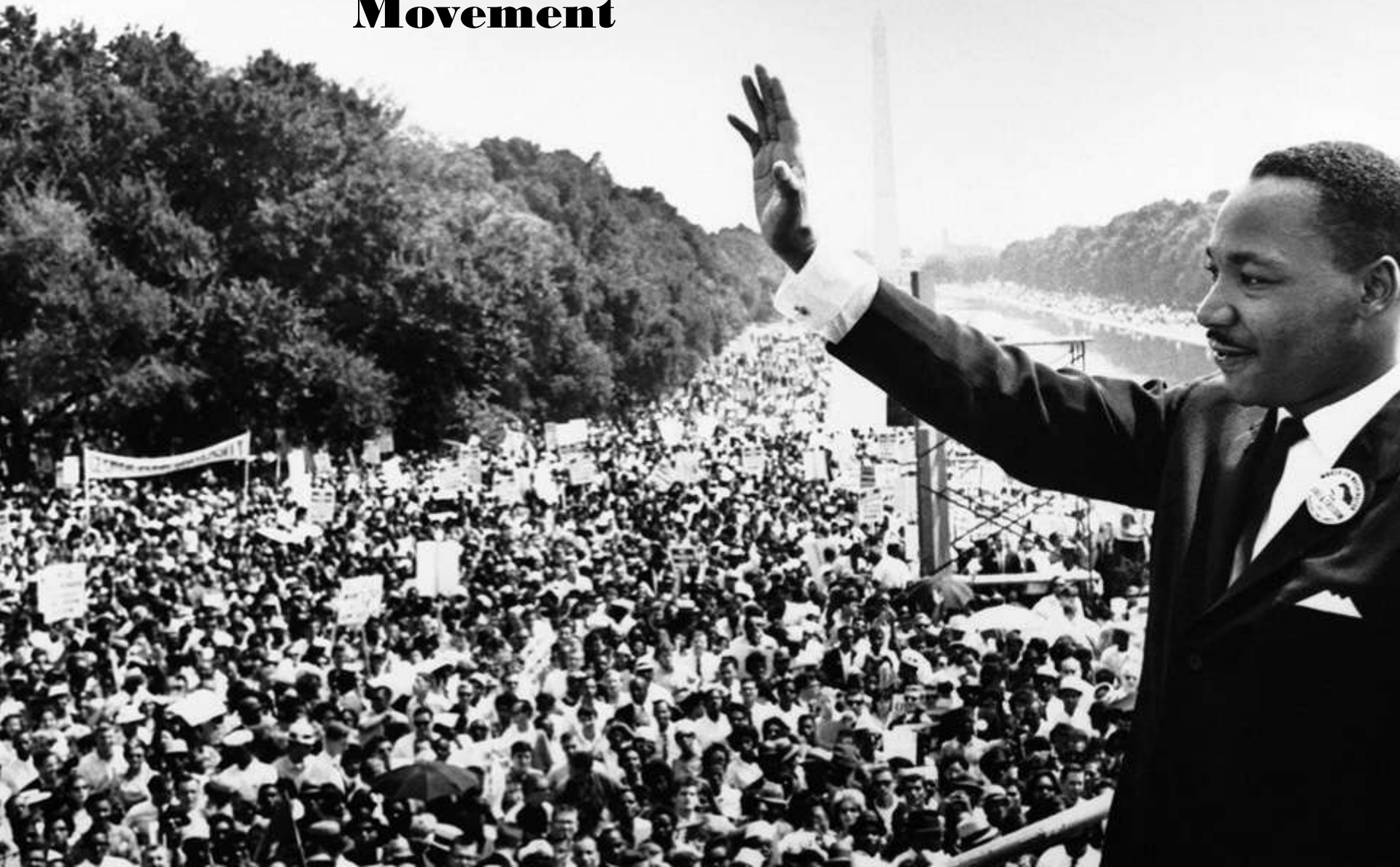


# **MLK and the Civil Rights Movement**



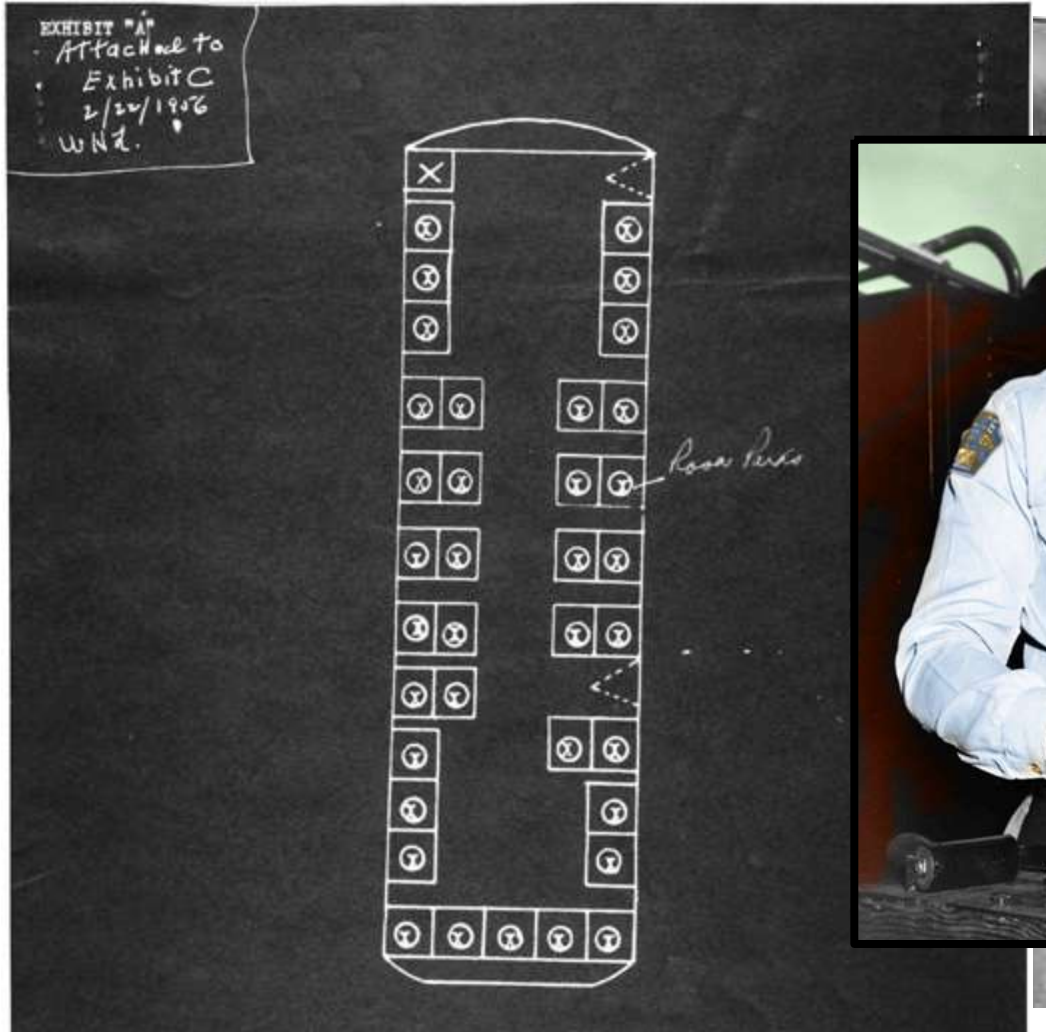
**In 1954, the Civil Rights movement began with the Brown v BOE decision, but the rest of American society remained segregated**

**The NAACP showed that the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment could be used to challenge segregation**

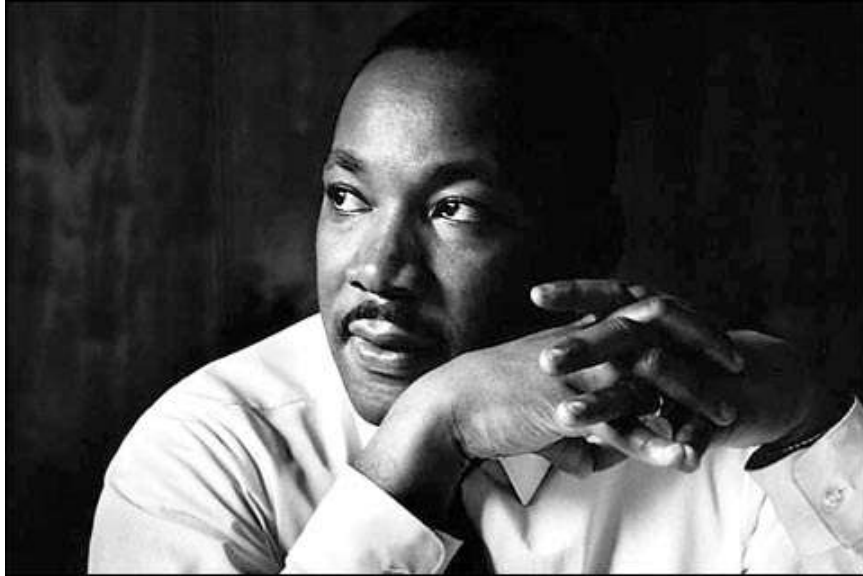
**Civil rights leaders continued the fight for equality until segregation came to an end in 1965**



In 1955, Rosa Parks' arrest for disobeying an Alabama law requiring segregation on city buses sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott

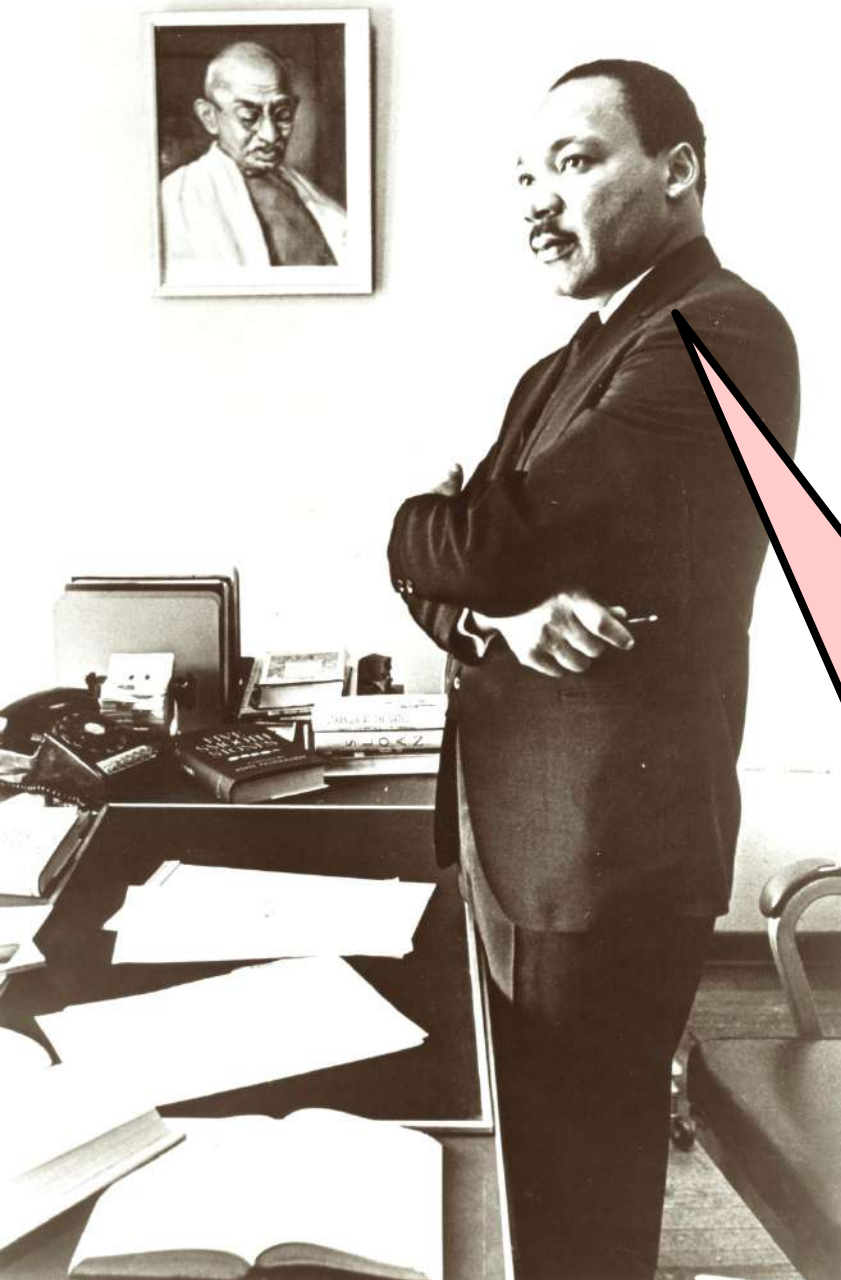


# Minister Martin Luther King, Jr. organized a 381-day boycott of the bus system to protest segregation



The **boycott** led to the integration of city buses & to the rise of MLK as the leader of black civil rights





The success of the  
Montgomery Bus Boycott  
led MLK to form the  
Southern Christian  
Leadership Conference (SCLC)  
in 1957

The SCLC was based on  
peaceful resistance &  
Christian love:  
*“We will meet your physical  
force with soul force. We  
will not hate you, but we  
will not obey your evil laws.  
We will wear you down by  
pure capacity to suffer.”*

# Martin Luther King's non-violent approach inspired other groups to act



In 1960, students from NC A&T led a sit-in at a segregated lunch counter in Greensboro, NC



# The “sit-in” movement led to the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)



Non-violent resistance training, Atlanta 1960



In 1961 "Freedom Riders" rode buses throughout the South to test whether integration orders were being enforced

Freedom riders faced arrest & violence but exposed the lack of enforcement of desegregation laws in the Deep South



