



# The Civil Rights Movement

1945-1970

# Enslavement begins...



- ☀ Africans captured those of other tribes and sold them to European traders



# Triangular Trade





# Triangular Trade, cont...

- ✦ Most of the enslaved people ended up in the Caribbean or South America
  - ✦ Most died there from the harsh conditions and brutal work
- ✦ About 500,000 people were sent to North America
  - ✦ Reproduced; life expectancy equaled the white population



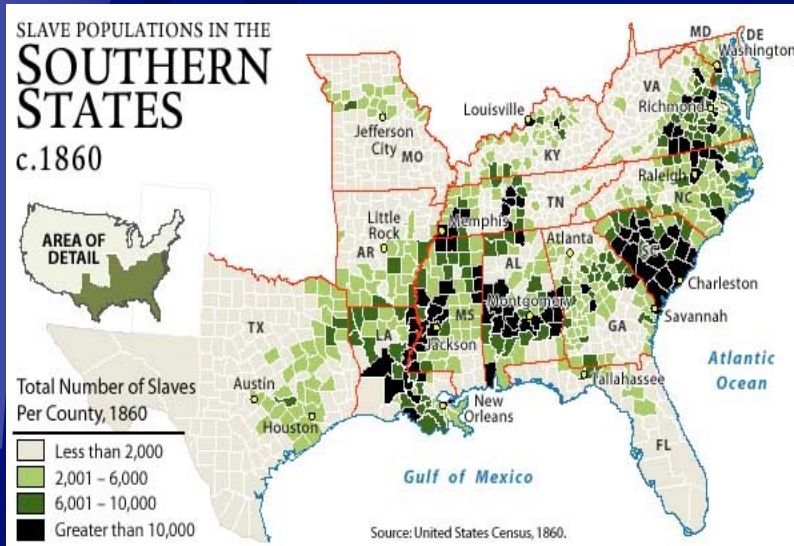
# Three-fifths Compromise (1787)

- ★ The Framers of the Constitution decide African Americans will count as  $\frac{3}{5}$  a person when deciding representation for the census



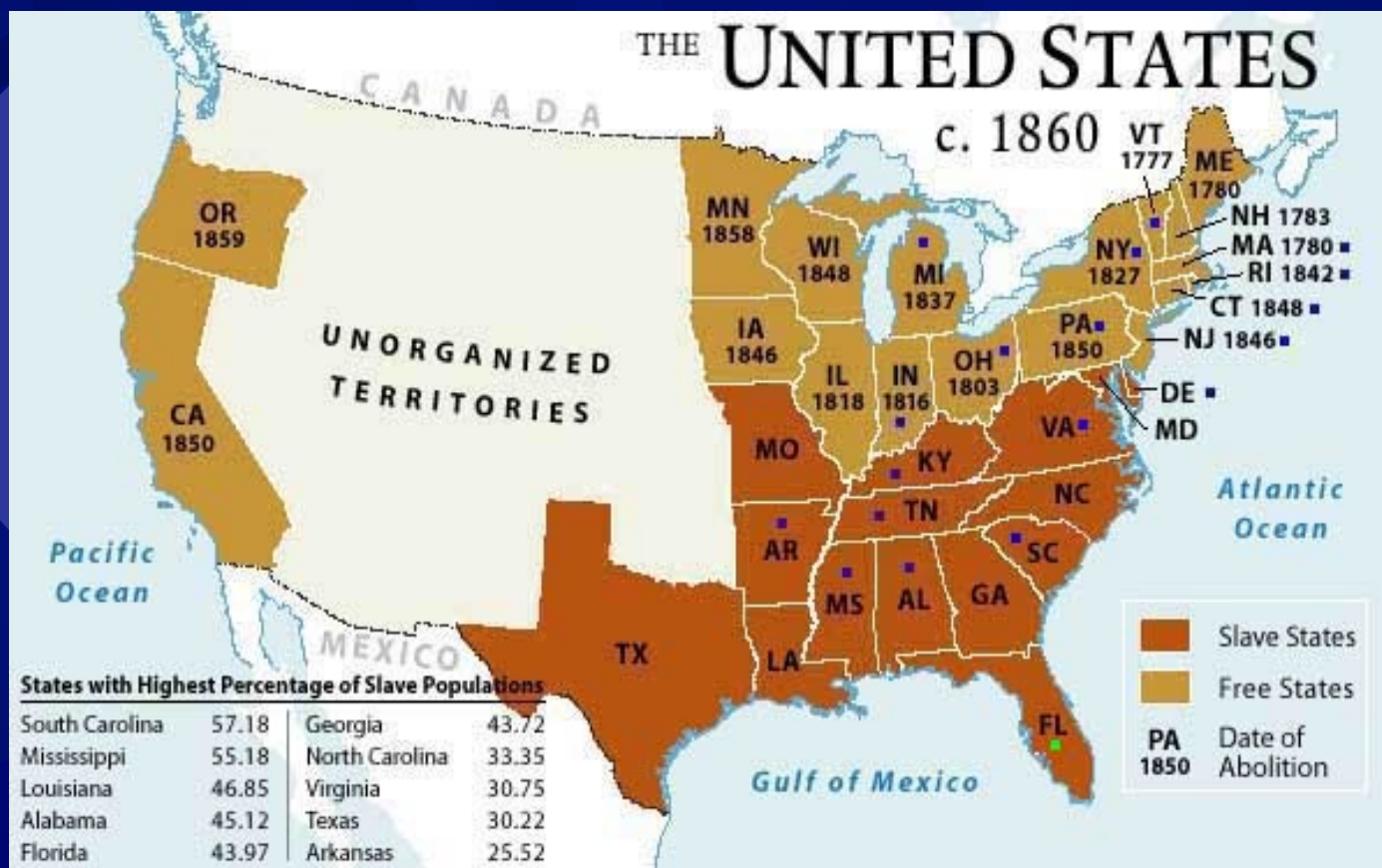
Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania—Where the Constitution was signed

# Slavery in America



- Population increased from 698,000 in 1790 to almost 4 million in 1860
- 75% worked as agricultural laborers
- A majority worked on plantations with 20-150 slaves

