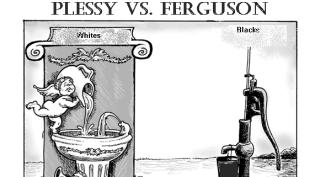
# The Civil Rights Movement

### Jim Crow Laws

De Jure Discrimination: laws passed in the South that set up a system of <u>legal</u> separation between the races in public places



SEPARATE BUT NOT EQUAL

De Facto Discrimination: the social practice of discrimination through custom or practice; not upheld by law and common in the North and South



#### Fighting Segregation Prior to 1954

#### **Pre-1900**

#### To 1930

#### To 1940

-Opposition to slavery in -Founding of the NAACP -A. Phillip Randolph colonies (Quakers) -Constitutional

Convention failed to deal with the issue

-Abolition movement from the 2<sup>nd</sup> GA

-"Legalized Racism"

following Reconstruction (Black Codes → Jim

Crow Laws)

-1896: *Plessy v*.

Ferguson - "Separate but equal" precedent set

in 1909 (Du Bois)

-Presidents were not willing to push the issue hard enough and lose -1947: Brooklyn Dodgers

voter base

pushed for the elimination of discrimination in the

federal govt put 1st black player on roster - Jackie Robinson

-Truman desegregates the military in 1948

# The NAACP and other civil liberties groups attacked segregation through the court system

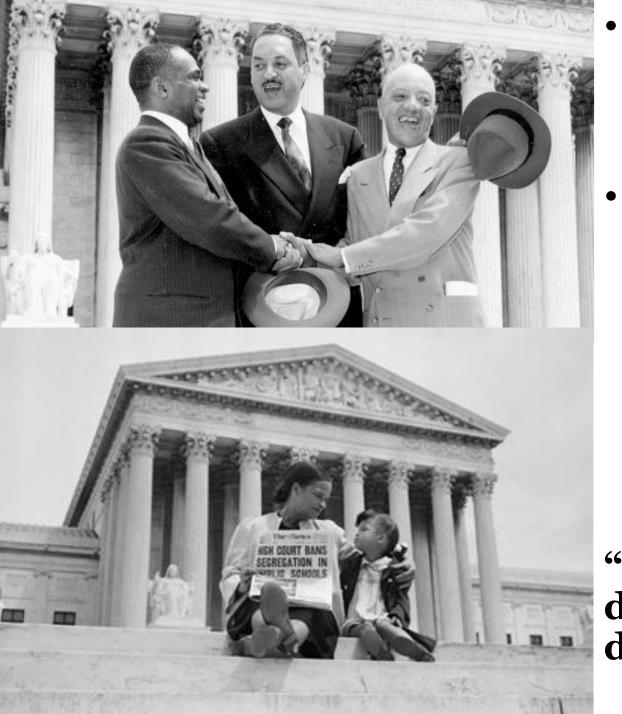




These photos of the public schools for white children (left) and for black children (right) in a southern town in the 1930s show that separate facilities were often unequal in the segregation era.

#### Brown v. Board of Education (1954)

- -Lawyer: Thurgood Marshall (and later first black Supreme Court Justice)
- -Marshall focused first on desegregating the nation's elementary and high schools in the 1950s

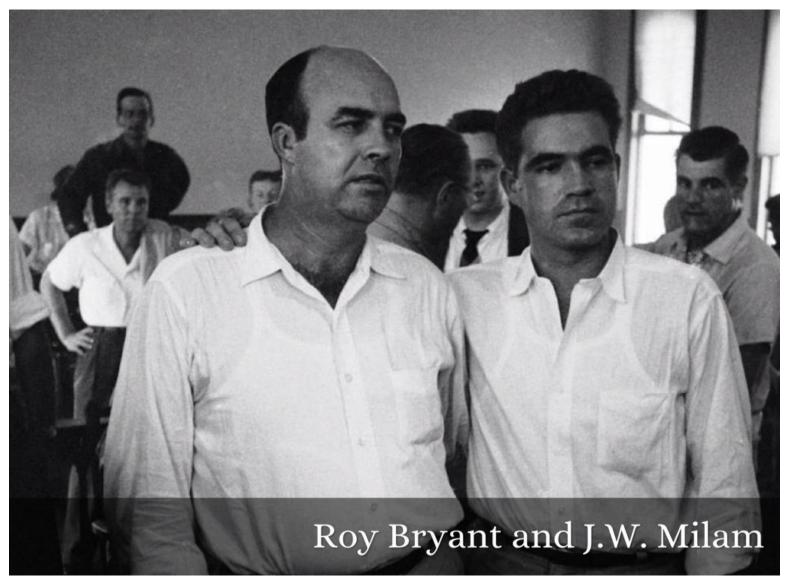


- Supreme Court heard arguments over a course of a 2-yr. period
- All 9 justices agreed that separate schools for blacks and whites violated the Constitutional guarantee of "equal protection of the law"

