

# ***MODERN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT***



A29cQ  
8.4.21

# GUIDING QUESTION

Why was there an increase in concern for African American civil rights during the 1940s and 1950s?

Who? How? How much?

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# *BACKGROUND:* *African-American Civil Rights*

- 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment (1865)
  - 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment (1868)
    - Equal Protection Clause
    - Due Process Clause
  - 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment (1870)
  - Jim Crow laws
  - Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)
  - Booker T. Washington
  - W.E.B. Du Bois
  - NAACP (1909)
- 



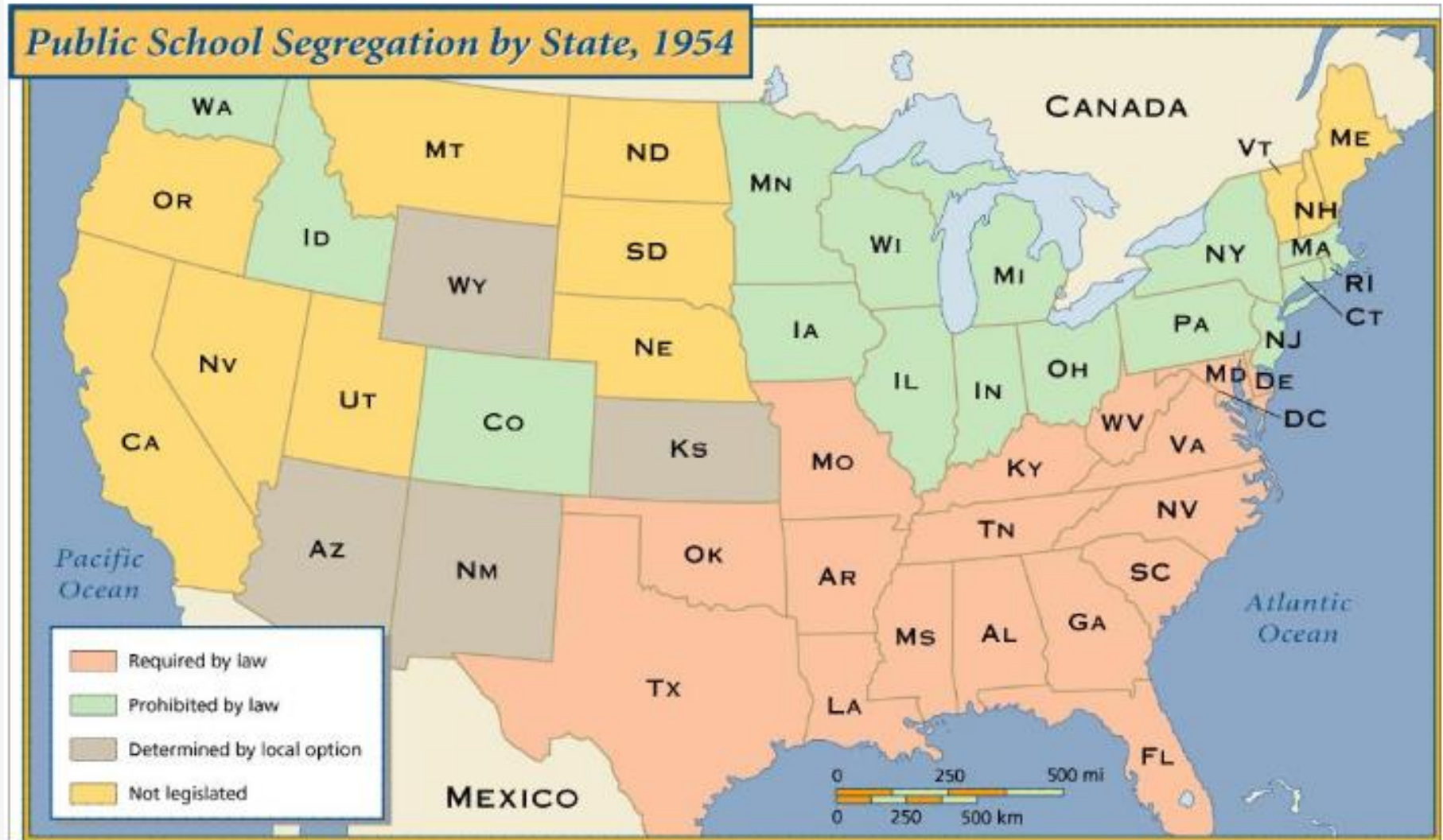
# *EMERGENCE OF THE MODERN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT: 1940s*

