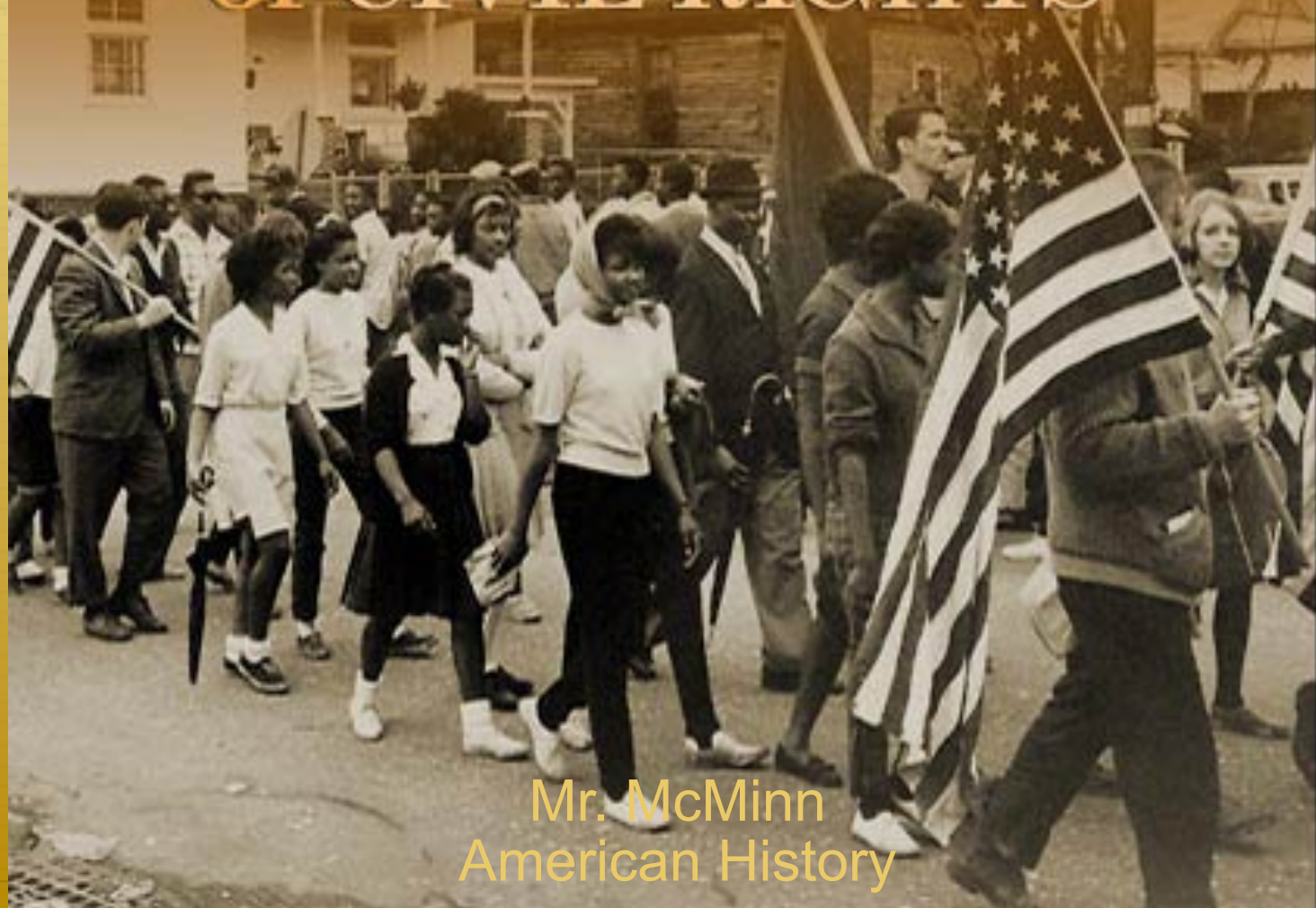


# VOICES

## of CIVIL RIGHTS



Mr. McMinn  
American History

# *Brown v. Board of Education*

- ✦ In 1951, Oliver Brown wanted his 8-year-old daughter to attend a Topeka, Kansas school, which only white children were permitted to attend.
- ✦ Brown sued the Topeka Board of Education, and his case reached the Supreme Court. Thurgood Marshall of the NAACP argued Brown's case.
- ✦ On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court issued its ruling in the *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* case. In this ruling, the court supported Brown's case for desegregation, stating that, "Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal."
- ✦ A year later, the Court ruled that local school boards should move to desegregate "with all deliberate speed."



# Reaction to *Brown v. Board of Education*

- ✦ Many Americans, both white and African American, rejoiced at the *Brown* ruling. Others accepted the decision although they did not agree with it, hoping that desegregation could take place peacefully.
- ✦ Many southern whites, especially in the Deep South, vehemently opposed the ruling. Congressional representatives of states in the Deep South joined together to protest the decision, claiming that it violated states' rights.

# Resistance in Little Rock

## Opposition to Integration

- ✦ In the fall of 1957, Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus felt that enforcing integration, or the bringing together of different races, would create chaos.
- ✦ Faubus therefore posted Arkansas National Guard troops at Central High School in Little Rock, instructing them to turn away the nine African American students who were supposed to attend that school.
- ✦ Mobs of angry protesters joined the National Guard in intimidating the African American students.

## Government Response

- ✦ Faubus's actions defied the *Brown* decision. President Eisenhower viewed these actions as a challenge to the Constitution and to his authority as President.
- ✦ Eisenhower placed the National Guard under federal command and sent soldiers to Arkansas to protect the nine students.