"Schools shall desegregate at all deliberate speed"

#### **Emmett Till**

- -14-year-old Chicago boy went missing and was found dead on a summer trip to his uncle's in Money, Mississippi August 1955
- -Whistled at Milam's wife after buying candy from their general store
- -Forced Americans to see the harsh realities of the "Jim Crow South"

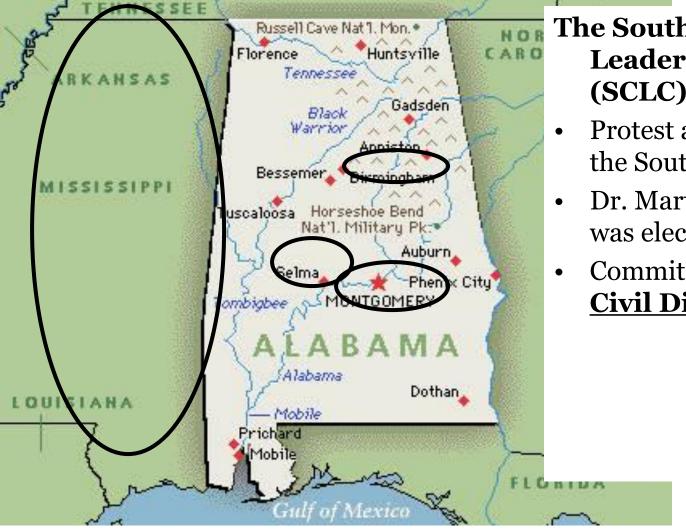


## The Little Rock Crisis

- Some states integrated quickly, others very slowly
  - VA passed laws that closed schools planning to integrate
- Little Rock, Arkansas Governor Faubus violates federal order to integrate Central High School
- 4 September 1957: Faubus sends AR National Guard to block entrance to the high school and prevents entrance for three weeks
- Eisenhower sends the 101<sup>st</sup>
  Airborne to escort the "Little Rock Nine" into school



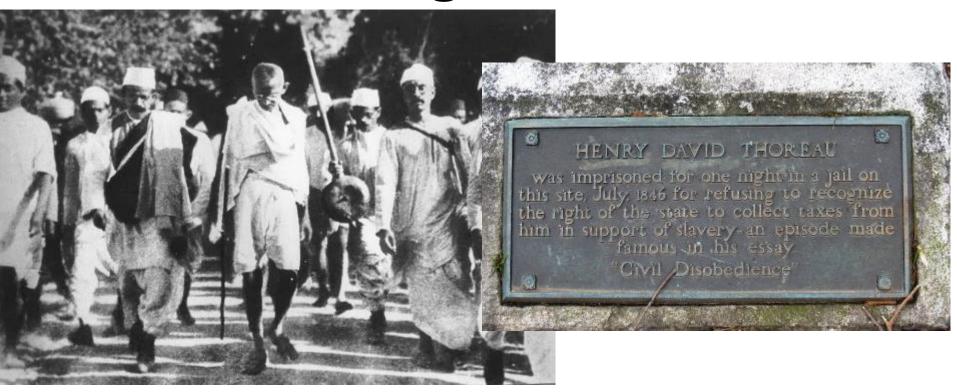
# "Hotbeds" of Civil Rights Injustice



The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) formed in 1957

- Protest activities throughout the South
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was elected leader of the SCLC
- Commitment to the use of <u>Civil Disobedience</u>

