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# A Place Called Mississippi

## Chapter 11: Modern Mississippi, 1971 to the Present ~ QuickNotes

Slide 1



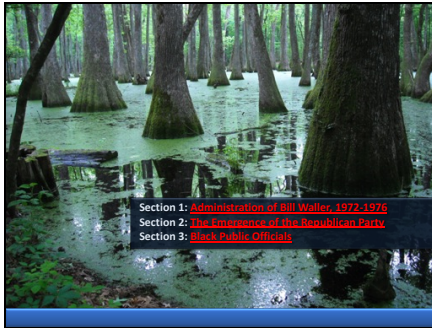
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Slide 2



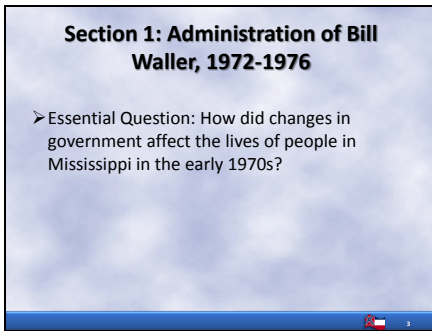
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Slide 3



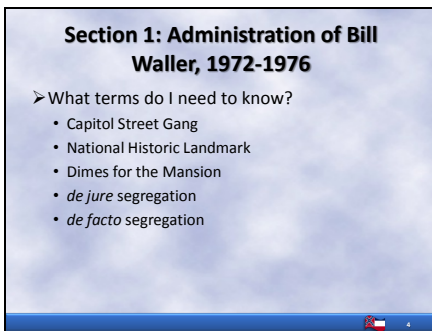
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**Introduction**

- During the 1971 Democratic primary, Bill Walker promised to break up the Capitol Street Gang, a small group of politicians and businessmen who had dominated the state legislature since the 1950s.
- He promised to move Mississippi into the "modern age."
- Walker defeated his opponent in the Democratic primary, but he faced an unmatched challenge in the general election.

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Slide 6

**The 1971 General Election**

- The 1971 general election was held with enthusiasm and excitement, attracting more voters than any other election in the history of Mississippi.
- Charles Evers was the first black candidate to conduct a statewide campaign for governor.
- The election was without negative campaigning, bitterness, and racism that many expected.
- Bill Waller won the general election.

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Slide 7

**Restoration of the Governor's Mansion**

- Governor Bill Waller restored Mississippi's historic Governor's Mansion and designated it as a National Historic Landmark.
- The mansion had a rich history, and its restoration was a popular achievement of Governor Waller's administration with help and support from the people of Mississippi.
- Carroll Waller wrote an article, "News From the Mansion," that appeared in newspapers.
- Carroll Waller wanted to involve schoolchildren in the restoration, and she had a fundraising program called Dimes for the Mansion.

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Slide 8

**Governmental Reorganization and Reform**

- Governor Waller improved the quality of law enforcement, and made it more professional by relieving the duty of tax collecting from the county sheriff.
- Governor Waller modernized the state crime laboratory, and he both funded and integrated the Highway Patrol.
- Mississippi had not experienced segregation based on laws since the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments were passed.
- Mississippi and other southern states did maintain racial segregation in customs and traditions.



Governor  
Bill Waller

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**Appointment of African Americans**

- Governor Waller appointed blacks to almost one-fourth of the boards and agencies in Mississippi halfway through his administration.
- He appointed the first black state trooper, and he recruited additional black patrolmen.
- He appointed Gwen Loper as the first black woman to serve on a state board.
- Others appointed include Dr. Albert Lott, Cleve McDowell, Marvin Morgan, and Dr. A. L. Johnson.
- The appointment of Dr. Robert Harrison to the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning was perhaps most famous; he was the first black to serve on a college board.

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Slide 10

**Veto of the Sovereignty Commission Appropriation**

- Governor Waller vetoed the State Sovereignty Commission in 1973.
- He concluded that the State Sovereignty Commission, which had supported racial segregation outside of the law, served no useful purpose.
- Governor Waller gave the funds budgeted to the Sovereignty Commission to the public relations department, in hopes to promote tourism in the state.

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Slide 11

**Achievements of the Waller Administration**

- Bill Waller initiated an expensive highway construction program, and he completed two major Interstate Highways.
- Governor Waller increased funding for public education, established a School of Dentistry, a College of Architecture, a School of Veterinary Medicine, and a State Department of Mental Health.
- He increased job availability, and per capita income increased as a result.
- Governor Waller created the Office of Minority Business Enterprise and established a Minority Council.

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Slide 12

**Section 2: The Emergence of the Republican Party**

- Essential Question: How did people's beliefs and ideals change the politics of Mississippi in the 1960s and 1970s?