1961 FREEDOM RIDES  
\* Violence



AP Newfeatures

# Homer Plessy vs. Rosa Parks:

## The Economics of Segregation and Civil Rights

- Read “Homer Plessy and Rosa Parks” and consider the power of an economic protest
- Answer the questions included and be ready to discuss your answers



# In 1963, MLK organized a march to integrate Birmingham, Alabama

**Birmingham** was considered the “most segregated city in America”

MLK’s strategy was to confront segregation through peaceful marches, rallies, & boycotts



Dr. King called Birmingham “the most segregated big city in the South”



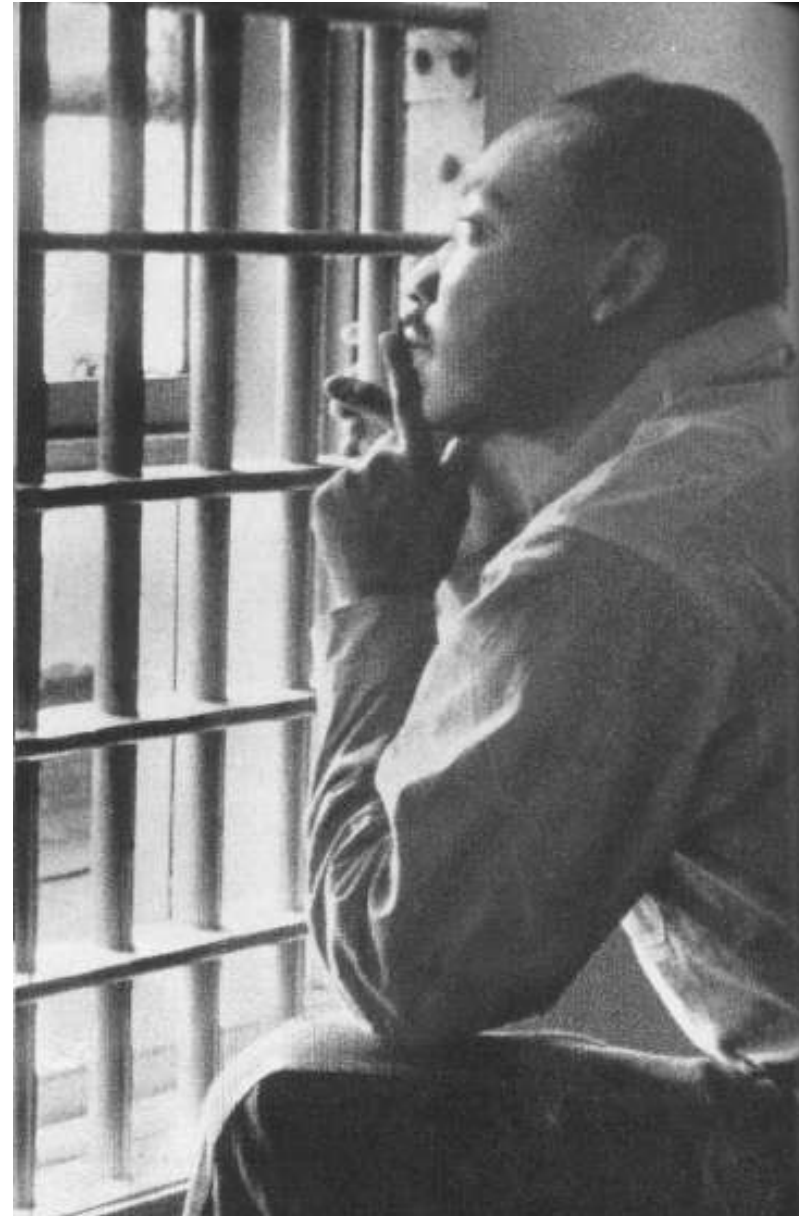
# Birmingham Police commissioner Bull Connor used violence to suppress the demonstrations



# During the march in Birmingham, MLK was arrested



While in jail, MLK wrote an open letter called *“Letter from a Birmingham Jail”* in response to white leaders who believed King was pushing too fast towards civil rights



# Hand out and read as a class

## ~~King's~~ "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"

### A PERSONAL VOICE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

"I guess it is easy for those who have never felt the stinging darts of segregation to say, 'Wait.' But when you have seen vicious mobs lynch your mothers and fathers at whim; when you have seen hate-filled policemen curse, kick, brutalize and even kill your black brothers and sisters; . . . when you see the vast majority of your twenty million Negro brothers smothering in the air-tight cage of poverty; . . . when you have to concoct an answer for a five-year-old son asking: . . . 'Daddy, why do white people treat colored people so mean?' . . . then you will understand why we find it difficult to wait."

