

## Civil Rights Movement (1955-1960)

### I. Events

- a) Murder of Emmett Till – young boy from Chicago
  - i) Whistles at white woman...murdered by women's husband and brother
    - (1) Emmett = martyr
  - ii) Open-casket funeral...huge media coverage
  - iii) Mrs. Till & Mose Wright (uncle) spoke against whites
  - iv) Murderers found not guilty...all white jury → admitted to crime
- b) Montgomery Bus Boycott (Dec.1, 1955)
  - i) Non-violent
  - ii) Rosa Parks - white section → leads to Supreme Court integrating buses
- c) Little Rock, Arkansas
  - i) Desegregation of schools → state vs. federal
    - (1) National Guard vs. U.S. Army
  - ii) "Little Rock 9"-good black students
    - (1) Escorted by "101<sup>st</sup> Hall Monitors"(U.S. Air Force)
  - iii) 1<sup>st</sup> integrated school
- d) Sit-ins-Greensboro, NC...Nashville, TN...big media... Purpose → be arrested
  - i) Jim Lawson non-violent workshop...rules on sitting, clothes etc
  - ii) Both black and whites worked together
- e) Freedom Riders...integrate buses on state-run (public) transportation
  - i) Washington D.C. → Deep South
  - ii) SNCC - main organizers
  - iii) JFK sends federal troops
- f) March on Washington...250,000-300,000 black & white together
  - i) Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I have a dream" speech
  - ii) No riots – fed government expected chaos
- g) Birmingham -- "Bombingham" -- Alabama
  - i) Media → big attention...fire hoses / police dogs
  - ii) Church bombing...4 kids killed
- h) Mississippi Burning...shows South's problems
  - i) Voter registration of blacks (3 guys...two white, one black, one Jew)...KKK kills them
  - ii) Kennedy passes - Voting Rights Act of 1965
    - (1) Verify 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment
- i) Black Power Movement...Malcolm X founded ideology... "ghetto-ized" the protest movement
  - i) Black Panthers...stop being "victims"
  - ii) Olympics – protest on medal stand → black fists

### II. People

- a) Martin Luther King → non-violent civil rights activist...killed 1968
- b) JFK → 35th President...not elected as civil rights activist... killed 1963
- c) brother Robert Kennedy → Attorney General... more active than JFK...killed 1968
- d) Malcolm X → fighting back...black supremacy...killed by Nation of Islam (blacks) 1965

### III. Phases – NAACP lawsuits, legislative branch won't budge – senate filibuster

- A. Go to courts – Brown v. Board, but not enforceable
- B. Executive branch finally steps in: Ike → Little Rock; JFK → Freedom Rides; LBJ → Civil Rights Act
  1. Before governors and states had ruled, finally federal government stops allowing South to have separate rules

### IV. Cooperation – Early part, blacks and whites worked together in SNCC, CORE

- A. Conflicts between conservative SCLC and NAACP -- the big money makers / "establishment" vs. SNCC and CORE -- the actual activists
- B. By late 1960s, Black Power movement emerges wanting nothing to do with white help