

Civil Rights Movement

1947-1971

1947 (Truman): CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) founded by Chicago college students

1948 (Truman): *Executive Order 9981* (integrated the military)

1954 (Eisenhower): *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* (Supreme Court ruled that segregation in public schools based on **Plessy v. Ferguson**, 1896, was unconstitutional = no *separate but equal*)

1955 (Eisenhower):

- **Rosa Parks** refuses to give up seat to white passenger
- Led to **Montgomery Bus Boycott** (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.) + integrated Montgomery buses

1957 (Eisenhower):

- **SCLC** (Southern Christian Leadership Conference) founded by King+ (organization of Black churches challenging racial segregation)
- **Integration of Little Rock Central High School** (Arkansas gov. Orval E. Faubus refused court order to integrate, called out Ark. Nat'l. Guard, Eisenhower sent in Federal troops)

1960 (Kennedy): *Lunch Counter "Sit-ins"* (Greensboro, N.C.) = Students from N.C. A&T University + Ella Baker form SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee)

1961 (Kennedy): *Freedom Rides* into South to test Supreme Court ruling segregation of interstate bus lines illegal (peaceful until attacked in Anniston, AL): Attorney General Robert Kennedy sends 600 Federal marshals, but protesters arrested in Jackson, MS and protest ends

1962 (Kennedy): James Meredith (first Black student to enroll at 'Ole Miss)

1963 (Kennedy):

- **King's *Letters from a Birmingham Jail***
- **Medgar Evers** (NAACP) is murdered outside of home, Byron de la Beckwith convicted 30 years later
- **March on Washington** by 200,000 civil rights supporters to pressure gov't. to pass legislation
- **King's *I Have a Dream* speech**
- **Birmingham Bombings** (4 young girls killed at 16th Street Baptist Church)

1964 (Johnson):

- **Civil Rights Act** (prohibited segregation in public housing or discrimination in education and employment + gave President power to enforce)
- Riots in N.Y., N.J., Chicago, Philadelphia when Harlem teenager killed by off-duty policeman
- **Voting Rights Act of 1964** (federal law securing blacks the right to vote): some states still used literacy tests, poll taxes, and intimidation
- **24th Amendment** (abolishes poll tax)

1965 (Johnson):

- **Selma Freedom March** (“Bloody Sunday” as state troopers, sheriff’s deputies whip, use hoses and dogs)
- **Voting Rights Act of 1965** (authorized President to suspend literacy tests, send federal officials to register voters if locals refused)
- **Watts Riots** (in L.A., after arrest of black man: 34 died, 1032 injured before National Guard stopped) = Race riots in 100+ cities (94 killed) 1966-67
- **Executive Order 11246**: enforces Affirmative Action
- **Malcolm X** becomes interested in teachings of Elijah Muhammed, leader of Nation of Islam (separate African-American homeland in America) = Blacks should use “any means necessary” to secure rights, “all whites are evil”
 - **Pilgrimage** to Mecca (changes views after witnessing “white and black” Muslims together, leaves the Nation of Islam)
 - **Assassinated** February 21, 1965

1966 (Johnson)

- **Stokely Carmichael** becomes head of SNCC, calls for **Black Power** (pride in Black heritage, separate black economic & political institutions, self-defense vs. white violence, violent revolution if necessary)
- **Huey Newton, Bobby Seale** form Black Panthers

1968 (Johnson)

- **Martin Luther King assassinated** in Memphis, TN
- **Civil Rights Act of 1968** (prohibits discrimination in sale, rental, and refinancing of housing)

1972 (Nixon) Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education (upholds busing as a legitimate means for achieving integration of public schools)