# Non-Violent Measures During the Civil Rights Movement

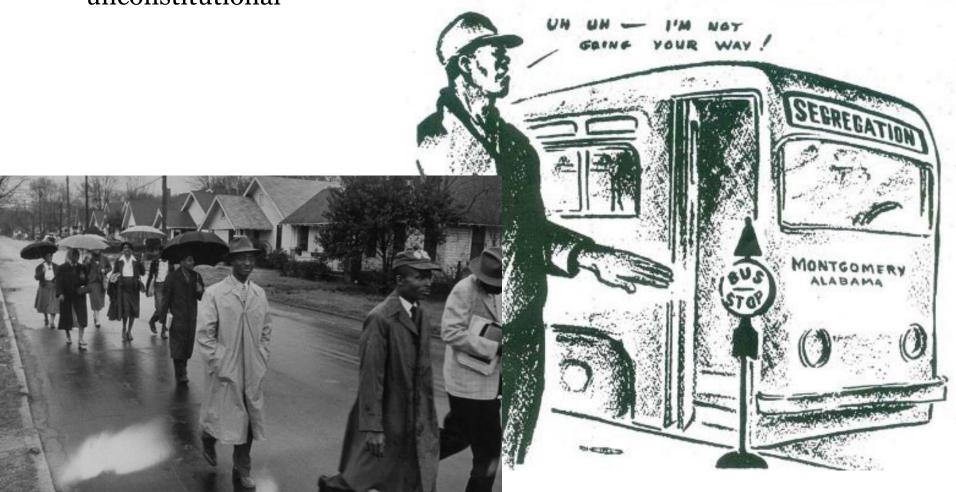


Many of these non-violent techniques were based on those of Mohandas Gandhi and Henry David Thoreau

#### 5 December 1955 – 20 December 1956: Montgomery Bus Boycott

 Rosa Parks refused to give her seat to a white rider → blacks refused to ride for a full year in hopes that the lost revenue would persuade legislation changes

 Boycott leads to a Supreme Court ruling that segregation on buses was unconstitutional





"The Problem We All Live With"- Norman Rockwell

- Ruby Bridges: first black child to attend integrated elementary school in the South; November 1960



#### 1960: SNCC (Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee)

-Founded by John Lewis, a student at Shaw University in Raleigh, NC -Young black and white college students working together to promote integration

## "Sit-Ins"



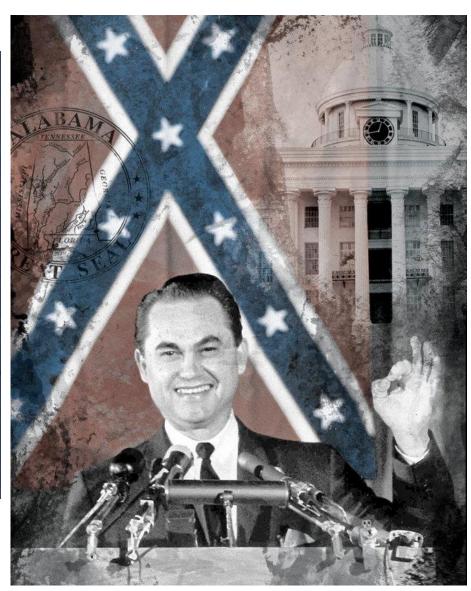
- 1960: 4 college students in Greensboro, N.C. stayed in their seats at a Woolworth's counter after being refused service
- Over the next few days, protesters filled 63 of 66 seats at the lunch counter
- Citizens were well behaved and ended each sit-in with a prayer
- Sit-in method of passive resistance spread to 50 Southern cities

### Freedom Riders

- 1960: Supreme Court orders that all interstate bus station facilities must be open for all riders
  - Browder v. Gayle (1956) was not being enforced
- 1961: "Freedom Riders" were recruited by CORE to ride busses throughout the South to make sure that the ruling was being enforced
- A bus is firebombed in Anniston, Alabama
  - Protesters attack
     riders with metal bats
     and pipes in
     Birmingham, Alabama
  - ICC stepped in Sept.
     '61 to put regulations on busses

# George Wallace – Governor of Alabama

I draw the line in the dust and toss the gauntlet before the feet of tyranny, and I say segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever.