- Legal efforts of NAACP (from 1909 onward)
- Developments during World War II
  - FDR-Executive Order 8802
  - Postwar attitudes of many black GI's
  - Impact of Holocaust
- Jackie Robinson (1947)
- Truman
- Role of television

**"[P]ersonnel records from Robinson's military service, including court-martial charges of insubordination resulting from his refusal to obey an order to move to the back of a segregated military bus in Texas. A military jury acquitted Robinson, and shortly thereafter, he received an honorable discharge."** *(Library of Congress)*



# *Public School Segregation*



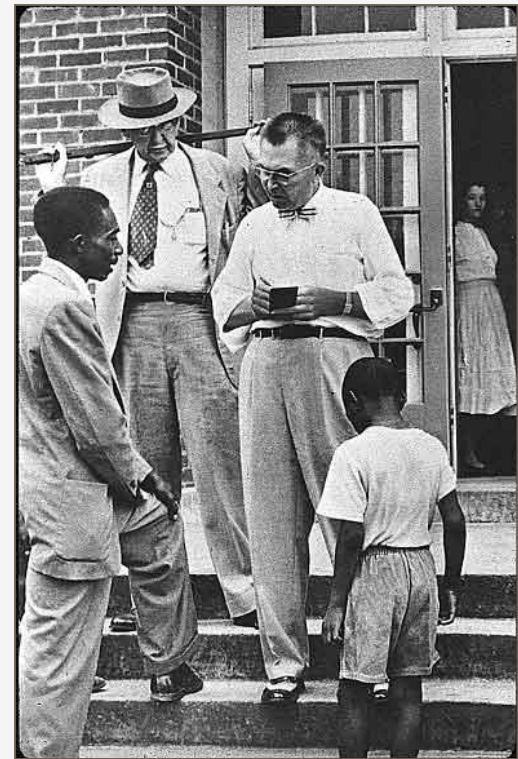


# EMERGENCE OF THE MODERN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

- *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896)
- *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* (1954)
  - “with all deliberate speed”
- “massive resistance”
  - “white citizens’ councils”
  - “segregation academies”



**George E.C. Hayes, Thurgood, Marshall, and James Nabrit, following Brown decision, 1954** (*Library of Congress*)



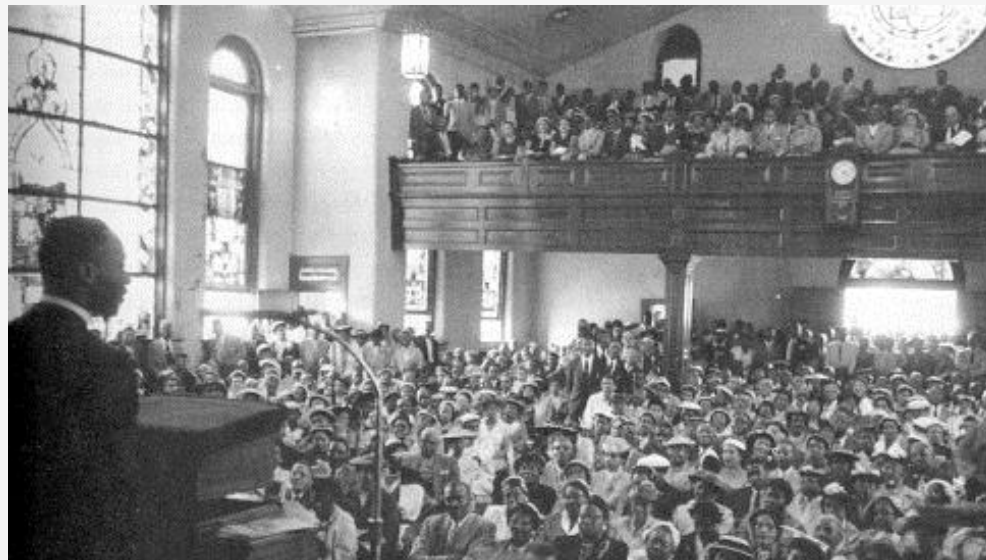
**North Carolina school refusing to admit African Americans, 1956**