# Free/Slave states, c. 1860





# Reconstruction (1865-1877)

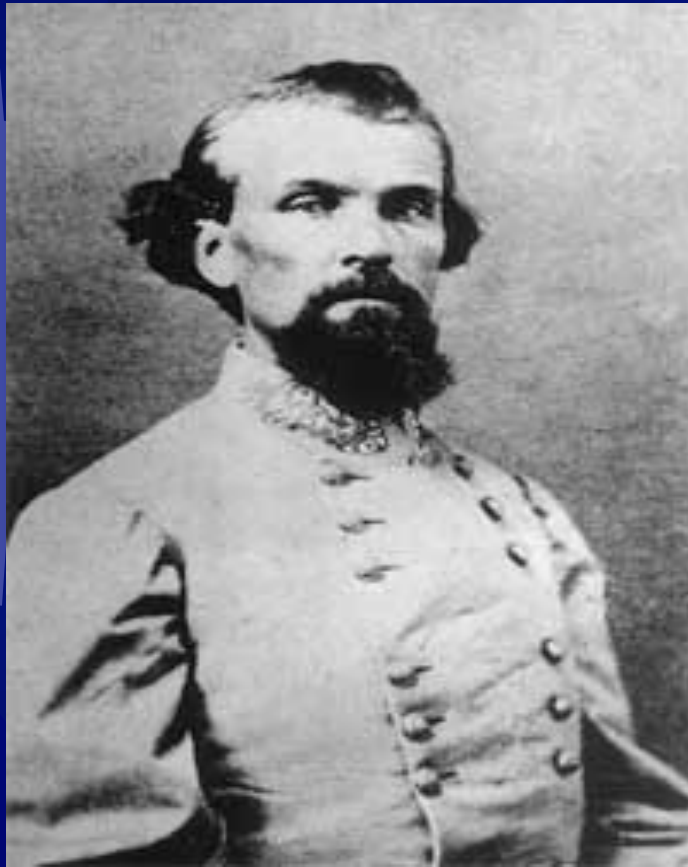
- ✦ Reincorporating the South back into the United States after seceding from the Union
  - ✦ Addressed:
    - How Southern states would regain self-government and seats in Congress
    - The status of leaders of the Confederacy
    - The Constitutional and legal status of freed slaves
  - ✦ Some people disagreed with the way these issues were being handled
    - ✦ With this, the Ku Klux Klan was formed
      - Ku Klux Klan is Greek for “circle”

# Formation of the Klan: December 24, 1865

- Pulaski, Tennessee; by ex Confederate soldiers
  - The sheets represented Confederate soldiers coming back from the dead
  - Started off as a hoax; then realized the scare tactics were actually working
- Goal: restore white supremacy; social men's group
- declined from 1868 to 1870
- destroyed by President Grant's passage and enforcement of the Force Acts of 1870 and 1871



# The Force Act of 1870



- Enforced in 1871
- banned the use of terror, force or bribery to prevent someone from voting because of their race.
- Other laws banned the KKK entirely.
- Hundreds of KKK members were tried and thousands of Klansmen were arrested.
- The first Klan was almost eradicated within a year of federal prosecution.

Nathan Bedford Forrest, first Grand Wizard of the KKK (left)



# Black leaders



- ★ Many black leaders were elected to local and state governments during the Reconstruction era
- ★ 2 senators (Mississippi) and 15 congressmen

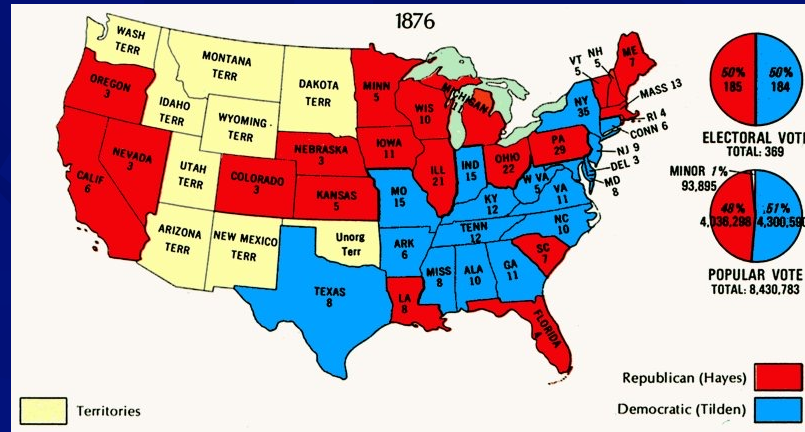
# Post Civil War America



## ★ Civil Rights Amendments:

- 13<sup>th</sup> (1865)—abolition of slavery
- 14<sup>th</sup> (1868)—citizenship for African Americans; equal protection clause
- 15<sup>th</sup> (1870)—African American right to vote

# End of Reconstruction



## ★ Election of 1876

- Disputes over electoral votes

## ★ Compromise of 1877

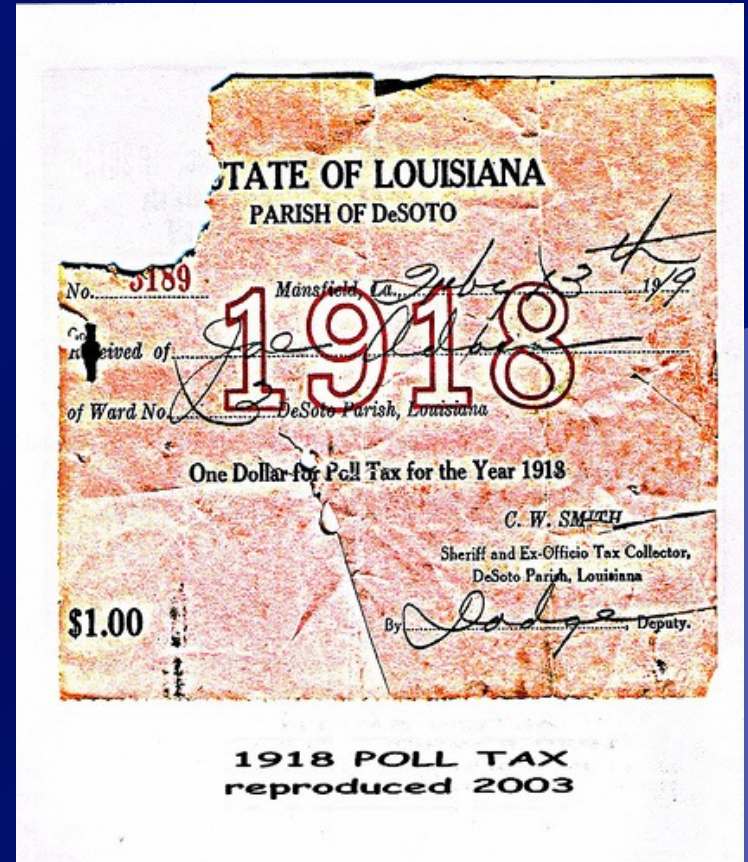
- Even though Samuel Tilden (Democrat) won the popular vote and there was no majority electoral winner, Rutherford B. Hayes (Republican) became president
- Hayes became president in exchange for pulling all federal troops out from South Carolina, Florida, and Louisiana
- The South voted “solidly” democratic until 1964



# Disenfranchisement

☀ States devised ways to disenfranchise African Americans and prevent them from voting:

- Literacy Tests
- Poll Tax
- Grandfather Clause



# Segregation and *Plessy vs. Ferguson* (1896)



- ☀ *Plessy* ruling: “Separate but Equal” accommodations ok
- ☀ Jim Crow Laws—laws which enforced this case
- ☀ Segregation was often called the Jim Crow system, after a character from the 1830s who was an African American slave
- ☀ This demonstrated negative stereotypes of African Americans.
- ☀ Maintained a second-class status for African Americans



# Resurrection of the Klan

- ★ KKK resurrected in 1915-1944
  - Arose again on the popularity of “Birth of a Nation” & the Leo Frank case
  - More romanticized version; had the most membership
    - Why join?
      - Social club aspect
      - Respectable white men
      - Patriotism
      - Family value
      - Anti-Catholic, immigrant, Semitic
      - Secret organization
      - Rises in Indiana, rural areas
        - Don't like cars, radio (return to rural life)



Released in early 1915;  
first movie screened at the  
White House (Wilson)



# Downfall of the Second Klan

- Relation to the Klan of the South
  - Respect, honor, chivalry
- Downfall during Great Depression and WW2



KKK marches down  
Pennsylvania Ave,  
1926

# Establishment of the NAACP



- ✦ Est. 1909
- ✦ National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
- ✦ Many whites were vital to the founding of the NAACP

# NAACP and lynching

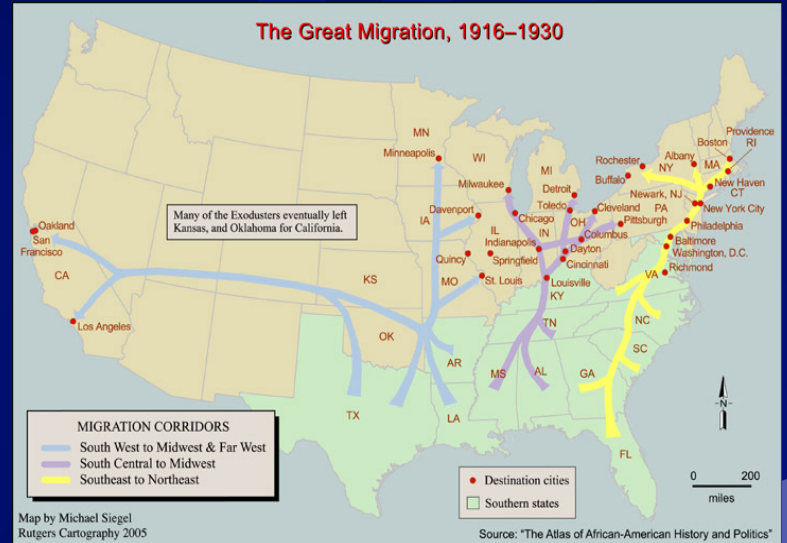
- ★ Lynching—killing people as a mob action...most often associated with hanging, although it often included burning and various types of torture.
  - Often rare for culprits of lynching to receive punishment
- ★ Spent more than a decade trying to get an anti-lynching law passed
- ★ The NAACP regularly displayed a black flag stating "A Man Was Lynched Yesterday" from the window of its offices in New York to mark each lynching.





# Great Migration

- ☀ 1910-1940
- ☀ Movement of African Americans from the South to the industrialized North
- ☀ Took advantage of employment opportunities set forth by World War I
- ☀ Reasons for moving:
  - Racism
  - Employment opportunities
  - Education



# Race Riots: 1919-1921

- ✦ “Red Summer” of 1919
- ✦ Occurred all over the country
- ✦ Result of:
  - ✦ Post-WW1 Tensions
    - Social
    - economic

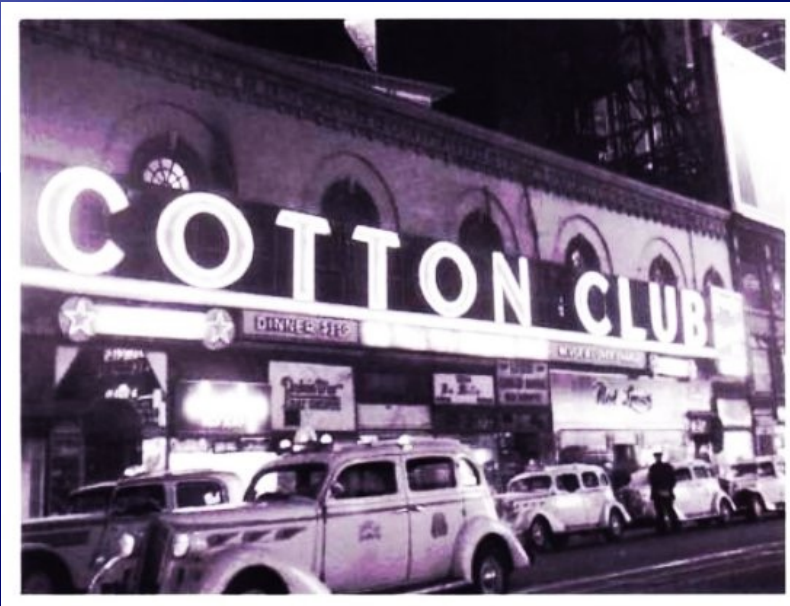




# The Harlem Renaissance



- ★ 1920-1935
- ★ Time where African-American art, literature, music, and culture began to flourish and was recognized by mainstream America





# The Harlem Renaissance, cont.

- ★ As more and more educated and socially conscious African Americans settled in New York's neighborhood of Harlem, it developed into the political and cultural center of black America
- ★ This generation refused to let the reality of racism and discrimination in the United States keep them from pursuing their goals.



Langston Hughes, famous African American poet

# The Decline of the Renaissance



Zora Neale Hurston, writer, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

- ★ During the Great Depression of the 1930s, organizations such as the NAACP and the National Urban League, which had actively promoted the Renaissance in the 1920s, shifted their focus to economic and social issues.
- ★ Impact:
  - 1980s/90s literature: Alice Walker (*The Color Purple*), Toni Morrison (*The Bluest Eye*, *Beloved*)
  - New Media, such as with director Spike Lee (“Summer of Sam”, “Jungle Fever”, “Malcolm X”)

# The Scottsboro Boys

- Location: Scottsboro, Alabama
- Situation: March 1931, nine black teenagers were taken off a freight train in Alabama
- Charge: rape 1931: 8/9 black youths aged 13-21 sentenced to death
  - two white women accused them of rape... there was overwhelming evidence that they had not even been raped at all
- Problem? ALL WHITE JURY
- Supreme court overturned the convictions in 1932
- NAACP and the Communist Party provided financial assistance
- They were never acquitted, but they all eventually gained their freedom.
  - The last of the Scottsboro defendants did not leave prison until 1950



The Scottsboro Boys with their lawyer, Samuel Leibowitz. Because of his impeccable record, the International Labor Defense hired him, knowing he would not be paid for his service. This is the first case Leibowitz lost in 15 years.



