

# Civil Rights Movement 1950's-1960's

Chapter 27

#3



# Definitions

- Civil Rights: Rights to personal liberties. Full legal, social and economic rights.
- Racism- **hate**/ intolerance of another culture or individual.
- Prejudice- unreasonable feelings opinions, attitudes of a **hostile** nature
- Discrimination- treatment or making a distinction in favor or against a person or thing based on the category to which that thing belongs to rather than individual merit.
- Stereotype- standardized conception or image invested with special meaning, held by a common group.

# Taking on Segregation

- Civil Rights Act of 1875 outlawed segregation in public facilities stating that “all persons... shall be entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of the accommodations...of inns, public conveyances on land, water, theaters, and other places of public amusement.”

NOT ACCEPTED

- *Plessy v. Ferguson*- 1890's equal but separate accommodations for the whites and colored races.
- Lead to southern states passing the Jim Crow laws, aimed at separating races. Laws forbade marriage b/w whites and blacks, set restrictions on social and religious contact. There were separate schools as well as streetcars, waiting rooms, public restrooms ect.



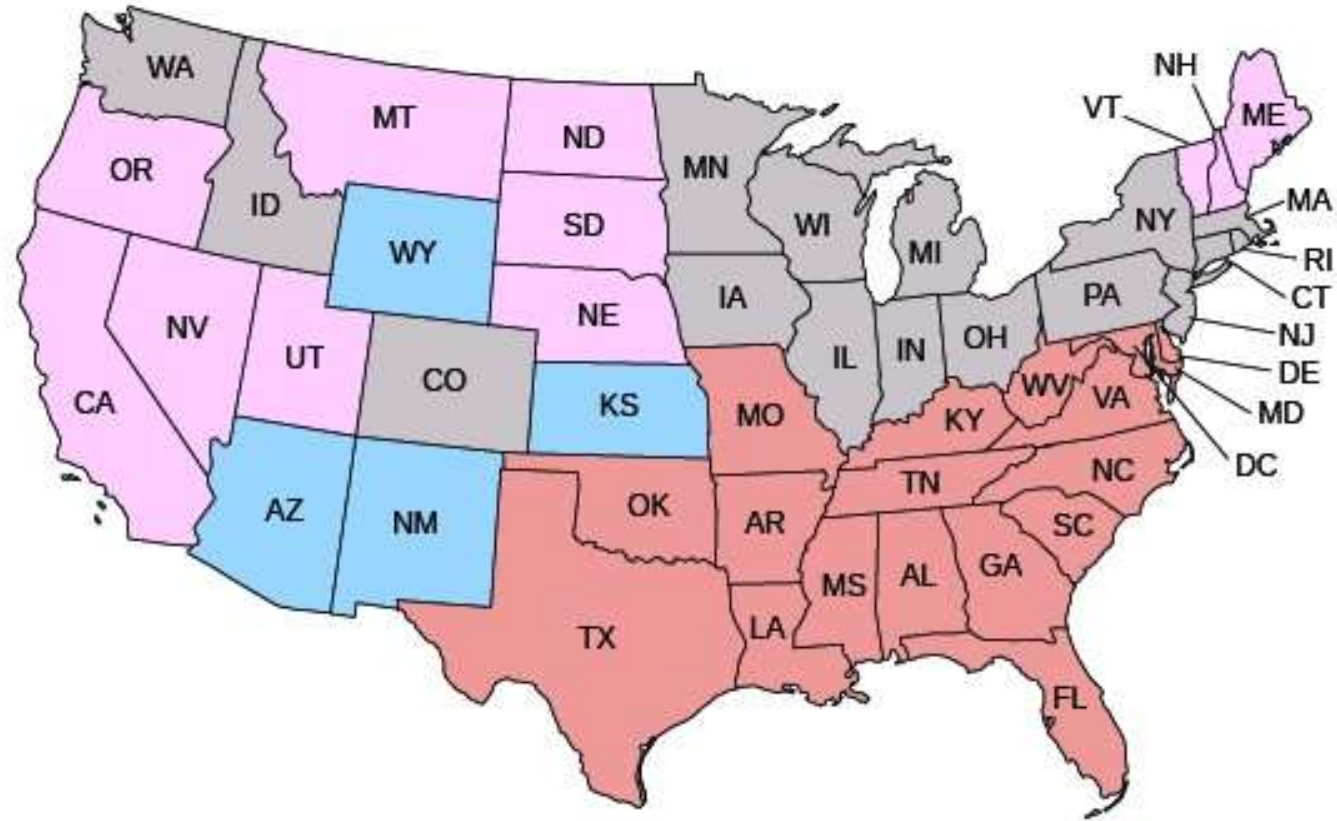
# Developing the Civil Rights Movement

- In many ways, WWII set the stage for the civil rights movement. Demand of soldiers created a shortage of white male laborers. Opened job opportunity for African Americans, Hispanics and white women.
- Nearly 1 million African American served in the armed forces, they had to end their discriminatory policies. AA determined to fight for freedom post war.
- Civil rights organizations challenged voting rights, Jim Crow laws and segregation.
- Desegregation was lead largely by the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.)

# TIMELINE OF CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

- **MAY 17, 1954: BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION**
- Thurgood Marshall lawyer for the NAACP would challenge the Supreme Court and won 29 out of the 32 cases. Later became the first African-American Supreme Court Justice.