# *EMERGENCE OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT*

- Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955-57)
  - Rosa Parks
- Martin Luther King, Jr.
  - passive resistance
  - civil disobedience
- Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)



**Rosa Parks Fingerprinted, Dec. 1955 (AP)**



**Mass meeting at Holt Street Baptist Church calls for a bus boycott, December, 1955. (AP)**



**Dr. King arrested for boycotting the busses, Montgomery, 1956. (AP)**





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# *EMERGENCE OF THE MODERN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT*

- Central High School, Little Rock (1957)
  - “Little Rock Nine”



**Little Rock-white student yelling at Elizabeth Eckford, September 4, 1957**

*(Wide World)*



**Central High School students gathered on the sidewalk in front of the school on September 4 to watch the reporters, photographers and the crowd gathered to wait for the black students to attempt to enter the school.**

*© Craig Rains, 1997*





*APRIL 4, 1961: A SINGLE, DANGLING LIGHT BULB AND A COAL-BURNING STOVE SHOW THE CONDITIONS AT SOME BLACK SCHOOLS IN JEFFERSON COUNTY. BIRMINGHAM SCHOOLS WERE NOT INTEGRATED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1963. BIRMINGHAM NEWS, FIRST PUBLISHED FEB 2006*

# *CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE 1960S*

## ***GUIDING QUESTION***

*How did the goals, strategies, and support of the movement for African American civil rights change during the 1960s?*



# *Major Change in Civil Rights Strategy*

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- More aggressive -- / Sit-Ins / Freedom Rides / Freedom Summer
- Challenges to white authority in the South
- Employ children instead of church members (to turn the other cheek)
- Face the enemy
- Late 1960's – more violent approach nationwide (NOT IN THE SOUTH)
  - Black Panthers
  - Malcolm X

**"Irma Jackson"**  
**Merle Haggard**

I'd love to shout my feelin's from a mountain high  
Tell the world I love her and I will till I die  
There's no way the world will understand that love is colour blind  
That's why Irma Jackson can't be mine.

I remember when no one cared about us bein' friends  
We were only children and it really didn't matter then  
But we grew up too quickly in a world that draws a line  
Where they say Irma Jackson can't be mine.

If my lovin' Irma Jackson is a sin  
Then I don't understand this crazy world we're livin' in  
There's a muddy wall between us standin' high  
But I'll love Irma Jackson till I die,

She tells me she's decided that she'll go away  
And I guess it's right but she alone should have the final say  
But in spite of her decision forcin' us to say goodbye  
I'll still love Irma Jackson till I die.

If my lovin' Irma Jackson is a sin  
Then I don't understand this crazy world we're livin' in  
It's a muddy wall between us standin' high  
But I'll love Irma Jackson till I die...

# *CIVIL RIGHTS in the 1960s*

- Greensboro Sit-Ins (1960)
- Nashville Sit – Ins and Business Boycotts (1960)
- Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)