# Voting Rights



August 1962: 24<sup>th</sup> Amendment ratified banning states from taxing citizens to register to vote in federal elections with poll taxes

## 1962: Integration of "Ole Miss"

 James Meredith is accepted into the University of Mississippi after repeated applications

Controversy caused riots leading to 2 deaths and many injuries

• U.S. Marshalls sent to protect Meredith as he attends his first

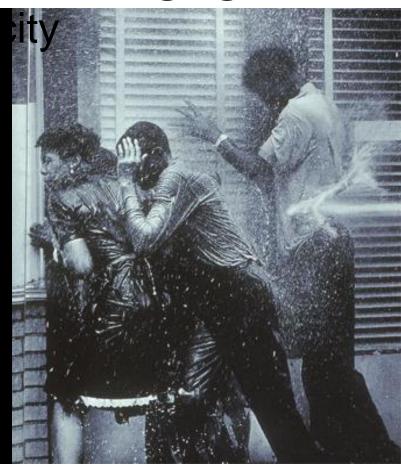
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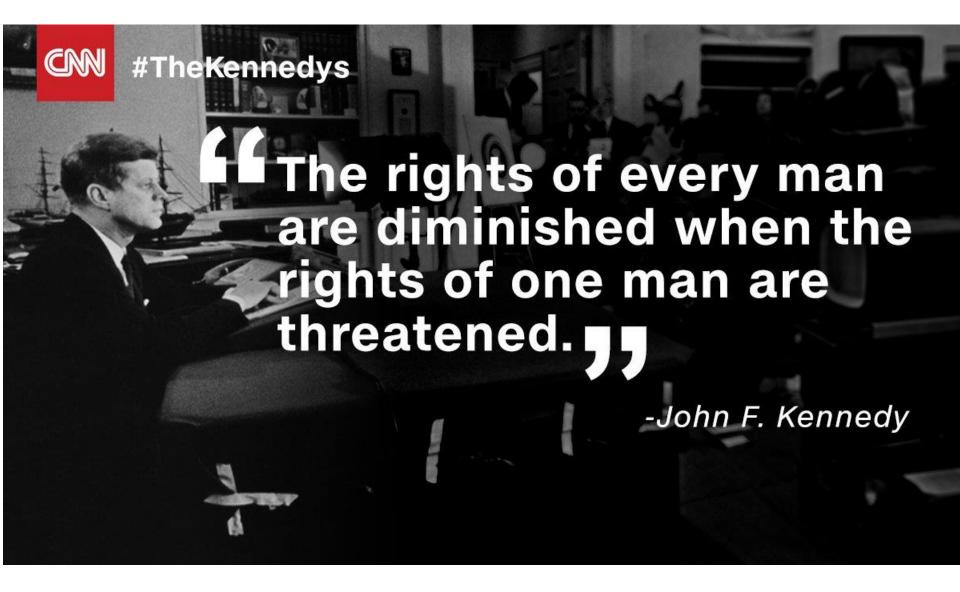


"Project C" – 1963 (Birmingham Campaign)

Began in Spring '63: series of lunch counter sitins, marches on City Hall and boycotts on downtown merchants to protest segregation

- •As the campaign wore on, blacks would not participate in the protests due to the risk of losing their jobs through arrest
  - •SCLC leader <u>convinced</u> King to enlist children in protests
- More than 900 children between the ages 6-18 arrested





Kennedy gave his famous speech 11 June

President John F. Kennedy would later say, "The events in Birmingham... have so increased the cries for equality that no city or state or legislative body can prudently choose to ignore them."

## 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church Bombing

- 15 September 1963
- 3<sup>rd</sup> bombing in "Bombingham" to protest order to integrate public schools
- Dynamite planted in basement and detonated during Sunday church services, killing 4 girls and injuring many in the congregation
- Protests occurred that night, police dogs and state troopers called; 2 men dead
- King spoke at the girls' funeral
- Out of the men involved (open KKK members), only three were found guilty



# Civil Rights Act of 1964

Events prior had encouraged Kennedy to take action before his death

- Medgar Evers: head of the NAACP in Mississippi shot dead in his front yard
  - KKK member Byron De La Beckwith tried for crime, but an all-white jury acquitted
- 28 August 1963: "March on Washington"
  - Largest civil rights demonstration ever held in the U.S.
  - More than 250,000 people listened to MLK's "I Have a Dream" speech

Kennedy announced he would ask Congress for legislation to end segregation in public facilities





Passing the Civil Rights Act

- President Johnson supported passage of a strong Civil Rights Act
- Some Southerners fought hard to kill the earlier bill in 1957 (Thurmond filibustered for 24h and 18m)
- Johnson signs Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law on 2 July 1964
- Banned discrimination in employment and in public accommodations



President Johnson supported passage of a strong Civil Rights Act and signs Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law on 2 July 1964; banned discrimination in employment and in public accommodations