- Case: father of an 8 year-old Linda Brown had charged the board of education Topeka, Kansas, with violating Linda's rights by denying her admissions to an all white elementary school four blocks from her house. The nearest all-black elementary school was 21 blocks away.
- **OUTCOME: The Supreme Court unanimously struck down segregation in schooling as an unconstitutional** violation of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment's Equal Protection Clause. Brown decision was relevant for some 12 million school children in 12 states.

# U.S. School Segregation prior to *Brown v. Board of Education*



- Mandatory segregation
- Optional segregation
- No school segregation legislation
- Segregation forbidden



# Reaction to the Brown Decision

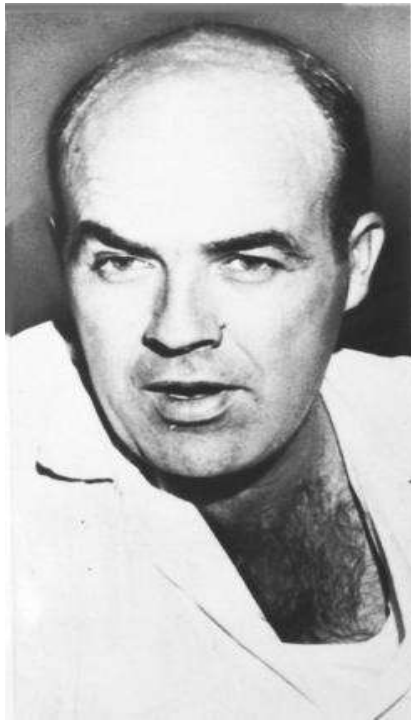
- Kansas and Oklahoma expected trouble. Texas said it would take years. Georgia the people will not comply.
- Within a year more than 500 schools districts desegregated their classrooms. Where African Americans were the majority Whites resisted segregation. Protests against desegregated places.





# Emmett Till

- **AUGUST 28, 1955: MURDER OF EMMETT TILL**
- **14 year old African American boy who had allegedly flirted with a white woman in Money, Mississippi.**
- Case Facts: Emmett Till, a Chicagoan who was visiting relatives in Money, Miss., that August, was dragged from his bed, beaten, shot and dropped in the Tallahatchie River after he had been accused of whistling at a white woman, Carolyn Bryant, in her family's store.
- About 2:30 a.m., Roy Bryant, Carolyn's husband, and his half brother J. W. Milam, kidnap Emmett Till from Moses Wright's home. They will later describe brutally beating him, taking him to the edge of the Tallahatchie River, shooting him in the head, fastening a large metal fan used for ginning cotton to his neck with barbed wire, and pushing the body into the river.
- September 23: Milam and Bryant are acquitted of murdering Emmett Till after the jury deliberates only 67 minutes. One juror tells a reporter that they wouldn't have taken so long if they hadn't stopped to drink pop. Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam stand before photographers, light up cigars and kiss their wives in celebration of the not guilty verdict
- **OUTCOME: fueled movements across the nation**



