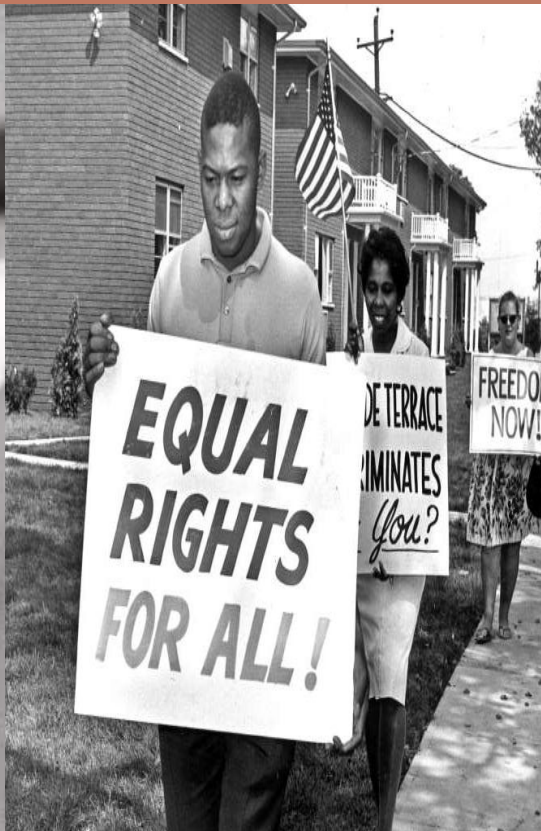




Civil Rights Overview



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Segregation & Discrimination

Key Knowledge

14th Amendment in 1886 makes black people full US citizens.

NAACP & CORE set up as campaign groups.

'Jim Crow' Laws – separate and usually worse facilities. Federal Gov. Could in theory overturn State laws if they were against the Constitution. But rarely did!

1896 Case of Plessy vs Ferguson; Supreme Court permits States to impose segregation as long as the facilities were 'separate but equal'.

No specific Jim Crow Laws to stop blacks in the South voting, but registration was made difficult; literacy tests, threatened with violence, ect.



Montgomery Bus Boycott

Key Knowledge

1st December 1955 – Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on the Bus to a white man; the front five rows were for whites only.

Rosa Parks fined on 5th December 1955.

Montgomery Improvement Association organises bus boycott, led by MLK.

70% of bus users were black and most supported the boycott which went on for 381 days.

WHY IT WORKED - MLK

EFFECTS – Page 199.



Integrating Schools

Key Knowledge

Plessy vs Ferguson permitted separate schools for whites and blacks.

1951 – Brown vs The Board of Education of Topeka brought by Oliver Brown.

1954 – Supreme Court rules that school segregation was unconstitutional, without giving a date for the change.

1955 – Supreme Court rules that all school integration had to be done with ‘with all deliberate speed’.

White Citizens Councils established to stop integration.



Events at Little Rock High

Key Knowledge

1957 – Little Rock School officials choose nine black students to integrate Central High School.

Arkansas Governor Orville Faubus, needing the segregationist vote opposed integration.

Arkansas National guard called by Faubus to 'protect the school' by keeping the black students out.

NAACP organised for the 9 students to arrive together, but Elizabeth Eckford did not get the message and arrived alone – where she was met by a mob.

President Eisenhower took the State Troops under Federal control and sent in Federal troops too – black students attend but the troops cannot change attitudes!

Governor Faubus closed the school in 1958, but it reopens in 1959, with demonstrations against integration continuing.



Rev. Martin Luther King



Key Knowledge

Baptist, Reverend, Dr., Member of the NAACP.

Admired the strategies deployed by Ghandi in India and was committed to 'NON VIOLENT DIRECT ACTION'. Won Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

Great Speaker; "I've been to the mountain top" and "I have a dream."

Super organiser & fundraiser.

Key role in the Montgomery Bus Boycott, March in Birmingham Alabama, involved in Freedom Rides, Supported the Little Rock Nine.

Passionate about getting black people to register to vote.

Pressured Government to implement key legislation; Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965. Works with the system, through the system to change the system!

Sit-ins

Key Knowledge

Feb 1960 – Greensboro. Four black students held a 'sit-in' at the local segregated lunch counter.

These were not a new form of protest, but this triggered more across North Carolina and the South.

April 1960 – SNCC established to coordinate the student sit-in protest movement.

Effects – Great publicity, easy to organise, widely supported by students from all Universities, led to establishment of SNCC.



Freedom Rides



Key Knowledge

December 1960 – Supreme Court orders desegregation of bus station facilities.

CORE & SNCC establish Freedom Rides in May 1961 to ensure that the law was being adhered to – they knew that it wasn't in some areas of the South & that's why they did it!