**sit-in, Greensboro, N.C., Feb. 1, 1960**

*((c) Greensboro News)*



**Nashville,  
February,  
1960**

**Sit-in, Woolworth's  
lunch counter,  
Jackson, MS 1963**

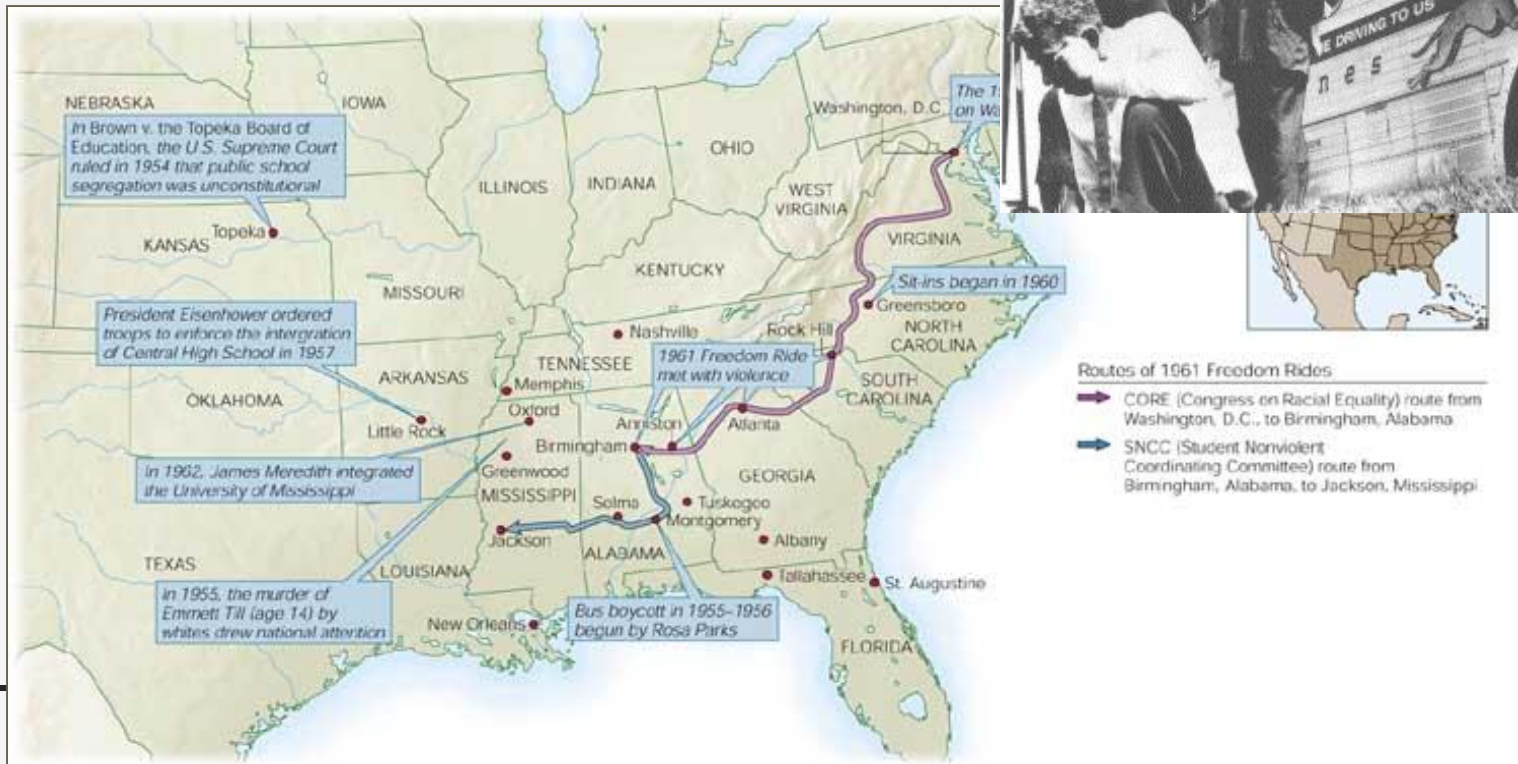
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Wisconsin





# *CIVIL RIGHTS in the 1960s*

- “Freedom Rides” (1961)
  - ANNISTON, AL
  - Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)





*MAY 15, 1961: CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY FREEDOM RIDERS WAIT AT BIRMINGHAM'S GREYHOUND STATION. CORE INITIATED THE FREEDOM RIDES TO TEST A U.S. SUPREME COURT RULING THAT DECLARED SEGREGATION IN INTERSTATE BUS AND RAIL STATIONS UNCONSTITUTIONAL.*