# Black Groups for Equality

- ✦ In 1910, the National Urban League was created to help African Americans make the transition to urban, industrial life.
- ✦ In 1942, the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) was founded to challenge segregation in public accommodations in the North.
  - ✦ CORE initiated the March on Washington and Freedom Rides

# *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka (1954)*



Nellie Hunt and daughter after *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, 1954

- ★ In May 1954, the Court issued its landmark ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, stating racially segregated education was unconstitutional, thus **overturning the *Plessy* decision.**
- ★ White Southerners were shocked by the *Brown* decision.

# *Brown v. Board* lawyers

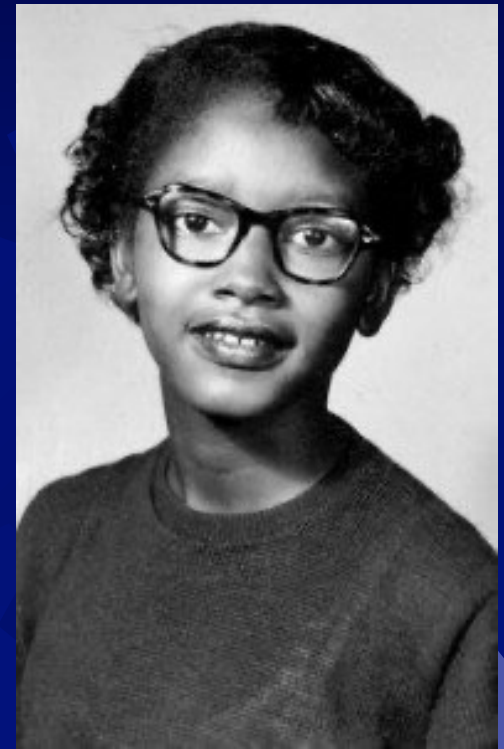
- George E.C. Hayes, Thurgood Marshall and James M. Nabrit, the lawyers who led the fight before the U.S. Supreme Court for abolition of segregation in public schools.
- Picture taken descending the steps of the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. on May 17, 1954.
- Thurgood Marshall eventually became the first African-American justice admitted to the Supreme Court in 1967 by President Lyndon B. Johnson





# March 2, 1955: Claudette Colvin

- ✦ 15 years old, pregnant
- ✦ Montgomery, Alabama
- ✦ Refused to give up her seat on a bus for a white person
- ✦ “I could not move, because history had me glued to the seat. . . It felt like Sojourner Truth’s hands were pushing me down on one shoulder and Harriet Tubman’s hands were pushing me down on another shoulder, and I could not move.” [Video](#)



# The Murder of Emmett Till

## August, 1955



- ★ 14 year old boy from Chicago, Illinois visiting his uncle in Mississippi
- ★ Various stories, but many suggested he was dared to flirt with a white woman; he whistled at the grocery owner's wife
- ★ Her husband grew enraged; wanted to “teach him a lesson”



Emmett Till's home  
in South Side  
Chicago, April 2022



# Till, cont.

- ☀ Emmett was abducted and his body was found three days later in a river; he was beaten beyond recognition
- ☀ His body was brought back to Chicago for burial
- ☀ His mother insisted he have an open casket so “everyone can see what they did to my baby”
- ☀ Many argue this initiated the Civil Rights Movement



The church where Till's funeral was held. Chicago, Illinois. Summer, 2007





# The Outcome

- ✦ Emmett's killers were brought to trial 24 days after his murder
- ✦ They were found innocent by an all white jury of 12 men
  - ✦ 67 minutes to deliberate
- ✦ *Look Magazine* later paid the men \$4,000 to tell their story
  - ✦ They explained exactly how they killed Till
  - ✦ Free from “double jeopardy”—being tried for the same crime twice

# Admission of lying:

- ★ In 2017, author Timothy Tyson released details of a 2008 interview with Carolyn Bryant, during which she disclosed that she had fabricated the most sensational part of her testimony. Tyson stated: "she said with respect to the physical assault on her, or anything menacing or sexual, that that part isn't true". She also said: "nothing that boy did could ever justify what happened to him".



# Rosa Parks: December 1, 1955



SOURCE: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

- ★ Rosa Parks, a member of the Montgomery, Alabama, branch of the NAACP, was told to give up her seat on a city bus to a white person.
- ★ When Parks refused to move, she was arrested.
- ★ The local NAACP, led by Edgar D. Nixon, recognized that the arrest of Parks might rally local African Americans to protest segregated buses.





# The Montgomery Bus Boycott: December 5, 1955—December 20, 1956

- Segregation bus laws were the most hated and humiliating in Montgomery
- Women at Alabama State University call for bus boycott
  - This date corresponded to the beginning of Rosa Parks' trial
- Complaints against bus company:
  - Physical torture
  - Wanted drivers to come to black neighborhoods with more stops
  - Wanted seats to be first come, first served...not "white" or "colored" sections
  - COURTESY



# Dexter Avenue Baptist Church



- Between Rosa Parks' arrest and the boycott, ministers met at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church...where they elected its young minister as the leader of the movement—Martin Luther King, Jr.





# Montgomery, Alabama

- ☀ Up the street from Dexter, is the Montgomery capital building





# The Boycott, cont.

- ✱ Taxi drivers were not allowed to give rides to any protestors or they would be fined
- ✱ Instead, people worked together and formed carpools to help each other out
- ✱ Violence increased as a result of the boycotts
- ✱ The boycott ended when the city of Montgomery initiated an ordinance that allowed black bus passengers to sit virtually anywhere they wanted
- ✱ By blacks not riding the city busses, it ended up costing the city of Montgomery over \$1 million...75% of bus riders were black

# Desegregating Little Rock, Arkansas: 1957



- ★ After the Supreme Court ruled in *Brown v. Board*, the Little Rock school district decided to voluntarily desegregate Little Rock Central High School
- ★ 150 black students volunteered → 10 → 9 students eventually went to school

# The Little Rock 9

- ★ Refers to the 9 students who desegregated the school
- ★ The Governor of Arkansas, Orville Faubus called the National Guard to prevent their entry
- ★ President Eisenhower sent in the army to take the students to school