# Rosa Parks

- **DECEMBER 1, 1955: Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama bus.**
- As the bus filled the driver ordered Parks and 3 other African-Americans passengers to empty the row so that a white man could sit down.
- Parks, “It was time for someone to stand- up or in my case, sit down.”
- **Outcome: her defiant stance prompts a year-long Montgomery bus boycott.**



# TRIUMPHS OF A CRUSADE #4



- DECEMBER 5, 1955: African Americans filed a lawsuit and for 381 days refused to ride the Montgomery buses.
- 26 year old pastor Martin Luther King, Jr. lead the Montgomery Bus Boycott.
- Carpools and walking long distances.
- OUTCOME: boycotters remained nonviolent. 1956, the Supreme Court outlawed bus segregation.





# Little Rock 9

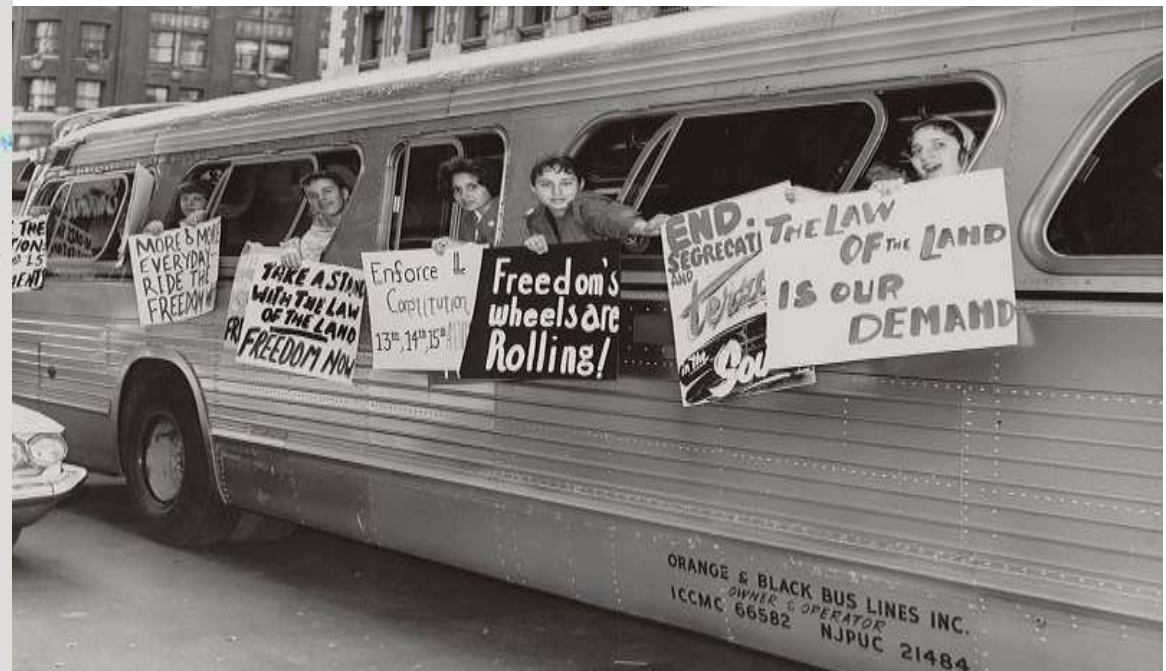
- September 4, 1957: Nine black students known as the “Little Rock Nine,” are blocked from integrating into Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- Governor Orval Faubus supported segregation and had schools closed.
- **Outcome: President Dwight D. Eisenhower eventually sends federal troops to escort the students,** however, they continue to be harassed. Ernest Green first African American to graduate from Central High.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ym8rdtq-KBE>