Aim – To create a crisis that would attract publicity.

14th May 1961 - Anniston, Alabama – Bus Bombed containing Freedom Riders.

29th May 1962 – Gov. ensured that the Interstate Commerce Commission had strict rules about the buses moving between States. Internal routes slower to adhere to change.

Civil Rights Legislation

Key Knowledge

1960 - John F. Kennedy becomes President with 75% of the black vote. He admires MLK.

1963 – Invites various African leaders to the White House. March on Washington shows that there is popular support for a Civil Rights Bill, so Kennedy initiates one before he is assassinated.

2 July 1964 – Civil Rights Act passed by President Johnson. Outlaws discriminatory voting practices, an Equal Opps. Commission established.

6 August 1965 – Voting Rights Act passed. Establishes a literacy test for blacks & whites and federal voting examiners.

Meredith Marchs' began on 6th June 1966 – Attempt by a black University student to get black people to register to vote; 3000 did. Overall, 250,000 new black voters registered in total.



Malcolm X & Nation of Islam



Key Knowledge

Nation of Islam are a black separatist religious movement. They saw the Civil Rights Movement as “begging for a place at the white mans table.”

Malcolm X was a popular NOI Minister who had an alternative approach to MLK; its ‘wrong to teach black people to be defenceless.’

Malcolm left the NOI in 1964 primarily because he wanted to discuss Civil Rights issues as well as religious issues, which caused rifts in the NOI.

Malcolm establishes the **Muslim Mosque Inc.** as a religious Civil Rights Group and the **Organisation of Afro American Unity**. Travels the globe broadcasting the inequalities of American life to people in other countries.

Injected spirit of militancy and urgency into the CRM.

Became willing to work with other black leaders & the system, while MLK said that black people were ‘demanding’ the ballot – but still wide differences.

Black Panthers & Black Power were inspired by Malcolm.

Rising Anger



Key Knowledge

1965 – Stokely Carmichael & SNCC workers in Alabama set up Lowndes County Freedom Organisation to get black people to vote – its symbol was a Black Panther.

SNCC changes emphasis in the mid-to-late 1960s; whites less welcome and non-violence less emphasised.

1966 – Huey Newton & Bobby Seale set up the Black Panthers in California.

Black Panthers had a ten point plan and a distinctive uniform; they established a community police force and community projects such as free healthcare.

1968 – 25 US Cities had Black Panther Groups.

1960s Race Riots

Key Knowledge

1964 - 1968 – Race Riots swept through US cities in the North; not as the result of any militant group but by an act of Police brutality with ignited existing socio-economic tensions such as unemployment

New York (1964), Los Angeles (1965), Chicago (1966), Newark and Detroit (1967) Washington and Cleveland (1968).

55,000 soldiers used to stop the riots & \$45 million worth of damage. 46 died (41 of whom were black). 27,000 arrested.

Many who had previously supported the CRM no longer did so – they now associated the CRM with violence, unrest and disruption.



MLK Assassinated



Key Knowledge

King shot dead by a white gunman on 4th April 1968.

The assassination helped to spark many of the riots in US cities.

His assassination did not start the movement towards militancy in the CRM; that was already happening.

Resurrection City, near the Lincoln Memorial in Washington was set up as part of King's 'Poor People Campaign'. It eventually fizzled out, lacking funding, organisation and support. The weather didn't help either!

By this point, the CRM was competing for exposure with other movements, such as the Student Movement, Vietnam and Women's Liberation.

Reasons for Protest



Key Knowledge

Many students expected the fairer society that President Kennedy had promised; which hadn't happened.

Students reacting against norms and expectations of their WASP parents.

Counter-Culture – Hippies and Drop Outs.
Timothy Leary.

Vietnam War began in 1955 and ended in 1975.
Many young people were called up in the draft ... and burnt their draft cards in protest.

Vietnam

Key Knowledge

Vietnam = 1955-1975.

Protest in America over civilian casualties, search and destroy missions, the My Lai Massacre March 1968, The Draft, Lies by the Government over successes, Media / TV War showed images of horror in peoples homes.



Student Protest

Key Knowledge

SDS established in 1962.

Aggrieved by the failings of the US Government to live up to the principles of the Constitution.

1967 – SDS has approx. 30,000 members.

Borrowed strategies from the CRM, such as Sit Ins.

Campus Protests; begins small, lasts several days, used disruption tactics. The University tried to negotiate but the Police were often called.

The Police became less patient, the students saw provoking violence as a way to radicalise others and amplify their support.

Berkeley 1964 & Columbia 1968 = Each becomes increasingly more militant.

Kent State Shootings of 1970 – National Guard called in to quell unrest, but they killed 4 unarmed students and wounded 9 more.

