



# Freedom to Serve: Truman, Civil Rights, and Executive Order 9981 (Critical Moments in American History)

*Jon E. Taylor*

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On the eve of America's entry into World War II, African American leaders pushed for inclusion in the war effort and, after the war, they mounted a concerted effort to integrate the armed services. Harry S. Truman's decision to issue Executive Order 9981 in 1948, which resulted in the integration of the armed forces, was an important event in twentieth century American history.

In *Freedom to Serve*, *Jon E. Taylor* gives an account of the presidential order as an event which forever changed the U.S. armed forces, and set a political precedent for the burgeoning civil rights movement. Including press releases, newspaper articles, presidential speeches, and biographical sidebars, *Freedom to Serve* introduces students to an under-examined event while illuminating the period in a new way.

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