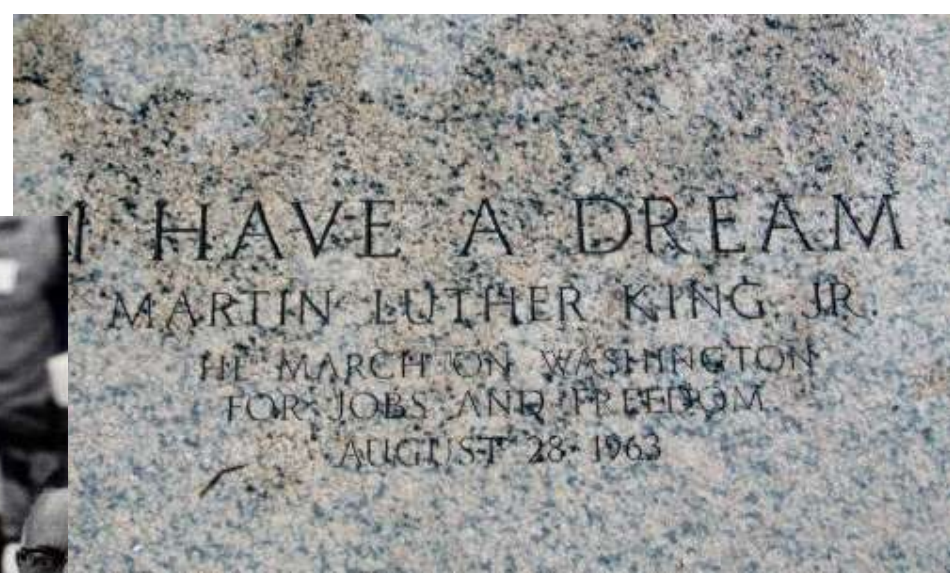
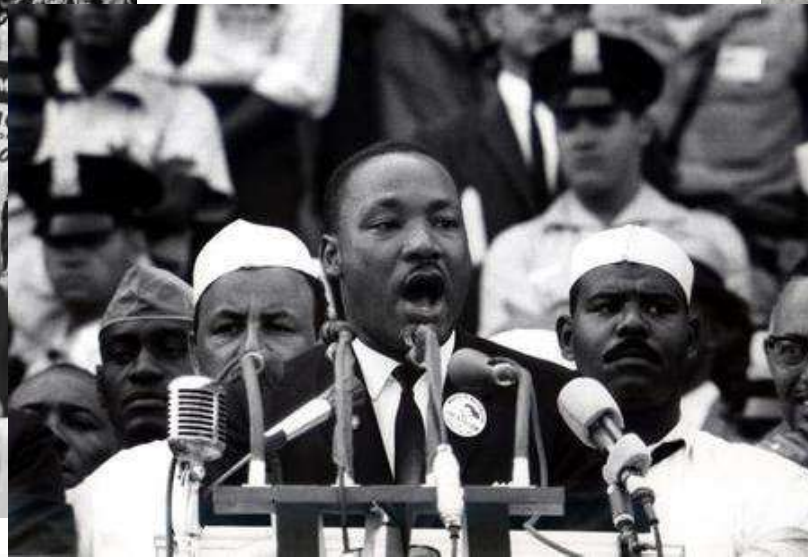
# Sit-ins

- **February 1, 1960**: Four college students in Greensboro, North Carolina refuse to leave a Woolworth's "whites only" lunch counter without being served.
- Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
- **OUTCOME**: Their nonviolent demonstration sparks similar "sit-ins" throughout the city and in other states.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f82cAuXM4IE>



# Freedom Riders

- **FREEDOM RIDES: DECEMBER 1961 Freedom riders challenged Supreme Court decisions to end segregated interstate bus trips.**
- During the Freedom Rides, SNCC members rode buses through the deep southern states where discrimination and segregation were most prominent.
- 200 angry whites attacked bus 2. Smashed windows, tossed fire bombs
- Riders hoped to provoke violent reactions would get Kennedy's attention.
- **OUTCOME: Interstate Commerce Commission banned segregation in all interstate travel, waiting rooms, restrooms and lunch counters.**
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-FranrEa8vg>



# March on Washington

- **August 28, 1963: Approximately 250,000 people take part in The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.**
- Martin Luther King gives the closing address in front of the Lincoln Memorial and states, “I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.’”
- **OUTCOME: Civil Rights Act of 1964,** prohibited discrimination because of race, religion, national origin and gender. Gave rights to all citizens the right to enter libraries, parks, washrooms, restaurants, theaters, and public accommodations.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n82rgdbM9G4>