Source: *Congressional* Quarterly, 1964 CQ Almanac (roll call vote and summary of House passage of the Civil Rights Act), Feb. 10, 1964 (provided by U.S. Senate Historical



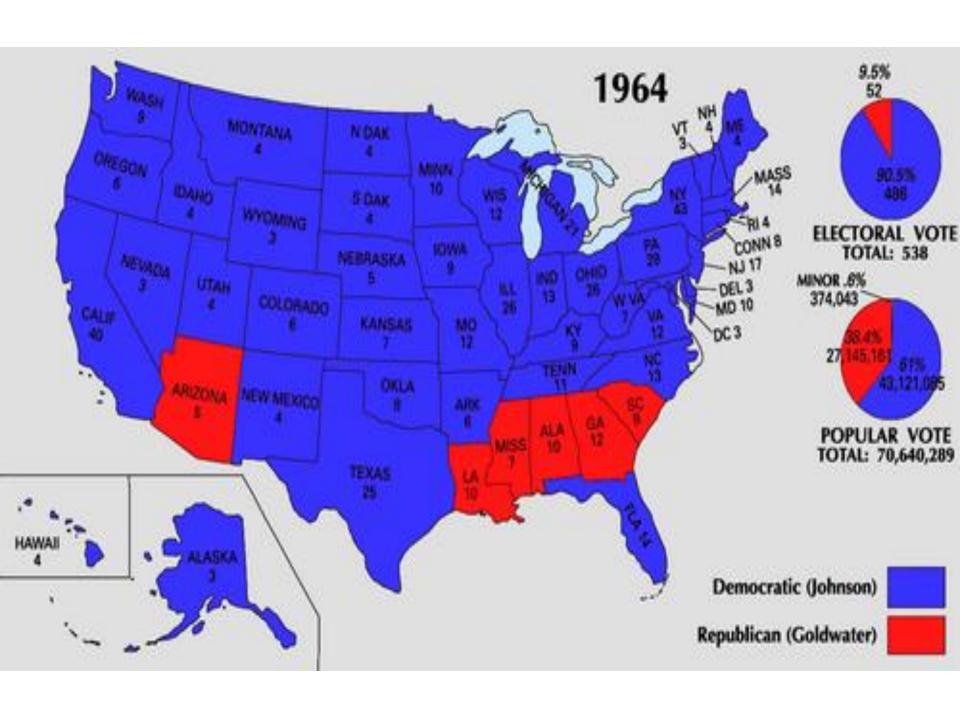
# Office)

## **Votes for CRA Democrats** Republicans

152 voted yes (63%) House of

96 voted no 34 voted no Representatives

138 voted yes (80%) 46 voted yes (69%) 27 voted yes (82%) Senate 6 voted no 21 voted no



## 1964: Freedom Summer

- Kennedy had been worried about the violent reactions to the passive resistance of the civil rights movement:
  - Bobby Kennedy encouraged SCLC leaders to focus on voter registration rather than protests
  - Promised federal protection for civil rights workers



- Hundreds of college students volunteered to spend the summer registering blacks to vote
- Most volunteers were white, Northern, upper-middle class young adults

## MISSING FBI

THE FBI IS SEEKING IMPORMATION CONCERNING THE DISAPPEARANCE AT PHILADELPHIA, MISSISPPIL OF THESE THREE INDIVIDUALS ON JUNE 21, THA EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION IS BEING CONDUCTED TO LOCATE GOODMAN, CHANCY, AND SCHNERNER, WHO ARE DESCRIBED AS POLLOWS.

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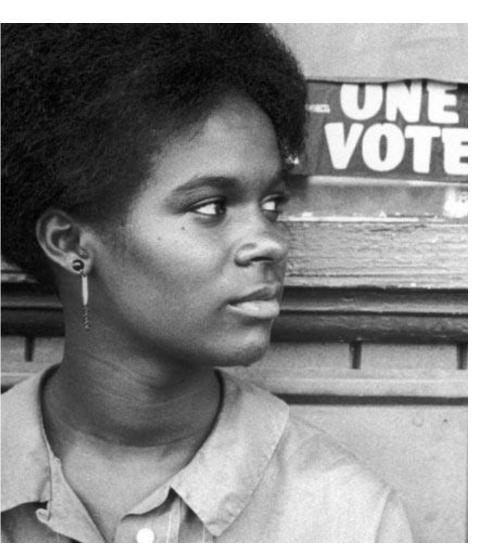
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Property Directly or INVESTIGATION
INTER STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTIC
RAIMINGTON D. C. 25535.