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**Section 2: The Emergence of the Republican Party**

- What terms do I need to know?
  - Education Reform Act
  - Mississippi Prepaid Affordable College Tuition (MPACT) plan
  - Mississippi Affordable College Savings (MACS) plan
  - tort

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Slide 14

**Introduction**

- Most Mississippians who supported the Dixiecrat Party in the 1948 presidential election switched to the Republican Party.
- During the 1952 presidential election, a group of Mississippians formed an organization called Democrats for Eisenhower and supported Dwight D. Eisenhower, Republican nominee for president.
- Eisenhower was elected president, and the Republican Party eventually became Mississippi's dominant political party.

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Slide 15

**The 1964 Presidential Election**

- In the 1964 presidential election, Republican Barry Goldwater ran against Lyndon B. Johnson.
- Lyndon Johnson had signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and that made him unpopular in the South.
- Barry Goldwater was not in favor of the Civil Rights Act, and he won the most votes in Mississippi.
- Since 1964 and Lyndon B. Johnson's election as president, the Democratic Party's presidential candidate has carried Mississippi only once, President Jimmy Carter.

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Slide 16

**Clarke Reed, Rubel Phillips, and Gil Carmichael**

- Clarke Reed became chairman of the Republican Party in Mississippi, and under his leadership, the Republican Party experienced unprecedented growth.
- Rubel Phillips made the Republican Party a political force that the Democrats could no longer ignore.
- Gil Carmichael was never elected to public office in Mississippi, but he made the Republican Party popular and respectable among voters.

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**The Election of Trent Lott and Thad Cochran**

- Republicans Trent Lott (top) and Thad Cochran (below) were elected as congressmen the same year that Richard Nixon, the Republican candidate, won his presidential election.
- Trent Lott served in the United States House of Representatives and later served as the majority leader of the United States Senate until his retirement in 2007.
- Thad Cochran was elected to the United States Senate in 1978 and is presently serving as Mississippi's senior senator.




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Slide 18

**Loyalists and Regulars**

- The conflict between loyalists and regulars had weakened the Democratic Party, and as a result, many Democrats switched to the Republican Party.
- Both wings of the Mississippi Democratic Party realized that the only way for them to meet the new Republican challenge was to unite as one group.
- In 1975, loyalists and regulars united before the state governor election of 1975.

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Slide 19

**Administration of Cliff Finch, 1976-1980**

- Democrat Cliff Finch organized a strong alliance of blacks and working class whites.
- To emphasize his concern for Mississippi's working people, Finch spent time during his campaign performing ordinary jobs of working men and women.
- Cliff Finch won the Democratic nomination, and later, he briefly entered the presidential election of 1980.
- Cliff Finch returned to Mississippi and practiced law until his death in 1986.

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Slide 20

**Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Gandy, 1976-1980**

- Evelyn Gandy, a graduate of The University of Mississippi School of Law, was Mississippi's most popular and successful woman politician.
- Her achievements included being elected to the state legislature in 1947, state treasurer in 1959, and insurance commissioner in 1971.
- Gandy won the race for lieutenant governor in 1975, but she was defeated twice after that administration.

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**The 1978 Senatorial Campaign**

- In 1978, with the retirement of Senator James O. Eastland, Mississippi voters were given the opportunity to fill a United States Senate vacancy for the first time in more than thirty years.
- The senatorial campaign attracted many candidates from both Democratic and Republican parties.
- One Democratic candidate included the sitting governor, Cliff Finch.
- Thad Cochran was elected and became the first Republican to serve in the United States Senate from Mississippi since 1881.

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Slide 22

**Election of Republicans to Local Offices**

- Until 1979, most Republicans ran at the state or district level.
- In the 1979 election, many Republicans were elected to county and municipal offices.
- In several races, including the governor's campaign, more than one Republican ran for the same office; this was a sign that the Republican Party was a full-fledged political party.

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Slide 23

**Administration of William Winter, 1980-1984**

- In 1947, William Winter was elected to the state legislature.
- Winter was elected state tax collector in 1959, state treasurer, lieutenant governor in 1971, and he was elected to the state's highest office in 1979.
- He is best remembered for the Education Reform Act of 1982.
- After his time as governor, William Winter became Mississippi's elder statesman.
- As well as a politician, Winter had been involved in academics and other areas of public service, was an author, historian, and professor.

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Slide 24

**Administration of William Allain, 1984-1988**

- William Allain was elected as Mississippi's attorney general in 1979.
- As attorney general, he prevented a utility rate increase and excluded a state nuclear waste site.
- Allain was in support of constitutional reform, and recommended the adoption of a new draft, but his attempt was unsuccessful.

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**Administration of Ray Mabus, 1988-1992**

- Ray Mabus was elected state auditor in 1983; he was a highly visible and often controversial public figure.
- He was elected governor in 1988 with the slogan "Mississippi Will Never Be Last Again."
- When elected, Mabus was the nation's youngest governor, but he had an impressive history of academic achievements and public service involvement.
- Governor Mabus reorganized the executive branch.
- He failed to serve two successive terms.
- President Obama appointed him Secretary of the Navy and directed him to prepare a recovery plan for the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010.

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Slide 26

**Administration of Kirk Fordice, 1992-2000**

- Governor Kirk Fordice was the first Republican governor of Mississippi since 1876.
- He was the first governor to succeed himself since 1890.
- During his time in office, many Democratic politicians switched to the Republican Party.




