

## Chapter 31: The Civil Rights Movement

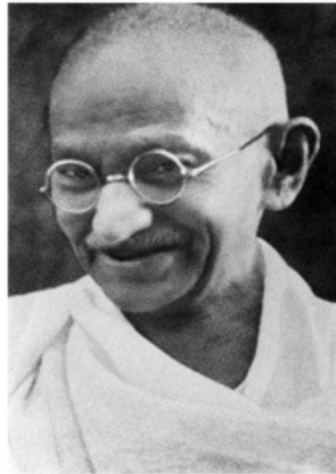
### Section 1: Freedom Now!

- **Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC):** church-based AA alliance
  - Made use of boycotts & marches
  - President was MLK
  - **Nonviolent resistance:** "confront the forces of hate with the power of love"
- **Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC):** college student activists through South
  - Much less structured than SCLC
  - Made use of **sit-ins** as primary tactic
  - Focused much efforts on discrimination in public services (restaurants & hotels)
  - Intense negative reaction against protesters
  - Tested nonviolent resolve of protesters

- Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968)
  - Born in Atlanta
  - Skipped 9<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grades
  - BA in sociology & divinity
  - Doctorate in philosophy
  - Married Coretta Scott in 1953 & had 4 children
  - Became Baptist minister in 1954



- Mahatma Gandhi's influence on King
  - Non-violence
  - Civil disobedience



**CORE:** Congress on Racial Equality

- Northern & urban group
- White & black organization
- **Freedom Riders:** sent activists to South on buses to test Southern states after SCOTUS case banning segregation on interstate bus lines
  - Started in 1960
- Met w/ intense violence at Alabama state line
  - Buses firebombed, attacked, harrassed
- Birmingham, AL police chief **Eugene "Bull" Connor** blamed protesters for violence
  - Refused to send police to stop violence against Freedom Riders

- 1962: **NAACP** earned court order forcing Univ. of Mississippi to accept black students
- MS governor personally denied 1st black student accepted to register for classes
- Rioting on campus ensued after word of black student on campus
- 2 killed and 375 hurt--JFK ordered soldiers in to restore order & protect black student (graduated in 1 year)

- Albany, GA (Nov. 1961-July 1962)
  - Wanted to attract national attention to segregation practices
  - Use nonviolence
  - King arrested & sentenced to 45 days or \$175 fine
  - After 3 days, police chief paid fine
  - “witnessed a [black] man thrown out of jail”

- Birmingham, AL campaign
  - Spring of 1963
  - Dared police to arrest peaceful protesters
  - Overflow jails to point of chaos
  - Wanted to force city to talk to black leaders
  - Sit-ins & boycotts used against businesses
  - Chief “Bull” Connor—used dogs & fire hoses
    - Connor lost job & businesses opened up to blacks



- March on Washington—  
August 28, 1963
  - Bring attention to:
    - End segregation
    - End police brutality
    - \$2 minimum wage
  - 250,000 marchers
  - Finished at Lincoln Memorial
  - Various speakers & musical acts (Bob Dylan)
  - Concluded with “I Have a Dream” speech





- Momentum after "I Have a Dream" speech
- Sept. 1963: church firebombed in Birmingham--killed 4 girls
- Nov. 1963: ally JFK was assassinated
- Will Lyndon Johnson be a friend to the cause?
- **Civil Rights Act of 1964**: banned discrimination in employment over race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, or national origin
  - Outlawed discrimination in public accommodations
  - Allowed Dept. of Justice to file lawsuits to end segregation practices

## Section 2: Voting Rights

### Registering Voters

- JFK & LBJ opposed violence that came out of many marches
- Many activists focused efforts on registering voters-- highly popular idea in North
- Southern states had variety of anti-voting laws-- MUCH OPPOSITION TO BLACK SUFFRAGE IN SOUTH
- SNCC, led by **John Lewis**, target Mississippi as being center of worst anti-voting laws
  - Students travelled through communities trying to register voters--many blacks afraid
  - SNCC members often attacked
  - Several notable murders



- Modest results at 1st
  - John Lewis & SNCC registered 6 voters in McComb, MS (12,000 people)
  - Finished in several months w/ 24 new voters
  - Mock elections held to introduce the process & idea to AA towns--thousands voted--increased interest but still great fear
  - NEED FOR A NEW APPROACH

- 24th Amendment (1964): banned use of poll taxes as requirement to vote--gave great hope to activists
- New plan was called **Freedom Summer**
- White & Black volunteers from North travelled South to register voters
- June 20, 1964: 3 students (2 white & 1 black) showed up in MS--disappeared--bodies found 6 weeks later in earthen dam
- Deaths of students shocked Americans
- LBJ ordered FBI investigation--number of high profile Klansmen arrested--most found guilty but sentenced to no more than 6 years
- Only 1600 blacks registered to vote