# Selma to Montgomery

- **March 7, 1965: In the Selma to Montgomery March, around 600 civil rights marchers walk to Selma, Alabama to Montgomery—the state’s capital—in protest of black voter suppression.**
- 50 mile march
- Local police block and brutally attack them. After successfully fighting in court for their right to march, Martin Luther King and other civil rights leaders lead two more marches and finally reach Montgomery on March 25.
- **OUTCOME: Voting Rights Act of 1965- eliminated literacy test.**
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1\\_KtW-9tIg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1_KtW-9tIg)



# CHALLENGES # 5



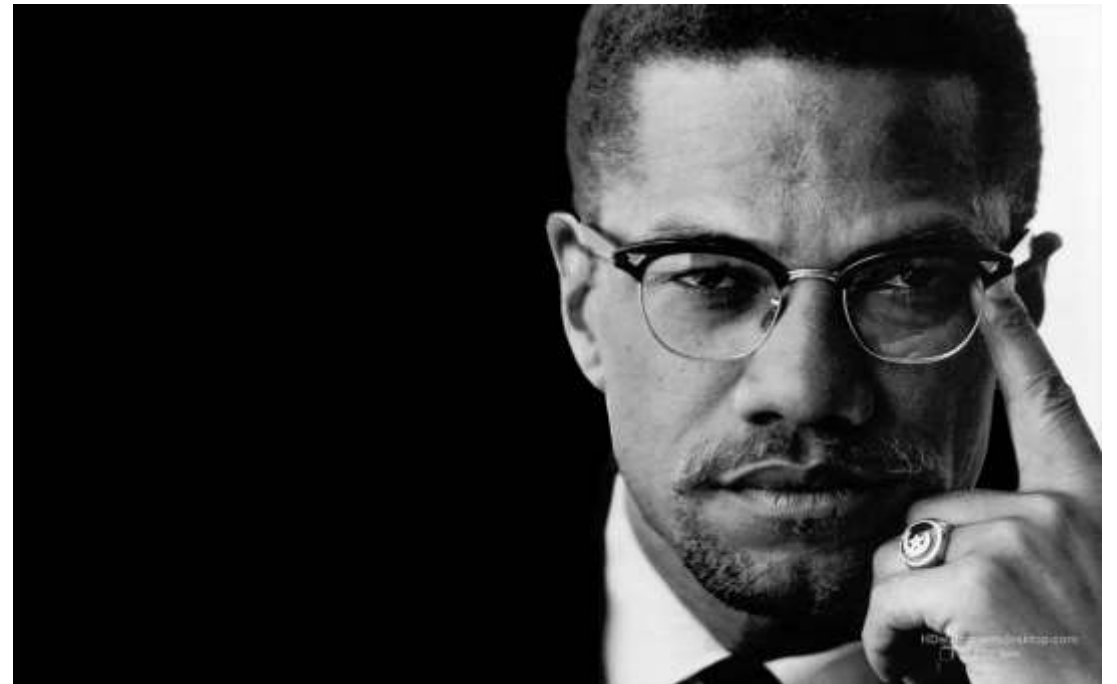
# Frustration

- Changes began to happen but urban areas were still undergoing discrimination and poverty.
- Anger exploded into violence .
- Race riots erupted in the 60's. Watts, Newark, and Detroit.
- Kerner Commission- concluded that long-term racial discrimination stood for the cause of violence. Aimed to establish federal funding to overcome problems of America's urban ghettos.