*BIRMINGHAM NEWS, FIRST PUBLISHED FEB 2006*



*MAY 24-25, 1961: NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS PROTECT A TRAILWAYS BUS NEAR THE MISSISSIPPI STATE LINE AS IT TRAVELS FROM MONTGOMERY TO JACKSON ON HIGHWAY 80 NEAR CUBA. THE TROOPS WERE CALLED OUT AFTER PROLONGED VIOLENCE IN MONTGOMERY. BIRMINGHAM NEWS, FIRST PUBLISHED FEB 2006*



# *CIVIL RIGHTS in the 1960s*

- James Meredith (1962) – University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS

*Birmingham News*, First  
Published Feb 2006



# *CIVIL RIGHTS in the 1960s*



**Dogs turned on Birmingham demonstrators**  
*(Wide World)*

- Birmingham desegregation drive (April-May 1963)
  - Signals a change – more aggressive approach
  - SCLC
  - “Bull” Connor – Committee of Public Safety
  - “Children’s March”



*MAY 3-9, 1963:  
PROTESTERS FACE  
OFF AGAINST  
BIRMINGHAM  
POLICE AND  
FIREFIGHTERS IN  
KELLY INGRAM PARK  
DURING  
DEMONSTRATIONS  
IN BIRMINGHAM.  
THE PROTESTS  
WOULD GRADUALLY  
BUILD AS THE DAY  
WENT ON, OFTEN  
CULMINATING IN  
CONFLICT BETWEEN  
THE TWO SIDES.  
BIRMINGHAM NEWS, FIRST  
PUBLISHED FEB 2006*

The Birmingham News

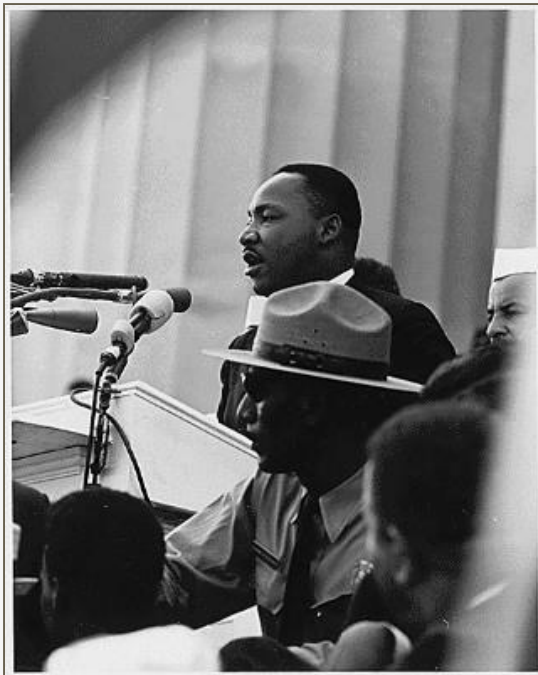




*CHILDREN'S CRUSADE - MAY 3-9, 1963 CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS DISAGREED ON WHETHER TO USE STUDENTS AS PART OF THE MOVEMENT, BUT PUBLIC PERCEPTION CHANGED AFTER PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWED THE CHILDREN BEING ARRESTED, SPRAYED BY FIRE HOSES AND DODGING POLICE DOGS. BIRMINGHAM NEWS, FIRST PUBLISHED FEB 2006*

# *CIVIL RIGHTS in the 1960s*

- March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom (1963)
  - “I have a dream” speech