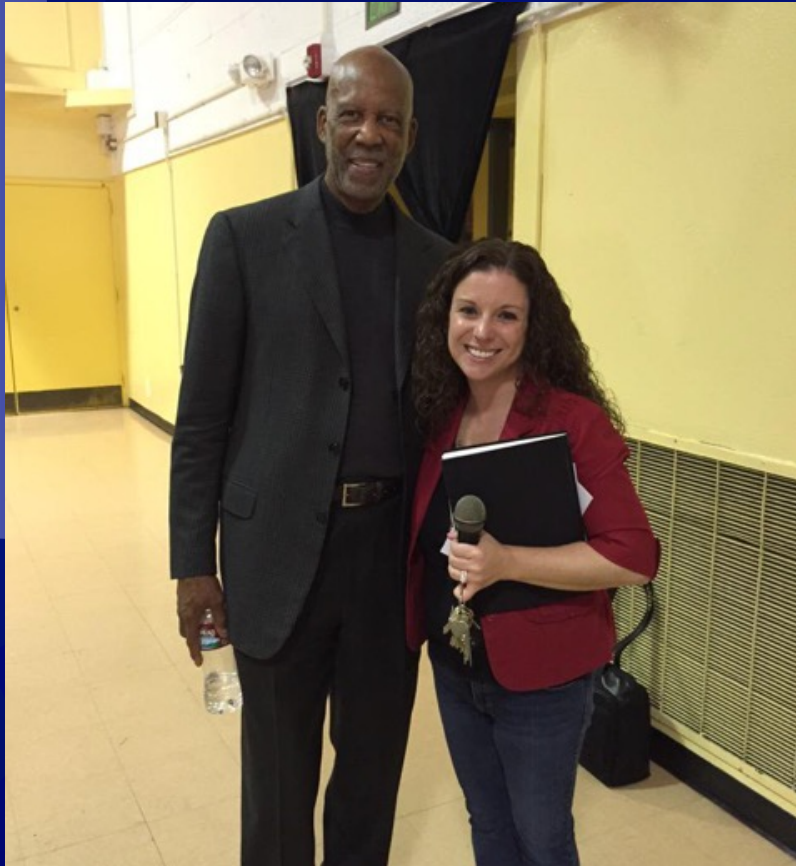




# The Little Rock 9

- ✦ The students encountered hatred throughout the school year
- ✦ In order to avoid desegregating other schools, the governor closed all Little Rock schools for the following school year starting in September, 1958
- ✦ The schools were reopened in August, 1959 after the Supreme Court ruled that closing the schools was unconstitutional

# The Little Rock 9 comes to Taft!



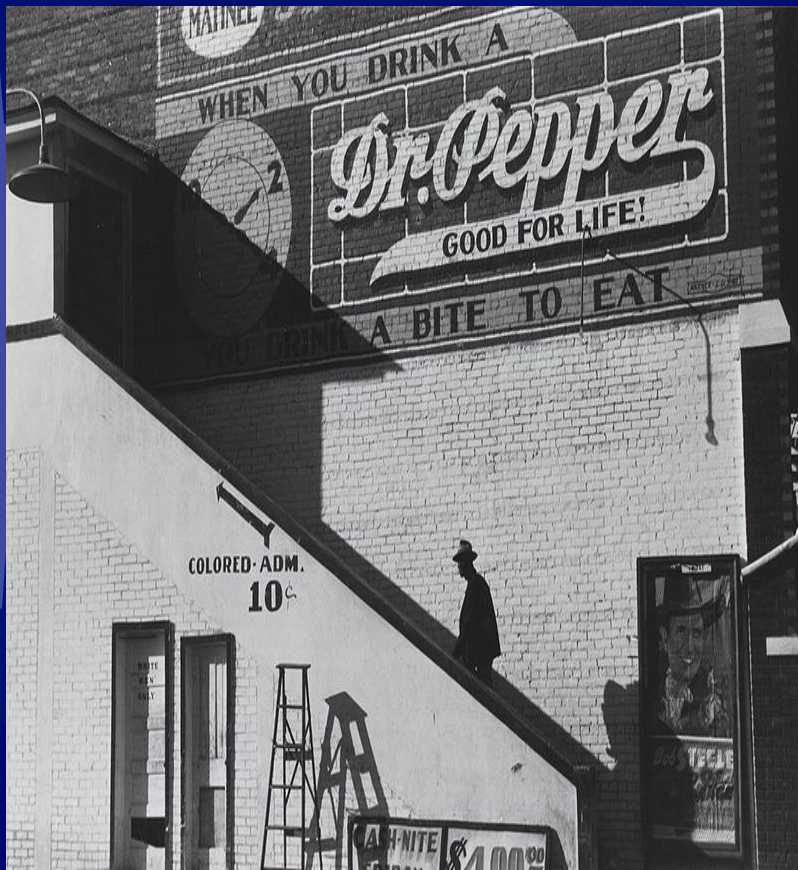
# Martin Luther King, Jr. and non-violent protest

- ★ This was the only solution that could cure society's evil and create a just society.
- ★ As King emerged as a leader in the civil rights movement, he put his belief into action and proved this was effective to combat racial segregation
- ★ Learned of this idea from Gandhi





# Sit-ins



- ✦ The sit-ins were very significant to the movement. They symbolized a change in the mood of African-American people.
- ✦ Up until 1960 no one actively did anything to challenge segregation

# Sit-ins: Greensboro, North Carolina, February 1, 1960

**Where:** the white-only Woolworth's lunch counter

**Who:** 4 male freshmen from North Carolina A&T State University

**What:** told they wouldn't be served; refused to leave

**Significance:** this idea spread and became an active method of protest



The lunch counter at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. today



# Freedom Rides, Summer, 1960

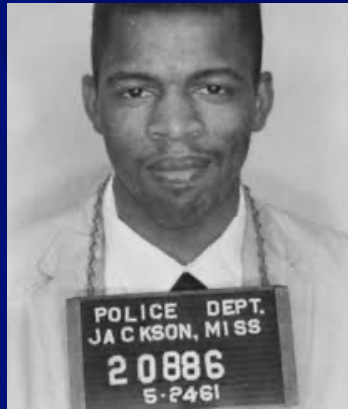


Firebombing in Anniston, Alabama

- Over the spring and summer, student volunteers began taking bus trips through the South to test out new laws that prohibit segregation in interstate travel facilities, which includes bus and railway stations.
- Attacked by angry mobs along the way
- Sponsored by CORE and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)
- Involved more than 1,000 volunteers, black and white.



# Representative John Lewis



- ★ On the first Freedom Ride
- ★ Chairman of SNCC
- ★ Spoke at 1963 March on Washington (youngest speaker of the day, passed away in July, 2020)
- ★ Participated in 1965 Selma-to-Montgomery March
- ★ 1986: Elected to Congress from Georgia
- ★ 2016: sit-in on the House Floor—allow a vote on safety gun legislation

# Ruby Bridges – November 14, 1960



- ★ Six years old
  - ★ Escorted by federal marshals into an all-white school
- ★ Marked the beginning of the integration for US public schools
- ★ William Frantz Elementary,
- ★ New Orleans, Louisiana



# Integrating the University of Georgia: Fall, 1961

- ✦ Charlayne Hunter-Gault and Hamilton E. Holmes were the first African-Americans to attend
- ✦ The academic building at the University of Georgia where they registered for classes was renamed the Hunter-Holmes Academic Building in 2001
- ✦ Hunter-Gault worked for CNN and currently works for National Public Radio. She has received numerous Peabody Awards for Journalism and Emmy awards





# Integration of the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss): October 1, 1962

- ★ James Meredith became the first black student to enroll at the University of Mississippi
- ★ He tried to enroll before but was denied twice
- ★ Violence and riots surrounding the incident caused President Kennedy to send 5,000 federal troops.