# Radical Views

- Malcolm X – (X represented his lost African name, Little was slave name)
- In prison converted to Islam and once released he became the most prominent leader.
- 64' broke away from Islam and spoke out racial tensions in America.
- 65' - shot and killed and 3 members of the Nation of Islam were convicted of murder.
- 66' -Some moved away from nonviolent protests – Black Power was adopted.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9a3hT8f6Kkk>



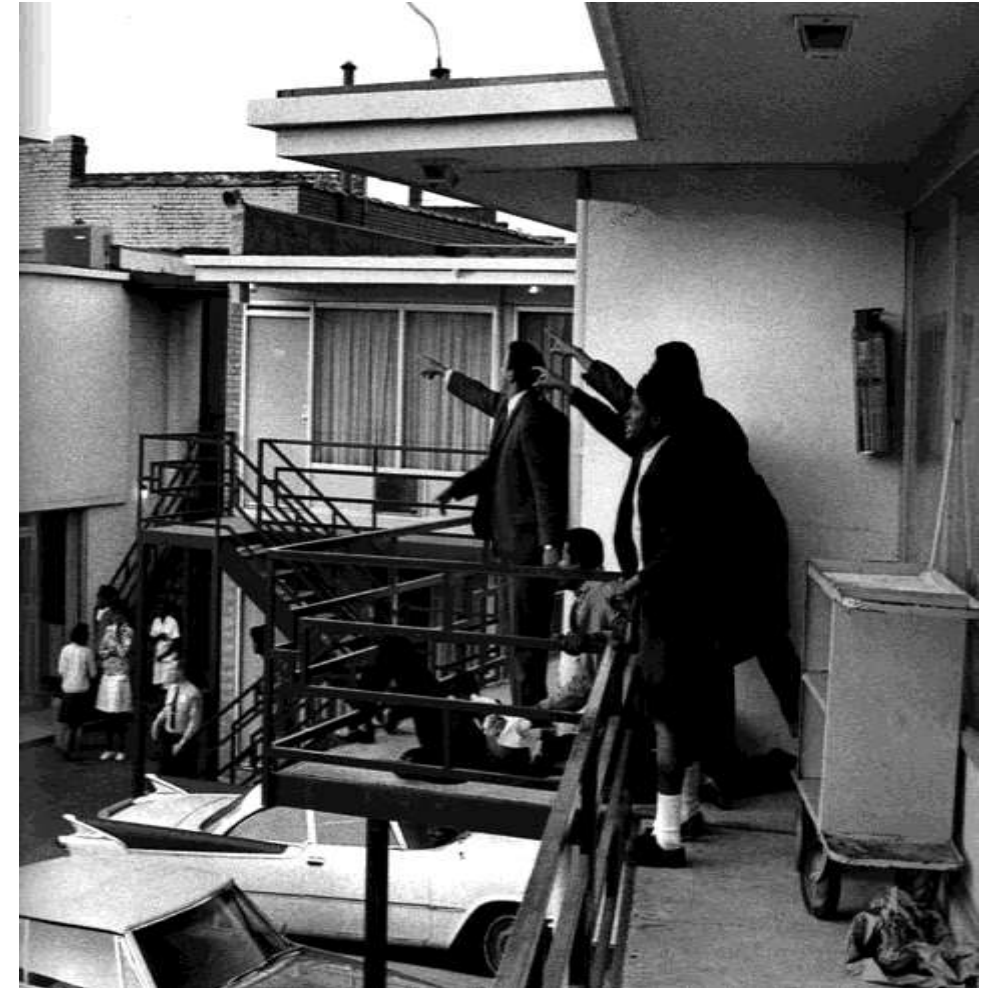
# Black Power

- Black power- African Americans should collectively use their economic and political muscle to gain equality.
- Some whites felt black power meant violence.
- Black Panthers form in Oakland, CA.
- Black Panthers- young militant AA, organized armed patrols of urban areas to protect people from police abuse.
- Created antipoverty programs. Childcare, free breakfast for the poor.
- Style- “Afros”, referred to themselves as “black” rather than colored, black leather jackets and berets.



# MLK's Last Days

- Disagreed with the call for “black power” and sought a nonviolent journey.
- 68’ Plans for the “Poor People’s Campaign” – goal to pressure the nation to do more for the needs of the poor.
- 68’ – Memphis, TN King went to support the sanitation workers who were striking for better wages and working conditions.
- April 3- “Like anybody, I would like to live a long life... But I’m not concerned about that now. I just want to do God’s will.”
- April 4<sup>th</sup>- MLK shot and killed on his hotel balcony by James Earl Ray.
- Riots broke out in hundreds of cities.
- Significant gains made 50’s-60’s



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oehry1JC9Rk>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32HIQa0ZHBE>