—"Letter from a Birmingham Jail"

Work with a partner to answer the  
~~questions~~ on the back of your notes

# The Birmingham march was a turning point in the Civil Rights movement

TV reports of the violence in Birmingham made it difficult for average Americans to ignore segregation

Public outrage over police brutality forced Birmingham officials to end segregation

Events in Birmingham revealed the need for greater action by the national government



**Among those watching the violence on TV was President John F Kennedy who committed to a national civil rights act to end discrimination**





In 1963, civil rights leaders led a March on Washington to pressure Congress to pass a civil

250,000 people assembled in Washington DC to hear speakers including MLK

MLK delivered his **“I Have a Dream”** speech about a future without prejudice or segregation

“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.’ . . . I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. . . . I have a dream that one day the state of Alabama . . . will be transformed into a situation where little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers.”

Click [here](#) for a video on March on Washington



**By 1963, the momentum of the civil rights movement caused President Kennedy to draft a civil rights bill that would outlaw all segregation**

**But, before the law could be written, President Kennedy was assassinated in**

**November 1963**

**VP Lyndon Johnson assumed the presidency & pushed the bill through Congress**



# President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964

The law outlawed discrimination based on race, religion, & gender & ended most Jim Crow laws

The law integrated restaurants & hotels & gave the Justice Dept power to sue businesses that failed to comply with the law

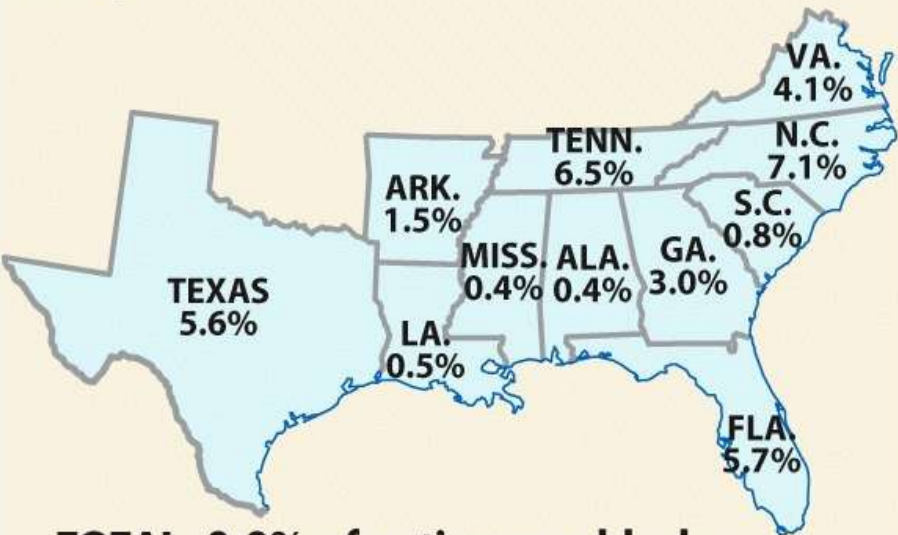


**Despite the success of the Civil Rights Act, African American leaders were not satisfied because the law did not protect voting rights**

**Southern state governments used literacy tests & poll taxes to restrict black citizens from voting**

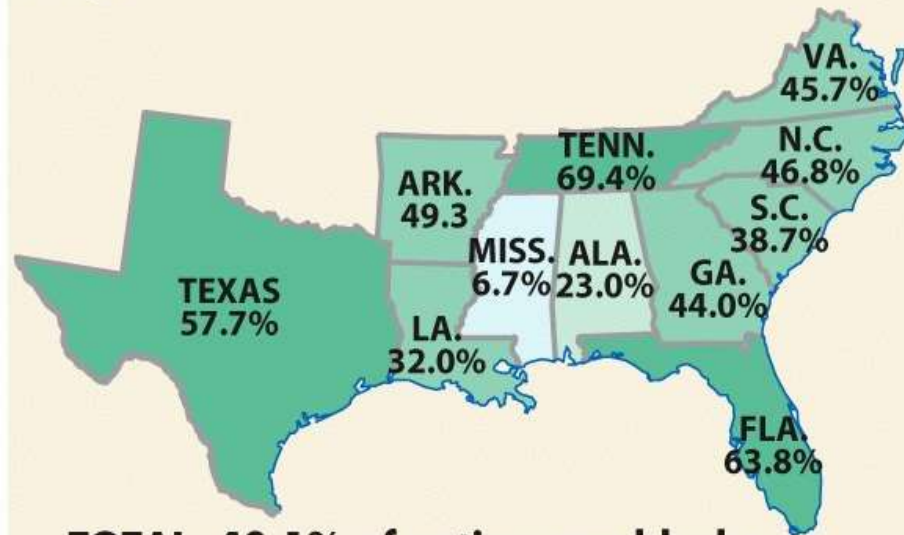
**In most Southern states, less than half of eligible African Americans were registered to vote**