# January 14, 1963

- ✦ Inauguration Speech as Governor of Alabama, George Wallace
- ✦ “Segregation now, segregation forever”
  - ✦ Rally cry for those opposed to integration and the Civil Rights Movement



# The Birmingham Campaign: 1963-1964



- ★ “Bombingham” —so many bombs went off in the city, this became the nickname
- ★ Goal: the desegregation of Birmingham’s downtown merchants
- ★ nonviolent methods of confrontation:
  - sit-ins
  - march to the county building to mark the beginning of a drive to register voters



# Mass protest

- ✱ However, the city was able to secure an injunction barring all such forms of protest
- ✱ Believing it was unconstitutional, people prepared for mass arrests in order to protest
- ✱ Martin Luther King, Jr. volunteered to be the first arrested on April 12, 1963

# In Jail:

- ★ While in jail, Dr. King wrote “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” on the margins of newspapers while he was in solitary confinement
- ★ King was released April 19, 1963
  - ★ Harry Belafonte (the singer) paid for his bail



# The Children's March



- ✦ The movement was losing steam, so SCLC organizers came up with a controversial idea: enlist children
- ✦ They got this idea out through the radio with code words
- ✦ More than 1,000 students skipped school on May 2, 1963 to join in on demonstrations



# The Second Day...

- ★ On the first day, the police stated they acted with “restraint,” the second day was different
- ★ Another 1000 students came the following day and met at the 16<sup>th</sup> St. Baptist Church
- ★ When they started marching, the City Commissioner for Public Safety, Eugene “Bull” Connor unleashed police dogs and water hoses on the students



# The March Turned Violent



- ✦ Problem: TV cameras broadcast to the nation the scenes of water from fire hoses knocking down schoolchildren and dogs attacking individual demonstrators.
- ✦ Public outrage forced the Kennedy Administration to intervene in the negotiations between the white business community and the SCLC



# What happened as a result?

★ May 10, 1963

- ★ Agreement to desegregate the lunch counters and other public accommodations downtown, to create a committee to eliminate discriminatory hiring practices, to arrange for the release of jailed protesters, and to establish regular means of communication between black and white leaders.



At the front of Kelly Ingram Park, Birmingham, Alabama—where the march took place



# Response...



Statue of Shuttlesworth outside the Birmingham Civil Rights Museum— across the street from Kelly Ingram Park and the 16<sup>th</sup> St. Baptist Church

- ★ Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth publicly disagreed with this...he knew of the white Birmingham community's "good faith"
- ★ Many whites in Birmingham were not happy with this agreement either
- ★ He passed away in 2011



Mrs. Kissen in Birmingham meeting Rev. Shuttlesworth (and his wife) in Summer, 2007

# The Murder of Medgar Evers

- ✦ World War II Vet
  - ✦ Battle of Normandy
- ✦ Field Secretary for Miss. Branch of NAACP
  - ✦ Worked to get James Meredith admitted to Ole Miss
- ✦ Assassinated on his driveway in Jackson, Miss.; 37 years old
  - ✦ June 12, 1963
  - ✦ Hours after President Kennedy's televised Civil Rights Address
  - ✦ Buried at Arlington National Cemetery with military honors
- ✦ Byron De La Beckwith tried for his murder
  - ✦ All white jury deadlocked in April 1964
  - ✦ New Evidence discovered and he was retried in June 1994 ("Ghosts of Mississippi")
  - ✦ Found GUILTY and was in prison until his death in January, 2001

# Medgar Evers





# The March on Washington: August, 1963

- About 200,000 people attending
- Theme: “jobs, justice, and peace”
- Congregated at the Lincoln Memorial, where participants listened as Martin Luther King delivers his famous “I Have a Dream” speech.
- Credited with helping to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965



# Bombing of the 16<sup>th</sup> St. Baptist Church: September 15, 1963

- ★ Members of the Ku Klux Klan bombed the 16<sup>th</sup> St. Baptist Church
- ★ 4 young girls were killed. They were attending Sunday school classes





Addie Mae Collins



Carole Robertson



Cynthia Wesley



Denise McNair

Denise McNair was a former classmate of Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice

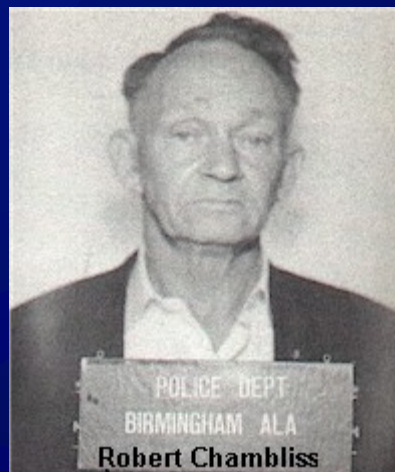
☀ A witness identified Robert Chambliss as putting the box (which contained the bomb) under the stairs next to the church.

☀ He was arrested for the bombing, but was found innocent with a \$100 fine

☀ In November, 1977 Chambliss was tried once again. Then aged 73, Chambliss was found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment.

☀ The FBI kept evidence from the prosecutors

☀ Chambliss died in an Alabama prison on October 29, 1985.





# Segregation in LAUSD



- ★ Crawford v. LAUSD
- ★ Mary Ellen Crawford
  - ★ African-American girl sued LAUSD
  - ★ 1961 - She wanted to attend South Gate High School (closer to her house; 98% Caucasian population) but LAUSD told her she had to attend Jordan (further from her house; 99% African-American population)
- ★ Sued: 1963
- ★ Settled: 1977 – California Supreme Court: LAUSD engaged in de jure segregation; ordered them to prepare a desegregation plan → 1978: forced busing to desegregate LA (Ended in 1981) → 1979: Magnet programs established as a voluntary busing system

# Events of 1964:

## ☀ January 23<sup>rd</sup>:

- 24<sup>th</sup> Amendment Passed
  - Abolishes the poll tax
    - Way of disenfranchising African-Americans...charged people to vote

## ☀ July 2:

- LBJ signs the Civil Rights Act of 1964
  - prohibits discrimination of all kinds based on race, color, religion, or national origin. The law also provides the federal government with the powers to enforce desegregation.