- Selma, AL—March 1965
  - SCLC & SNCC wanted march from Selma to Montgomery
  - Cancelled once due to violent protests
  - King did not endorse march—too violent
  - March 7—marched w/o King—“Bloody Sunday”
  - March 9—King led a short march and prayer
  - March 25—King led march to Montgomery



- After struggles in Selma, Congress passed **Voting Rights Act** in 1965
  - Federal gov't took control over voting registration
  - Federal workers flooded South to register voters
  - 1968: 57% increase in registered black voters
  - MS: 7% of blacks registered in 1964--59% registered in 1968

## Section 3 & 4: Movement Fractures & Continues

- **Black Nationalism:** growing desire of many African Americans to spread AA culture & encourage pride and acceptance within the BLACK community
  - Oftentimes encouraged segregation and black separatism

- Nation of Islam

- Created in 1930
- Northern & Urban
- Goal was to “resurrect the spiritual, mental, social, and economic” well-being of black men and women
- Taught traditional Muslim practices (no pork, drinking, smoking, swearing, gambling, and dress conservatively)
- Elijah Muhammad
  - Charged with sedition during WWII
  - Taught “black separatism”
  - Claimed Allah would destroy “White America”





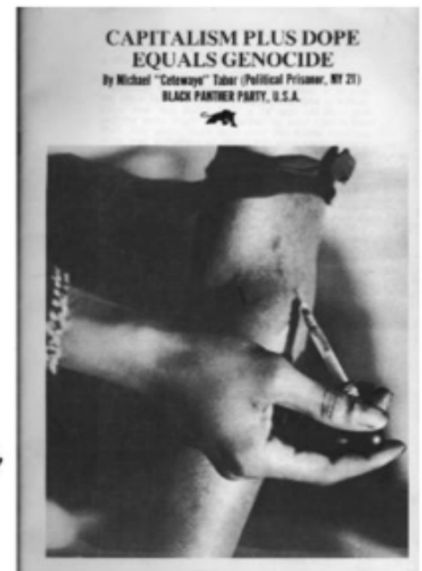


- Malcolm X
  - Born Malcolm Little
  - Malik El-Shabazz
  - Meaning of X
  - Follower of Elijah Muhammad
  - Served 7 years in prison for crimes committed in Boston & New York
  - Join Nation of Islam in jail
  - Black Power/Nationalism
  - Resented M. King's tactics
  - Assassinated Feb. 21, 1965
    - New York City ballroom
    - 3 shooters (shotgun & 2 pistols)









- Black Panthers (mid-60s-1970s)
  - Promote black power & self-defense through social agitation
    - Militant tactics led to violent disputes with law enforcement
  - Started in Oakland to put stop to police brutality
  - ✱ – Turned into a socialist political party
    - Worked to end poverty, substance abuse, and improve health care
  - Accused of “black racism”
    - Eventually accepted whites into party



- After the Voting Rights Act white backlash became violent
- Violence against blacks in South & North
- Police violence
- 100+ riots in black neighborhoods during 1965-66
- **Kerner Commission:** LBJ created--investigated causes of racial violence
  - Determined causes were from white racism & frustrations
- King began to encourage AA's to seek political power--change in tactics
  - Brought attention to War in Vietnam--**WHY MUST BLACK MEN DIE IN A WHITE MAN'S WAR?**
  - Wanted to protest gov't waste
  - Planned the "**Poor People's Campaign**"

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- Poor People's Campaign of 1968
    - Multicultural army to march on Washington
    - Wanted to help all poor
    - Not much support—too broad

- Assassination: April 4, 1968
  - Memphis, TN—helping sanitation workers' strike
  - Staying at Lorraine Motel
  - April 3: gave "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech 
  - April 4: 6 pm: shot once in cheek on 2<sup>nd</sup> story balcony 
  - Riots ensued 
  - June: escaped convict James Earl Ray arrested
  - Confessed but later took it back 
  - Pled guilty—99 years
    - Escaped in 1977 for 3 days—1 year added to sentence
    - Died in 1998—kidney/liver failure—stabbed in prison



*Play these videos*

- SCLC continued after MLK's death
- SNCC & Black Panthers planned merger--short lived b/c too many disagreed w/ violent ways
- Early '70s: SNCC disbanded & Black Panthers became unpopular
- Many Black Panthers killed or in prison
- Many whites pushed back against Civil Rights Movement by mid-70s
  - **Busing** became common in schools to end segregation
  - **Affirmative Action** programs became more common
  - Both challenged in courts & both suffered losses