**1940**



**TOTAL: 3.0% of voting age blacks**

**1964**



**TOTAL: 43.1% of voting age blacks**

# Civil rights leaders responded with new initiatives to bring voting rights

In 1964, white & black college students took part in Freedom Summer to help register African American voters in Mississippi

Freedom Summer volunteers faced resistance; 3 volunteers were murdered by the KKK & local police



## MISSING CALL FBI

THE FBI IS SEEKING INFORMATION CONCERNING THE DISAPPEARANCE AT PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI, OF THESE THREE INDIVIDUALS ON JUNE 21, 1964. EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION IS BEING CONDUCTED TO LOCATE GOODMAN, CHANEY, AND SCHWERNER, WHO ARE DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

**ANDREW GOODMAN**

**JAMES EARL CHANEY**

**MICHAEL HENRY SCHWERNER**



RACE:	White	Negro	White
SEX:	Male	Male	Male
DOB:	November 23, 1943	May 30, 1943	November 6, 1939
POB:	New York City	Meridian, Mississippi	New York City
AGE:	20 years	21 years	24 years
HEIGHT:	5'10"	5'7"	5'9" to 5'10"
WEIGHT:	150 pounds	135 to 140 pounds	170 to 180 pounds
HAIR:	Dark brown; wavy	Black	Brown
EYES:	Brown	Brown	Light blue
TEETH:		Good; none missing	
SCARS AND MARKS:		1 inch cut scar 2 inches above left ear.	Pock mark center of forehead, slight scar on bridge of nose, appendectomy scar, broken leg scar.

SHOULD YOU HAVE OR IN THE FUTURE RECEIVE ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THE WHEREABOUTS OF THESE INDIVIDUALS, YOU ARE REQUESTED TO NOTIFY ME OR THE NEAREST OFFICE OF THE FBI. TELEPHONE NUMBER IS LISTED BELOW.



*J. Edgar Hoover*  
 DIRECTOR  
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535  
 TELEPHONE, NATIONAL 8-7117

June 29, 1964

# In 1965, MLK organized a march in Selma, Alabama to protest voting restrictions

Police violence at Selma convinced President Johnson to push for a new federal voting law



# After the Selma march, LBJ signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965

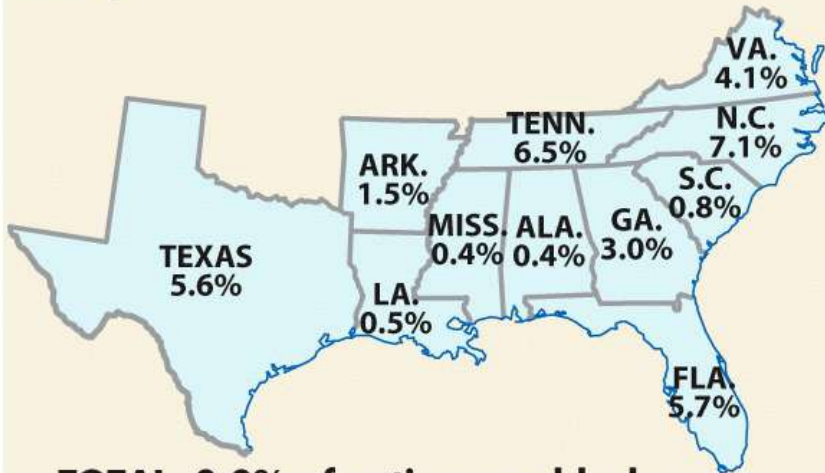
**Banned literacy tests & sent federal voting officials into the South to protect voters**