# Freedom Summer

- ★ Freedom Summer—When black and white college students from the east coast traveled to the South to register blacks to vote
- ★ August 4, 1964:
  - Bodies of 3 men (two Jewish men and one black man) were discovered in a dam
  - James E. Chaney, 21; Andrew Goodman, 21; and Michael Schwerner, 24
  - They were working to register black voters in Mississippi
  - On June 21 went to investigate the burning of a black church

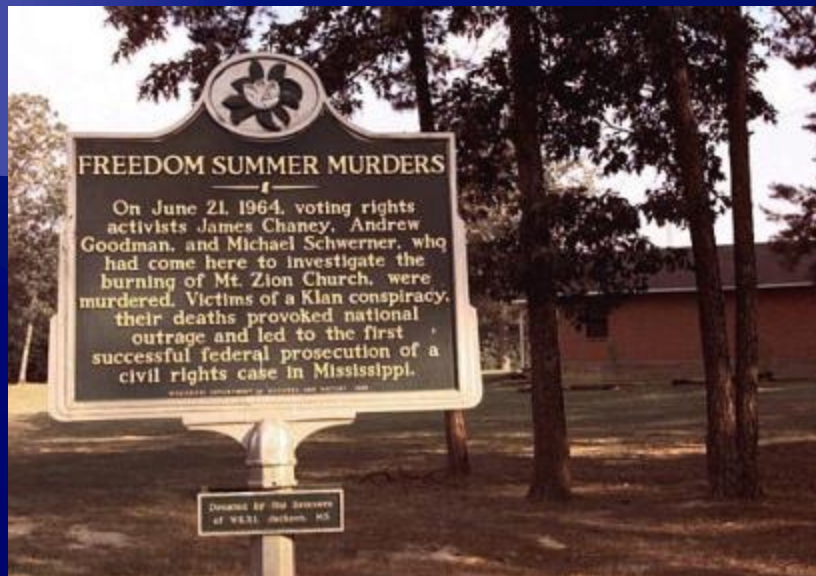






Top: the boys' car as it was found

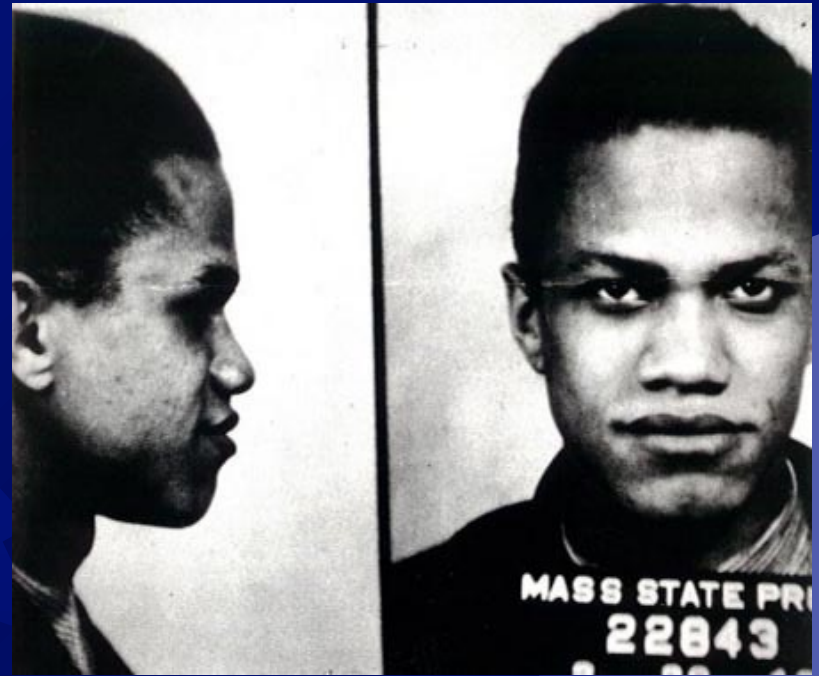
- Arrested by the police on speeding charges, incarcerated for several hours, and then released after dark into the hands of the Ku Klux Klan, who murdered them.
- The ringleader of the murders, Edgar Ray Killen, was convicted on June 21, 2005, the 41st anniversary of the crimes
- “Mississippi Burning” was based on this event



Top: Killen sits trial

# Malcolm X

- ✦ Born Malcolm Little; changed his last name because “Little” was a slave owners last name
- ✦ While serving a prison term, he became a Muslim preacher and after his release he became very prominent with the Nation of Islam
- ✦ Had a “falling out” with the leader Elijah Muhammad



# Martin vs. Malcolm



- ✦ March 26, 1964: only time the two men met. They were in DC listening to the Senate debate on the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- ✦ They met for a minute; long enough for a picture



# Diverse Beliefs:

## ✦ Martin Luther King, Jr.

- ✦ Favored non-violence
- ✦ Favored interracial organizing
- ✦ Response to Malcolm X:
  - "I have often wished that he would talk less of violence, because violence is not going to solve our problem," King noted. "And, in his litany of articulating the despair of the Negro without offering any positive, creative alternative, I feel that Malcolm has done himself and our people a great disservice. Fiery, demagogic oratory in the black ghettos, urging Negroes to arm themselves and prepare to engage in violence, as he has done, can reap nothing but grief."

## ✦ Malcolm X

- ✦ Favored armed self-defense
- ✦ Against white allies
- ✦ "By any means necessary"
- ✦ Response to March on Washington:
  - "No sane black man really wants integration! No sane white man really wants integration. . . . The honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches that for the black man in America the only solution is complete separation from the white man!"

# Assassination of Malcolm X: February 21, 1965



- ✦ Murdered in Manhattan by Black Muslims

# Selma to Montgomery March: March 7, 1965

- 525 to 600 civil rights marchers headed east out of Selma on Highway 80
- Goal: to ask Governor George Wallace to protect black registrants
- Crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge (Civil War Confederate General/KKK Grand Dragon—Change the name, 2015?)
- 3 separate marches; many were beaten and killed
  - Known as “Bloody Sunday”





# Commemorating the March: The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



# Speech: We Shall Overcome

- ★ Speech delivered in response to Selma March
- ★ LBJ uses language of the movement and bolsters his status within the movement in his address to Congress
- ★ He was asking them to pass his Voting Rights Act of 1965



# Voting Rights Act of 1965



- ✦ outlawed discriminatory voting practices that had been responsible for the widespread disenfranchisement of African Americans
  - ✦ Including:
    - Poll tax
    - Literacy test



# Formation of the Black Panthers



- Founded in Oakland, California in October, 1966 by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale – who met at Merritt College
- established to promote Black Power and self-defense through acts of social agitation
- active in the United States from the mid-1960s into the 1970s
- Initially called for the protection of black neighborhoods and fought against police brutality
- Some members openly disagreed with the views of the leaders.