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Slide 27

**Mississippi College Savings Plans**

- Governor Fordice established two college savings plans, the Mississippi Prepaid Affordable College Tuition (MPACT) plan and the Mississippi Affordable College Savings (MACS) plan.
- The MPACT plan allows parents or grandparents to set up an account on behalf of a future college student and lock the cost of the college tuition when it is established.
- The MACS plan is similar to the MPACT plan, but it allows parents or grandparents to deposit additional funds into the student's account.

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Slide 28

**Administration of Ronnie Musgrove, 2000-2004**

- Ronnie Musgrove was elected in a special vote, as neither the Republican or Democratic candidate received the majority of votes during the general election.
- Governor Musgrove presided over the Advantage Mississippi Initiative (AMI), which was meant to expand the state's economy and bring in new jobs.
- He required "In God We Trust" to be displayed in all public schools and appointed the commission to study the issue of a new state flag.

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**Administration of Haley Barbour, 2004-2012**

- Governor Haley Barbour was elected Mississippi's second Republican governor since Reconstruction.
- He signed one of the most comprehensive tort reform laws in the nation, and he pursued the development of alternative fuel sources.
- Barbour handled recovery and rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina well, and he is admired for his leadership both formally and informally.
- He was named Governor of the Year in 2006, and he was reelected in 2007.

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Slide 30

**Section 3: Black Public Officials**

- Essential Question: How have beliefs and ideals caused changes in the election of black leaders in Mississippi?

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Slide 31

**Section 3: Black Public Officials**

- What terms do I need to know?
  - alderman
  - legislative reapportionment
  - injunction

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Slide 32

**Introduction**

- Before the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the only black public officials in Mississippi were mayors or aldermen.
- Before Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act in 1965, it was difficult for African Americans to vote in Mississippi and elsewhere in the South.
- The number of black public officials has increased dramatically in the last three decades, and Mississippi now has more black public officials than any other state.

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**Legislative Reapportionment**

- It is the reallocation of seats in the state legislature to counties and districts throughout the state.
- There was a significant population increase from 1890 to 1960, during which time the legislature was not reapportioned, and urban counties began to complain about underrepresentation and unfair share of taxes.
- With support in 1963, Harrison County filed an injunction to force legislative reapportionment in the state.
- Legislative reapportionment was conducted in 1890; urban counties were given more seats and gained more control overall.
- Another reapportionment in 1979 resulted in the election of more African Americans to the state legislature.

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Slide 34

**Connor v. Johnson**

- Peggy Jean Connor and other members of the Mississippi Democratic Party asked the courts to reapportion the state legislature so that more blacks could be elected to that body.
- Connor v. Johnson ruled that African Americans were not fairly represented in the state legislature, and a reapportionment plan that would give blacks a fair chance to win election to the state legislature was created.

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Slide 35

**Blacks Elected to the Legislature, Beginning in 1979**

- Following the *Connor v. Johnson* decision, two African Americans were elected to the state Senate, and 15 were elected to the House of Representatives.
- The number of African Americans in the state legislature gradually increased in the next three decades.

[Click here to see current information on Mississippi Reapportionment](#)

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Slide 36

**Mr. And Mrs. Blackmon**

- Senator Barbara Blackmon and Representative Edward Blackmon were the only married couple to serve in the Mississippi legislature at the same time.
- Barbara served in the state Senate, and Edward served in the state House of Representatives.

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**Black Judicial Officials**

- African Americans who have served on the Mississippi State Supreme Court include Reuben Anderson, Fred L. Banks Jr., and James E. Graves Jr.
- On June 10, 2010, President Barack Obama nominated Justice Graves to serve as judge of the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and his appointment was confirmed on February 14, 2011.
- Judge Leslie D. King filled the vacancy created by Judge Grave's new appointment.

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Slide 38

**Black Congressmen**

- Mike Epsy (top) was one of the state's most visible and popular African American politicians.
- He was elected to the United States Congress and appointed secretary of agriculture.
- Congressman Bennie Thompson (below) was elected to the United States House of Representatives, and he served as alderman and mayor of his hometown.
- He served as chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, and he has been reelected ten times as a member of the Congressional Black Caucus.


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Slide 39

**The Most Black Public Officials in the Country**

- According to recent census figures and additional documents, Mississippi has more black public officials than any other state in the nation.
- The number of black public officials jumped from 6 in 1964, to 950 in 2002.
- The number of African Americans in the state legislature was even higher in 2010.

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Slide 40

**The 2008 Presidential Debate**

- For the first time in American history, an African American was elected president.
- The presidential debate on September 26, 2008, at The University of Mississippi was memorable.
- The Democratic candidate was Illinois Senator Barack Obama, and the Republican candidate was Arizona Senator John McCain.
- One month after Barack Obama was elected president, Artair Rogers, an African American student at Old Miss, was elected president of the student body.
- Mississippians have made progress in regards to discrimination and prejudice, and they have made strides economically as well.

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