

Let's talk about... The American South & The Struggle for Equality

The American South is a distinct region of the US which is shaped by its shared past and its unique culture. Even though "the South" is sometimes also used in a geographical context, it more often refers to a cultural unit south of the **Mason-Dixon line**.

Hospitality, civility, and tenacity are often used to describe core Southern **values** and the lifestyle of the Old South is often romanticized in films and novels such as "Gone with the Wind". These, however, only portray a reality which was merely true for a small proportion of the population.

For more than 250 years *slavery* was **common practice** in the Southern states of the United States where slaves were needed as cheap laborers on huge **plantations**. The **antebellum** period is characterized by the rise of the **abolition** movement and the gradual **polarization** of the country between abolitionists and supporters of slavery. When it looked as if the new President Abraham Lincoln might try **to abolish** slavery, the Southern states decided **to secede** and left the Union. The American **Civil War** (1861-1865) had begun. President Lincoln's **Emancipation Proclamation** marked the government's intention to end **slavery** and officially freed all slaves in 1863.

The war ended in 1865 and many former slaves moved west, east and north to more industrialized areas and big cities hoping to find a better life there. But for almost a century, African Americans were still not treated equally. Racial **segregation** and **discrimination against** Black people in terms of **housing, education** and **employment** were the rule rather than the exception. It was not until the 1960s that the **Civil Rights Movement** gained pace and Black leaders were able to motivate Black and White citizens to fight for more **equality**. **Non-violent** marches, demonstrations and protest finally resulted in President Johnson signing the **Civil Rights Act** of 1964.

English	synonyms / antonyms / word families etc.	German
Mason-Dixon line Mason and Dixon line	~ the dividing line between slave states south of it and free-soil states north of it.	Mason-Dixon Linie
hospitality	hospitable, welcoming	Gastfreundschaft
civility	syn.: politeness (to) be polite	Anstand, Höflichkeit
tenacity	syn.: persistence	Beharrlichkeit, Hartnäckigkeit
values	e.g. Southern values Christian values, core values	Werte
common practice		gängige Praxis
plantation	sugar, cotton, tobacco ~ a planter, (to) plant	Plantage
antebellum	~ before the Civil War	Vor dem Sezessionskrieg
(to) abolish sth.	syn.: (to) get rid of	etw. abschaffen

abolition	syn.: abolishment an abolitionist	Abschaffung, Aufhebung
polarization [Am. Engl.]	polarisation [Brit. Engl.]	Polarisierung
(to) secede	secession	abtrünnig werden, abfallen
(American) Civil War	~ 1861 - 1865	Amerikanischer Bürgerkrieg, Sezessionskrieg
Emancipation Proclamation	(to) emancipate (to) proclaim	Verkündung der Sklavenbefreiung
slavery	a slave (to) enslave sb.	Sklaverei, Unfreiheit jmd. versklaven
segregation	ant.: desegregation (to) segregate, (to) desegregate	Trennung, Absonderung
discrimination against	(to) discriminate against	Benachteiligung von
housing	e.g. social housing	Wohnverhältnisse, Wohnbau
education	(to) be educated basic education, academic education	Bildung, Ausbildung
employment	(to) seek / (to) find employment	Anstellung, Arbeitsplatz
civil rights	~ The Civil Rights Movement	Bürgerrechte, Grundrechte
equality	ant.: inequality (to) be equal	Gleichheit, Gleichberechtigung
equal	ant.: unequal	gleichberechtigt, gleichwertig
non-violent	ant.: violent	gewaltlos, gewaltfrei
Civil Rights Act (1964)		Bürgerrechtsgesetz, das die Diskriminierung aufgrund von Rasse, Herkunft oder Religion verbieht.
race relations	(to) establish relations (to) maintain relations (to) discontinue relations	ethnische Beziehungen, Verhältnis zwischen ethnischen Gruppen / Rassen
racism	racial (adj.)	Rassismus
ancestor		Vorfahr, Familiengründer
ancestral	e.g. ancestral home	angestammt, Ahnen-
descendant		Nachkomme
heritage	hereditary	Erbe, Erbschaft
helpfulness	helpful	Hilfsbereitschaft, Zuvorkommenheit
manners	mannerly	Manieren, Benehmen
rural	ant.: urban	ländlich
resistance	(to) resist	Widerstand, Gegenwehr
riot	(to) riot, a violent riot	Unruhe, Ausschreitung
civil disobedience	(to) disobey sb. / sth.	ziviler Ungehorsam

(to) stage a protest	e.g. (to) stage a sit-in	öffentlich protestieren, gegen etwas protestieren
boycott	(to) boycott	Boycott
(to) intervene	(to) intervene in a conflict	einschreiten, eingreifen
(to) demand one's rights	syn.: (to) claim one's right	seine Rechte einfordern
(to) violate sb.'s right		jnds. Rechte verletzen
(to) deny sb.'s rights	ant.: (to) grant sb. their rights	jnd. Rechte aberkennen
(to) be carved in one's memory	syn.: to be imprinted on sb.'s memory	sich ins Gedächtnis eingepägt haben
assassination	(to) assassinate, (to) kill	Ermordung, Attentat
inferiority	(to) feel inferior Inferior (adj.)	Unterlegenheit, Minderwertigkeit
superiority	(to) feel superior superior (adj.)	Überlegenheit
social / economic status	(to) increase your status (to) lose your status	Status, Stand
(to) be confronted with	syn.: (to) be faced with	auf etw. stoßen, mit etw. konfrontiert sein
prejudice	racial prejudice social prejudice	Vorurteil
(to) be at disadvantage	(to) be at disadvantage compared to...	im Nachteil sein
(to) suffer from s.th.	syn.: (to) be afflicted with	an / unter etw. leiden
pejorative	syn.: belittling, disparaging	abschätzig, abwertend
separate	(to) separate s.th.	getrennt
disparity	e.g. age disparity economic disparity	Ungleichheit, Unterschied
strife	an inner strife (psych.) a civil strife a friendly strife	Kampf, Streit
(to) struggle	(to) struggle with, (to) struggle against	kämpfen, ringen
integration	(to) integrate	Eingliederung, Integration
residential area	~ neighbourhood	Wohnviertel
facilities	here: hospitals, restaurants, hotels, etc.	Einrichtungen
barrier	e.g. social barrier (to) bar sb. from s.th.	Schranke
(to) be trapped	(to) be caught in a trap	gefangen sein
lynching	(to) lynch sb., a lynch mob	Lynchmord, Hängen
(to) enact a law	enactment	ein Gesetz erlassen
(to) enforce (a law)	law enforcement officer = policeman	ausführen, durchsetzen

Confederate States of America	a confederate confederate (adj.) (to) confederate	Zusammenschluss der Südstaaten, konföderierte Staaten von Amerika
casualty	sb. injured or killed in battle	Opfer, Todesopfer
(to) surrender	syn.: (to) give up a surrender	kapitulieren, aufgeben