# *Loving v. Virginia* (1967)



- ✦ the Supreme Court rules that prohibiting interracial marriage is unconstitutional
- ✦ Sixteen states that still banned interracial marriage at the time are forced to revise their laws

# Going to Memphis: The Poor People's Campaign, 1968

- ✦ MLK, Jr. went to Memphis on behalf of economic injustice, specifically for sanitation workers to get a minimum wage
- ✦ The 1968 Poor People's Campaign did not focus on just poor black people but addressed all poor people of every minority. Poor Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, American Indians, and even poor whites were included in the campaign.





# April 3, 1968



- ✦ Men and women packed the Mason Temple because they heard King was supposed to speak
- ✦ That night he delivered his famous “I’ve been to the Mountaintop” speech



- ★ Toward the end of the speech, King refers to threats against his life and uses language that seems to foreshadow his impending death:
  - ★ "And then I got to Memphis. And some began to say the threats, or talk about the threats that were out. What would happen to me from some of our sick white brothers? Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land. So I'm happy, tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord." ([play sp`eech](#))



# The Lorraine Motel

- ☀ One of the few motels open to black people
- ☀ On a side street walking distance to Beale St.
- ☀ Famous black people stayed there such as Nat “King” Cole and Louis Armstrong



Beale St., Summer, 2007





# April 4, 1968



Mrs. Kissen and Reverend Kyle, Summer 2007

- ✦ MLK, Jr. was going to dinner at his friend, Reverend Kyle's house

# The Assassination

- ☀ MLK stepped outside and was shot
- ☀ He was 39



What the men were pointing at—where the shots came from (middle building, last window on the right)



# The Lorraine Today



- ☀ The façade of the Lorraine today looks exactly as it did the day King was shot...down to the cars in front
- ☀ To the left is the National Civil Rights Museum which goes through the Civil Rights Movement and ends at the room where MLK was staying...the sheets haven't been moved




# Following the Assassination

- ★ James Earl Ray was convicted of King's murder
  - He said he was forced to confess
  - On his deathbed, he said he didn't do it
  - King's family believed Ray
- ★ Many people felt the Civil Rights Movement ended with King's death

**WANTED BY THE FBI**

**CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY  
INTERSTATE FLIGHT - ROBBERY  
JAMES EARL RAY** FBI No. 405,942 G



Photographs taken 1960

Photograph taken 1968  
(eyes drawn by artist)

**Aliases:** Eric Starvo Galt, W. C. Herron, Harvey Lowmyer, James McBride, James O'Conner, James Walton, James Walyon, John Willard, "Jim,"

**DESCRIPTION**

<b>Age:</b> 40, born March 10, 1928, at Quincy or Alton, Illinois (not supported by birth records)	<b>Eyes:</b> Blue
<b>Height:</b> 5' 10"	<b>Complexion:</b> Medium
<b>Weight:</b> 163 to 174 pounds	<b>Race:</b> White
<b>Build:</b> Medium	<b>Nationality:</b> American
<b>Hair:</b> Brown, possibly cut short	

# Immediate Effects— RFK speech



- ✦ Before boarding a plane to Indianapolis, RFK delivered a last speech and told the crowd that MLK had been shot
- ✦ Once the audience quieted down Kennedy acknowledged that many in the audience would be filled with anger, especially since the assassin was believed to be a white man
- ✦ “But remember my brother was killed by a white man” ([play speech](#))

# Immediate Effects— Riots

- ✦ Led to riots in more than 60 cities...
  - Except none in Memphis, Indianapolis and Boston
- ✦ After the assassination, the city of Memphis quickly settled the strike, on favorable terms to the sanitation workers





# Civil Rights Act of 1968, aka the Fair Housing Act passed April 11, 1968



- ☀ prohibited discrimination concerning the sale, rental, and financing of housing based on race, religion, national origin
- ☀ as of 1974, gender
- ☀ as of 1988, the act protects the handicapped and families with children
- ☀ It also provided protection for civil rights workers

# 1968 Summer Olympics, Mexico City: Sports and Protest

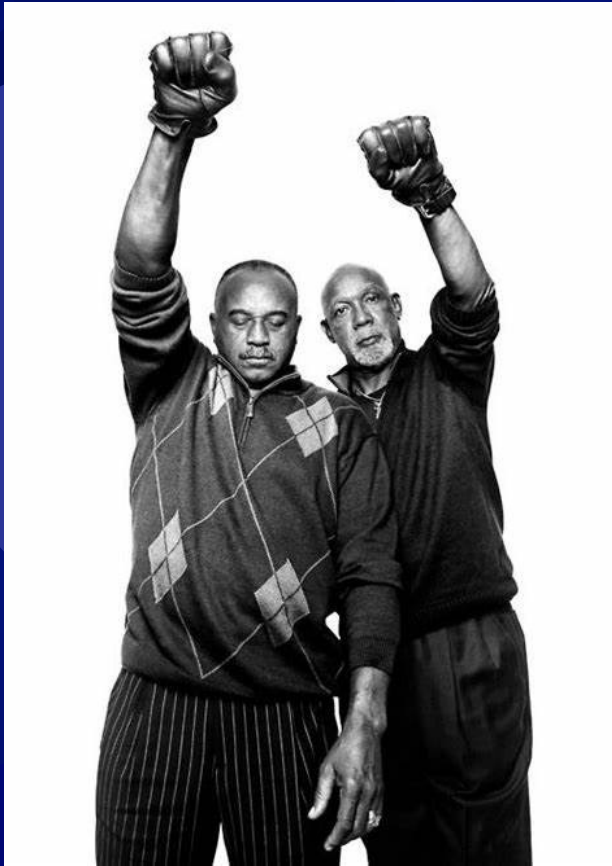


- ✦ Protesting racial discrimination
- ✦ October 16, 1968: 200m track event; Gold and Bronze medal winners
- ✦ Tommie Smith and John Carlos each raised their black-gloved fist (black power salute) during the playing of the national anthem
- ✦ Both men received their medals wearing no shoes, just black socks, to represent black poverty
- ✦ Silver medalist, Australian Peter Norman, was sympathetic to their protest and supported them
  - Smith and Carlos were pallbearers at his funeral, 2006



Statue commemorating their protest - SJSU

# 1968 Olympics

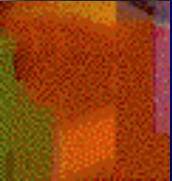


- ✦ As a result they were suspended from the US Olympic Team, banned from the Olympic Village and expelled from the games
- ✦ One of the most overtly political statements in the history of the modern Olympics
- ✦ Both men went into education, further coaching in track and field, and later public speaking





RETROREPORT



# Remembering the Civil Rights Movement: Montgomery, Alabama

Below: This fountain was designed by the same woman who designed the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C.—Maya Lin