#### 21 June 1964:

- Three "Freedom Summer" workers go missing
- Johnson orders massive manhunt for men
- Bodies discovered near Philadelphia, Mississippi
- Edgar Ray Killen found guilty in 2005



## Result of the Freedom Summer



- More than 17,000 blacks applied to vote in Mississippi
- Registered 1,200
- Showed that a federal law was needed to secure voting rights for blacks
- Encouraged the passage of the Voting Rights Act of '65

# March to Montgomery



Purpose: encourage Johnson to push through the Voting Rights Act ending literacy tests

- 7 March 1965: MLK organized a 54-mile march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama
- 600 blacks begin march
- City and state police block their way out of Selma
- King and many other marchers arrested
- TV cameras capture police using clubs, chains, and electric cattle prods on marchers
- Becomes known as "Bloody Sunday"
- Johnson addresses Congress 17 March
- Reached Montgomery 25 March

### Voting Rights Act of 1965

-A result of the 1964 Freedom Summer and the March to Montgomery

-Forbids states from imposing discriminatory restrictions on who can vote, and provides mechanisms for the federal government to enforce its provisions

Source: Congressional
Quarterly, 1965 CQ
Almanac (roll call vote
and summary of House
passage of the Voting
Rights Act, 9 July 1965
(provided by U.S.
Senate Historical
Office)



### **Votes for VRA**

### Democrats

Republicans

- House of
  - of 221 voted yes (78%) entatives 61 voted no

ves (78%) 112 voted yes (82%) 24 voted no

Representatives

47 voted yes (73%)

30 voted yes (94%) 2 voted no

Senate 47 voted yes 16 voted no

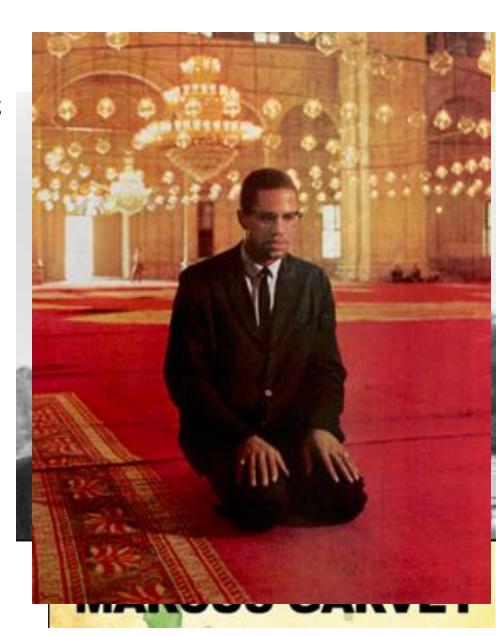
## Fractures in the Civil Rights Movement

# The "Nation of Islam" Movement:

- Founded by Elijah Muhammad;
   Malcolm X became the face of the organization
- Preached "Black Nationalism"
- Did not advocate violence, but did encourage self-defense
- Criticized MLK and other leaders for their policies

Breaks with Nation of Islam in 1964 upon a pilgrimage to Mecca; comes back with the message that an integrated society was possible

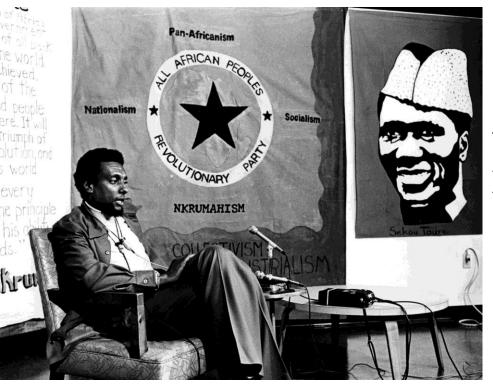
Members of the Nation of Islam will shoot and kill Malcolm X in Feb. 1965