**Voter turnout & registration increased among black citizens**

**African Americans elected black politicians for the 1<sup>st</sup> time since Reconstruction**

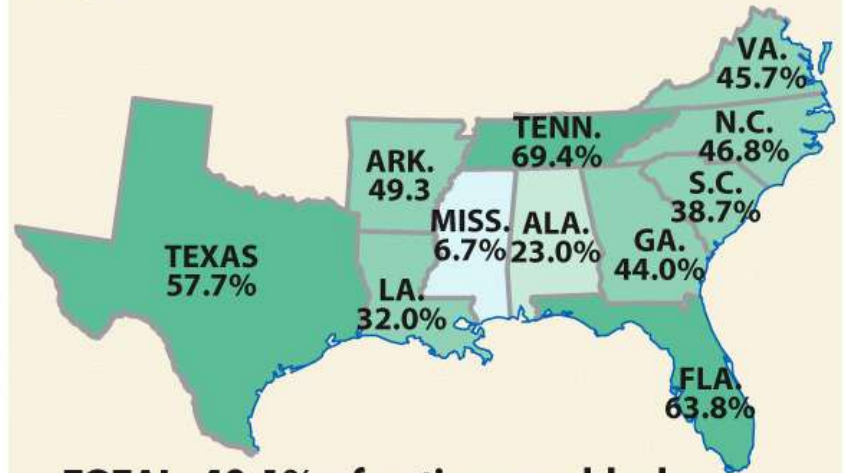


1940



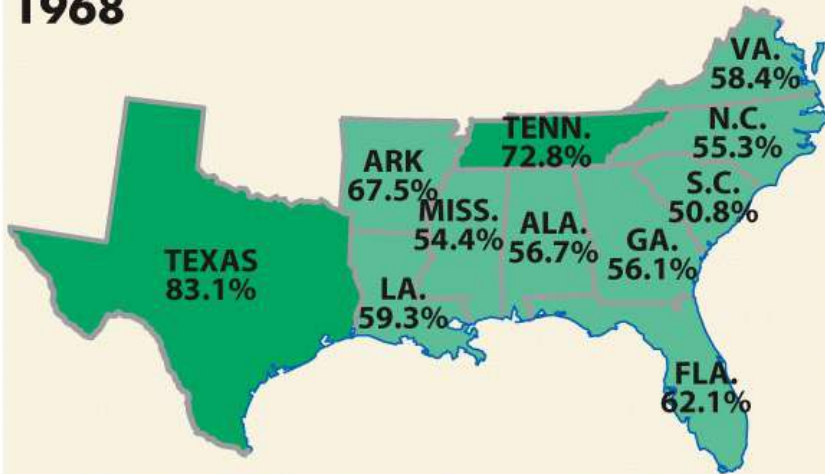
TOTAL: 3.0% of voting age blacks

1964



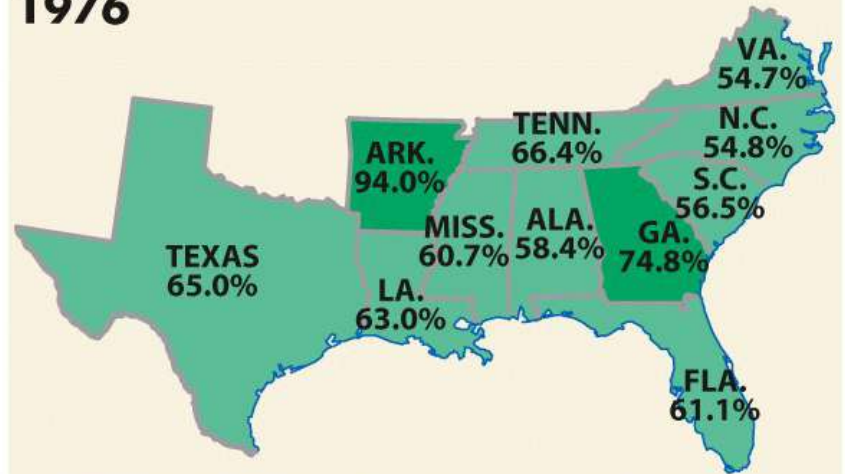
TOTAL: 43.1% of voting age blacks

1968



TOTAL: 62.0% of voting age blacks

1976



TOTAL: 63.1% of voting age blacks

Percent of voting age blacks registered to vote



Less than 10%



10-30%



30-50%



50-70%



More than 70%



# The Civil Rights movement of the 1950s & 1960s finally brought an end to segregation

African Americans brought an end to segregation and gained true voting rights

The Civil Rights movement inspired other minority groups to demand equality



# “I Have a Dream” Analysis

- What was the impact of the Civil Rights movement in America?
  - Listen to MLK’s “I Have a Dream” speech & identify the major points
  - Examine the data provided: To what extent was MLK’s dream a reality by the end of the 1960s?
  - To what extent is MLK’s dream a reality today?



## New Leaders Voice Discontent

### African-American Solidarity

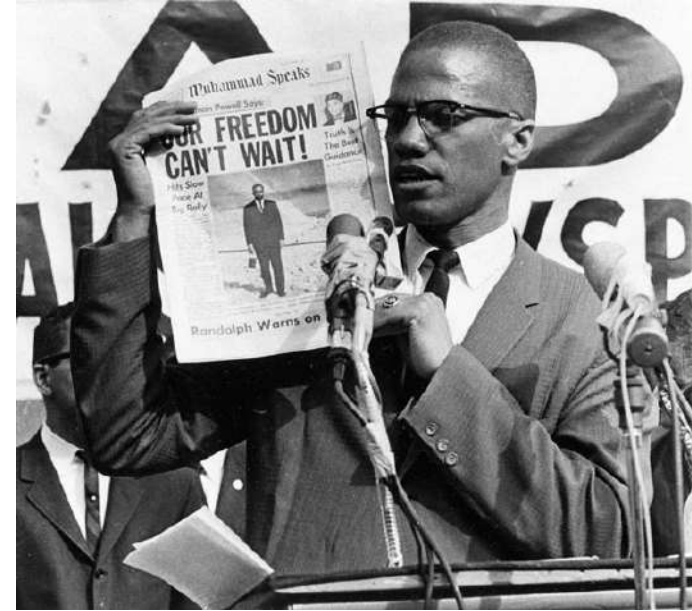
- **Nation of Islam**, Black Muslims, advocate blacks separate from whites