**Martin Luther King, Jr. at Civil Rights March on Washington D.C., Aug 1963**



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

- September 15, 1963



**Addie Mae Collins (14)**  
**Cynthia Wesley (14)**  
**Carole Robertson (14)**  
**Denise McNair (11)**



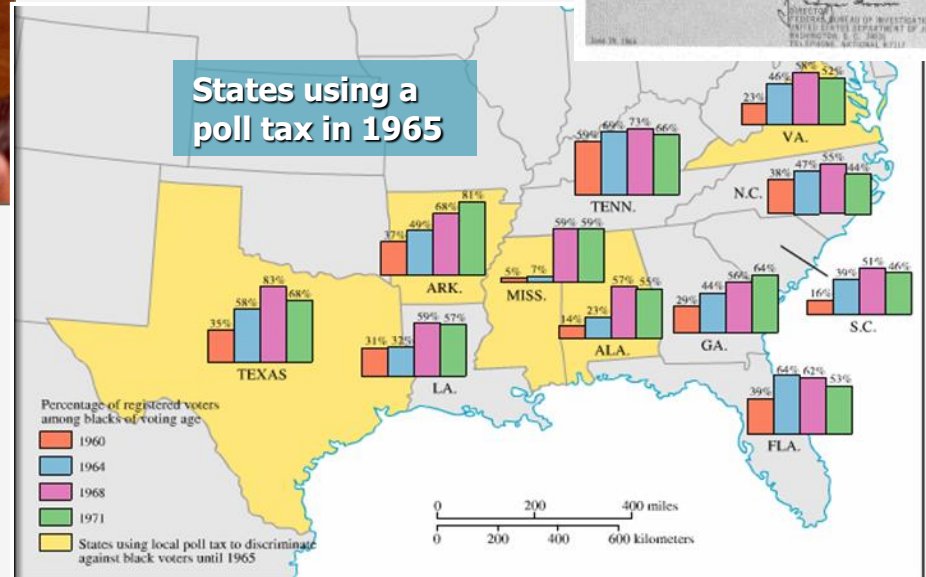
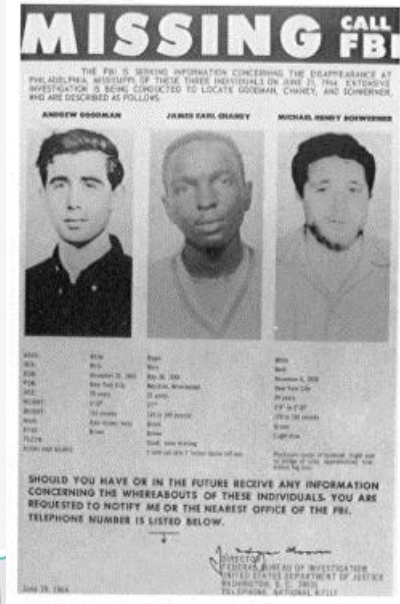


# CIVIL RIGHTS in the 1960s



LBJ Signing Civil Rights Act of 1964. July 2, 1964

- 24<sup>th</sup> Amendment – no poll tax
- Freedom Summer
- Civil Rights Act of 1964 – outlawed discrimination



# *Use of Radio and Television*

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- Radio – more important –
  - black-oriented radio stations offered valuable tactical guidance in the nation's great civil rights battles.
  - During the 1963 Birmingham protests, for example, DJs at several black radio stations moved black residents around the city by sending **coded messages** in their broadcasts revealing times and locations where marches would occur while also alerting participants of any obstacles they may encounter