#### **Black Panthers**



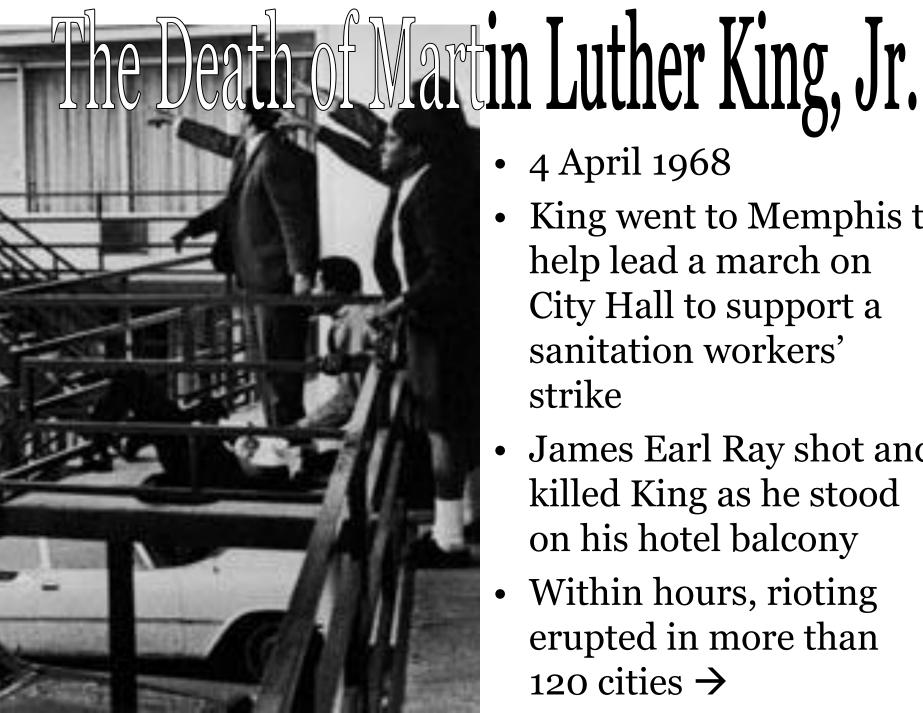
- -Founded in Oakland, CA in 1966
- -Called for violent revolution as a means of black liberation
- -Members armed themselves to monitor black communities to guard against police brutality
- -Huey P. Newton's theory of "Revolutionary Suicide" if you carried the banner of revolution into the street to stand up against the power of "the Man" you would die at the hands of the oppressor



"It is a call for Black people in this country to unite, to recognize their heritage, to build a sense of community. It is a call for Black people to define their own goals, to lead their own organizations." –SC, 1968

#### **Black Power Movement**

- -Stokley Carmichael was a former member of CORE, participating as a Freedom Rider and then chairman of SNCC (Student Non-Violent Coordinating committee)
- -Frustrated by the slow pace, he abandons the philosophy of non-violence around 1966
- -"Black Power" becomes the new rallying cry of the younger generation of activists; emphasizing racial distinctiveness rather than assimilation

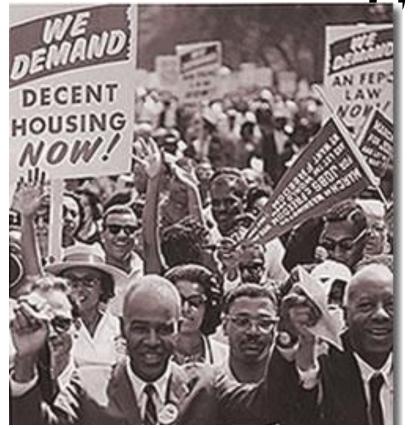


4 April 1968

King went to Memphis to help lead a march on City Hall to support a sanitation workers' strike

- James Earl Ray shot and killed King as he stood on his hotel balcony
- Within hours, rioting erupted in more than 120 cities →

# The Civil Rights Act of 1968



President Johnson pushes through the Fair Housing Act: ends housing discrimination



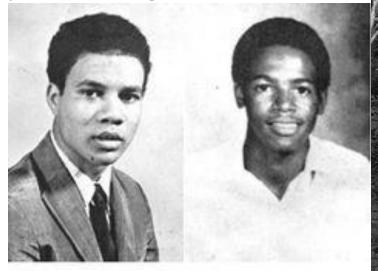
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

-Jackson State College in Mississippi: 2 students killed; 12 injured by city and state police sent in to quell student protests

-Students, fed up with white people driving through campus shouting racial slurs, some throwing bottles and endangering black pedestrians → day of shooting, rocks had been thrown at white drivers; around midnight, police shot into the crowd after tension escalated

-Overshadowed by the shootings at Kent State 11

days earlier



Phillip Gibbs and James Earl Green killed at Jackson State May 14, 1970