- believe whites source of black problems

- **Malcolm X** controversial Muslim leader, speaker; gets much publicity

- Frightens whites, moderate blacks; resented by other Black Muslims
- ### Ballots or Bullets?

- Pilgrimage to Mecca changes Malcolm X's attitude toward whites
- Splits with Black Muslims; is killed in 1965 while giving speech





## Black Power

- CORE, SNCC become more militant; SCLC pursues traditional tactics

- **Stokely Carmichael**, head of SNCC, calls for **Black Power**:

- African Americans control own lives, communities, without whites

## Black Panthers

- **Black Panthers** fight police brutality, want black self-sufficiency
- Preach ideas of Mao Zedong; have violent confrontations with police
- Provide social services in ghettos, win popular support

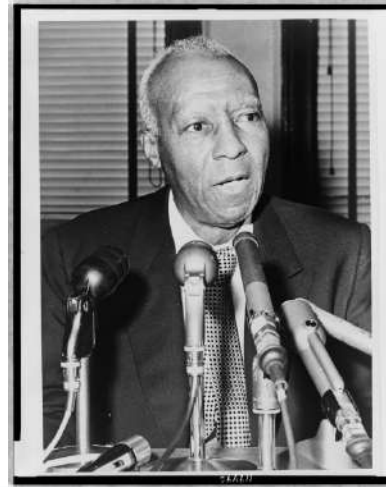


# Quick Review of Civil Rights Leaders Over Time

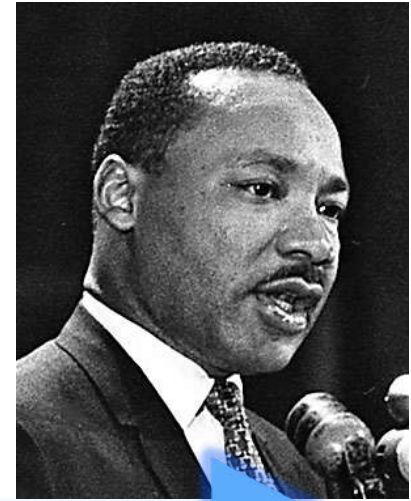
William Lloyd Garrison Booker T Washington



A Philip Randolph



Martin Luther King, Jr.



Frederick Douglass



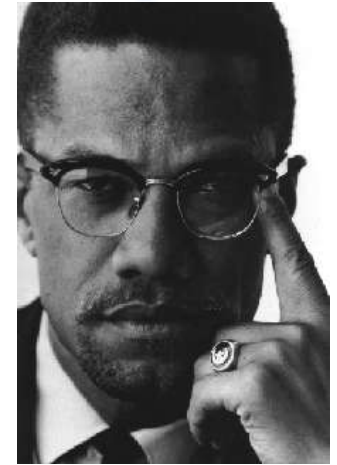
WEB Dubois



Thurgood Marshall



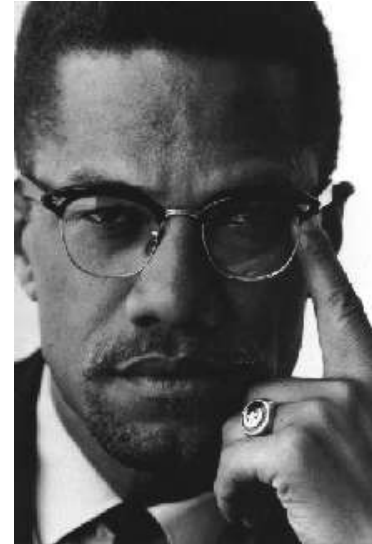
Malcolm X



# Competing Voices of Civil Rights: Martin Luther King, Jr. vs. Malcolm X

## ■ Who was Malcolm X?

— Read background information, watch the Malcolm X video, answer the questions



— Match the quotations with the appropriate author & complete the Venn diagram

— Watch the video “Malcolm X on Martin Luther King” & prepare for a discussion

## Class Discussion:

### Martin Luther King vs. Malcolm X

1. Why do you think there is so much antagonism between these 2 men?
2. In what ways were MLK & Malcolm X opposites? Did they share any common ground?
3. Is it possible that the 2 leaders may have converged, if not for their untimely deaths?