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The Civil War resulted in a Union victory which freed many slaves in the northern states, but not enough in the Southern states. Southern states refused to accept African American emancipation; thus, they introduced a set of laws that limited progression in the African American community. These laws were none other known as the black codes and pig laws.

Concluding the Civil War, the African American community was deemed free, yet they were presented with remorseless behavior in the work industries. With the truly little money they had, African Americans had to work to profit. It became an issue when the people they worked for resented the freedom of slaves. With that said, the term convict leasing and peonage was introduced into the southern community. These terms defined unfree labor systems. Slaves were forced to work while in prison and often in times of indemnity.

Southern land needed attention, yet southerners did not want to pay a ridiculous amount for the service, so they introduced said laws for such a purpose. On the other hand, Pig laws revolved around agricultural crimes. One being, taking a farm animal. Not only that but vagrancy laws were issued in addition to the Pig laws and it made it extremely difficult for former slaves to be unemployed without getting penalized or have been actively serving in the military.

The sole purpose of these laws was for the Southern community to gain back control of slaves and African Americans. Intensifying the amount of work in these areas only caused an increase in deaths, unresolved debts, and revolt.

These black codes were then modified over time and remained present in the lives of slaves for a century. It was finally eradicated in 1964 after the Civil Rights Act was passed. This act was introduced with the help of Martin Luther King Jr, who fought for victims of discriminant behavior through protest. He once said, "True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice." In other words, action needed to be taken to establish a more equitable society at the time. Action that would do more than end arguments and instead start conversations. Actions that would not make "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," but instead form a more united society with reliable standards.