky Church bans interracial couples from marrying
  - This couple from Kentucky have been banned from being married at their local church.

- White families are usually ignorant towards intermarriage between Blacks and Whites.
  - White men who were younger and well educated accepted intermarriage more than older, non-educated white men.
  - Prejudice and racism still exists in a family where there is intermarriage between an African American and a white woman.

- Most of the men who were against intermarriage lived in the southern states.

**Recorded Intermarriages in the US**

Marriages increased by more than 200% after the Loving case.

**African Americans are the largest minority group to intermarry in America following Asians and Hispanics.**

**Married couples living in America(in thousands) US Census**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Black/White</th>
<th>Amer. Indian/White</th>
<th>Asian/White</th>
<th>Other race/White</th>
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<td>29</td>
<td>47</td>
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<td>1970</td>
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<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>1,161</td>
<td>NA</td>
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A USA TODAY/Gallup poll released in September found that 86% of Americans approve of black-white marriages, compared with 48% in 1991. Among ages 18-37, 97% approved.