*WENN AM*  
*1320*  
*Birmingham*

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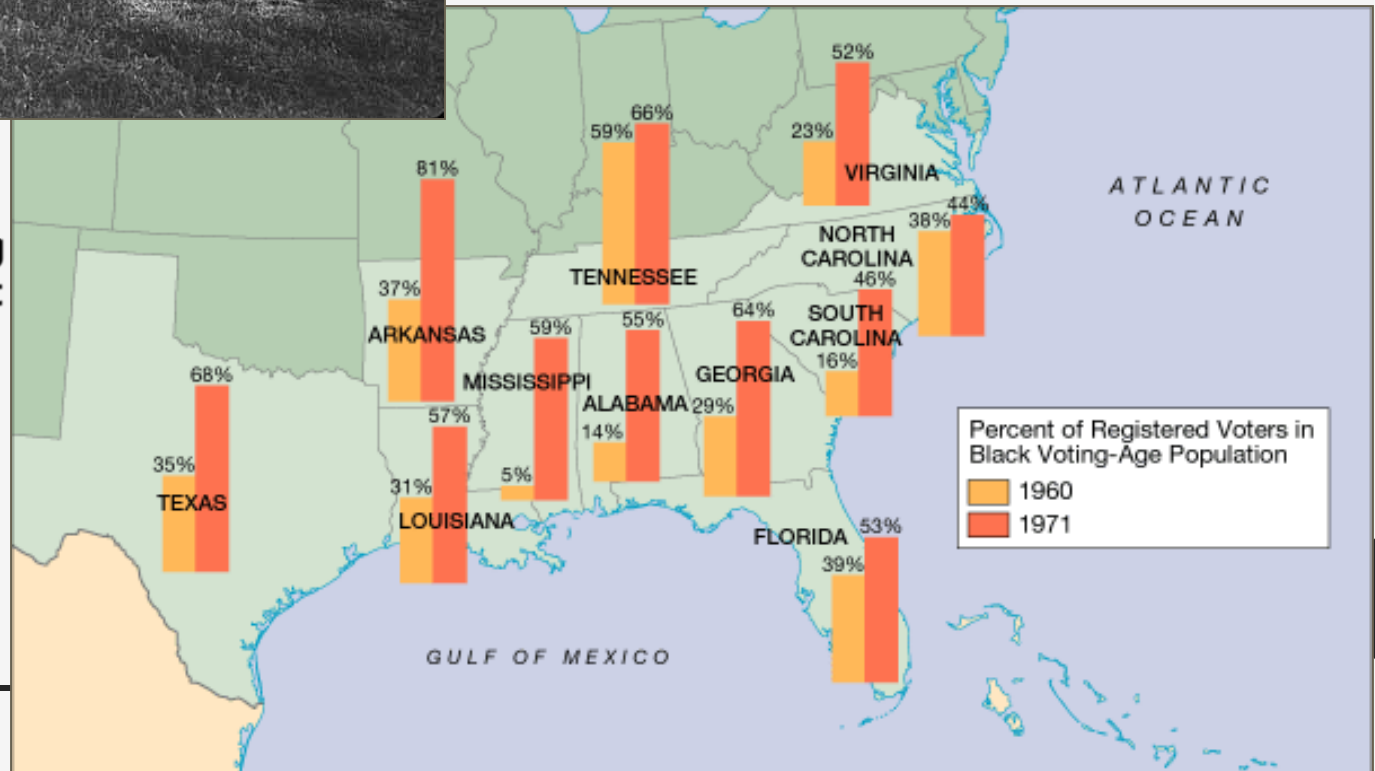
- hired one of the first traffic helicopters and broadcast traffic reports to the African-American community, which had little to do with the volume of traffic and a lot to do with where police roadblocks were
  - EX – There's a "bottleneck" on 16<sup>th</sup> Street (police roadblock)

# *CIVIL RIGHTS in the 1960s*



- Selma march
- Voting Rights Act (Civil Rights Act of 1965) – enforce the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> amendments

