and Louisville, which attempted to legally restrict areas of the cities in which black Americans could live, restrictive covenants replaced them. Restrictive covenants became respectable methods for keeping "undesirable racial and other groups" out of certain neighborhoods.

Lynching was a common occurrence. More than a third of the states had laws on their books which denied to clergymen the right to join persons together in holy matrimony without using "race" as a determining factor.¹⁸

There were some few changes following World War II in human relations, both in the way black Americans perceived themselves and the way they were perceived by others. Among the most significant changes was the desegregating of the Armed Forces by President Harry S. Truman in 1948.

On July 26, 1948, President Truman issued Executive Order #9981. It stated in section 1:

> It is hereby declared to be the policy of the President 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. This policy shall be put into effect as rapidly as possible, having due regard to the time required to effectuate any necessary changes without impairing efficiency or morale.⁹

The pace of international events, the political implications of the demographic shifts in the black population from the rural South to the large urban areas of the North, and the intensifying of the Cold War helped to create greater sensitivity to the injustices being visited upon black Americans.

Consequently, the Supreme Court was more and more appealed to, not in attempts to demand "separate but equal" resources and privileges for black Americans, but by cases which called into question and challenged the constitutional validity of the principle of segregation itself. The Supreme Court responded with its famous Brown vs. Board of Education decision on May 17, 1954, which declared segregated education to be inherently unequal.

The following year saw the beginning of the celebrated Montgomery Bus Boycott. That movement not only introduced another stage in the black protest against the kind of relations which existed in this country between the races; more importantly, it introduced on the national and international stage, a young, dynamic and articulate proponent of nonviolent direct action.

Martin L. King, Jr.'s conscious effort to unite the principles of the Judao-Christian teachings and the ideals enunciated in the Declaration of Independence and the demands of the constitution, made an unprecedented appeal to many varied groups. It