**Impact of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 ⇒**

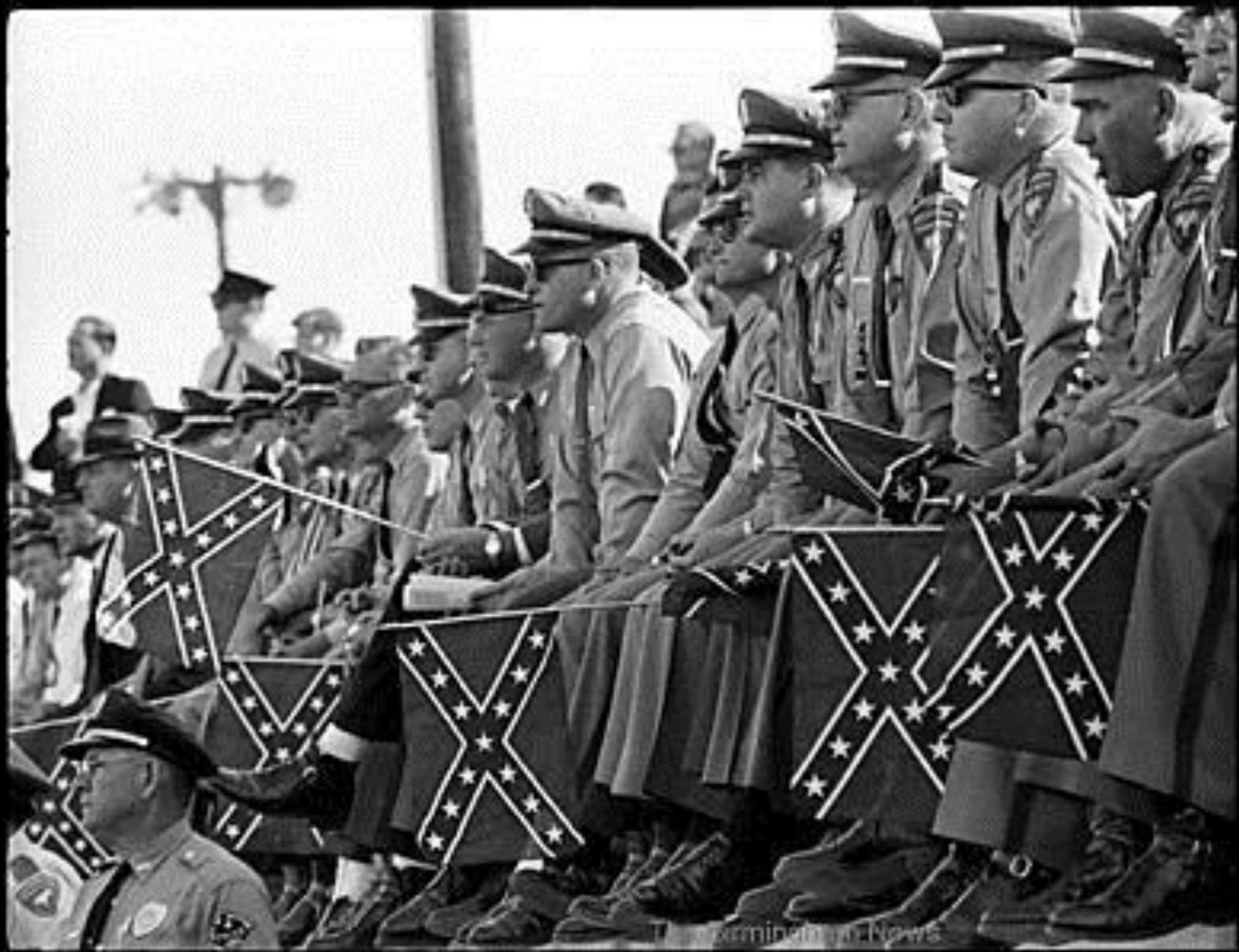






The Birmingham News

*MARCH 7, 1965, SELMA: USING BATONS AND TEAR GAS, ALABAMA STATE TROOPERS BREAK UP THE MARCH FROM SELMA TO MONTGOMERY AT THE EDMUND PETTUS BRIDGE. THE CLASH BECAME KNOWN AS "BLOODY SUNDAY."*  
*BIRMINGHAM NEWS, FIRST PUBLISHED FEB 2006*



***MARCH 25, 1965: MISSISSIPPI HIGHWAY PATROLMEN WATCH  
MARCHERS ARRIVE IN MONTGOMERY FROM SELMA.***

*BIRMINGHAM NEWS, FIRST PUBLISHED FEB 2006*

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# *CIVIL RIGHTS in the 1960s*

- Watts riots (1965) – police department force – white policemen drew his gun on a black suspect (Marquette Frye) – RIOTS ENSUE
- *de jure* vs. *de facto* segregation – what the laws **SAYS** vs. what is actually reality and factual (**TRUTH**)

- “Black Power”
- Black Panther Party
- Black Muslims
- Malcolm X

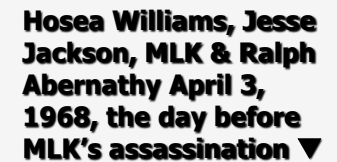


**Race Riot in Watts, 1965**





## Race Riots 1965-1968



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