

***THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT
and JFK's America***

Unit 10

CHAPTERS 18 and 20

TAKING ON SEGREGATION

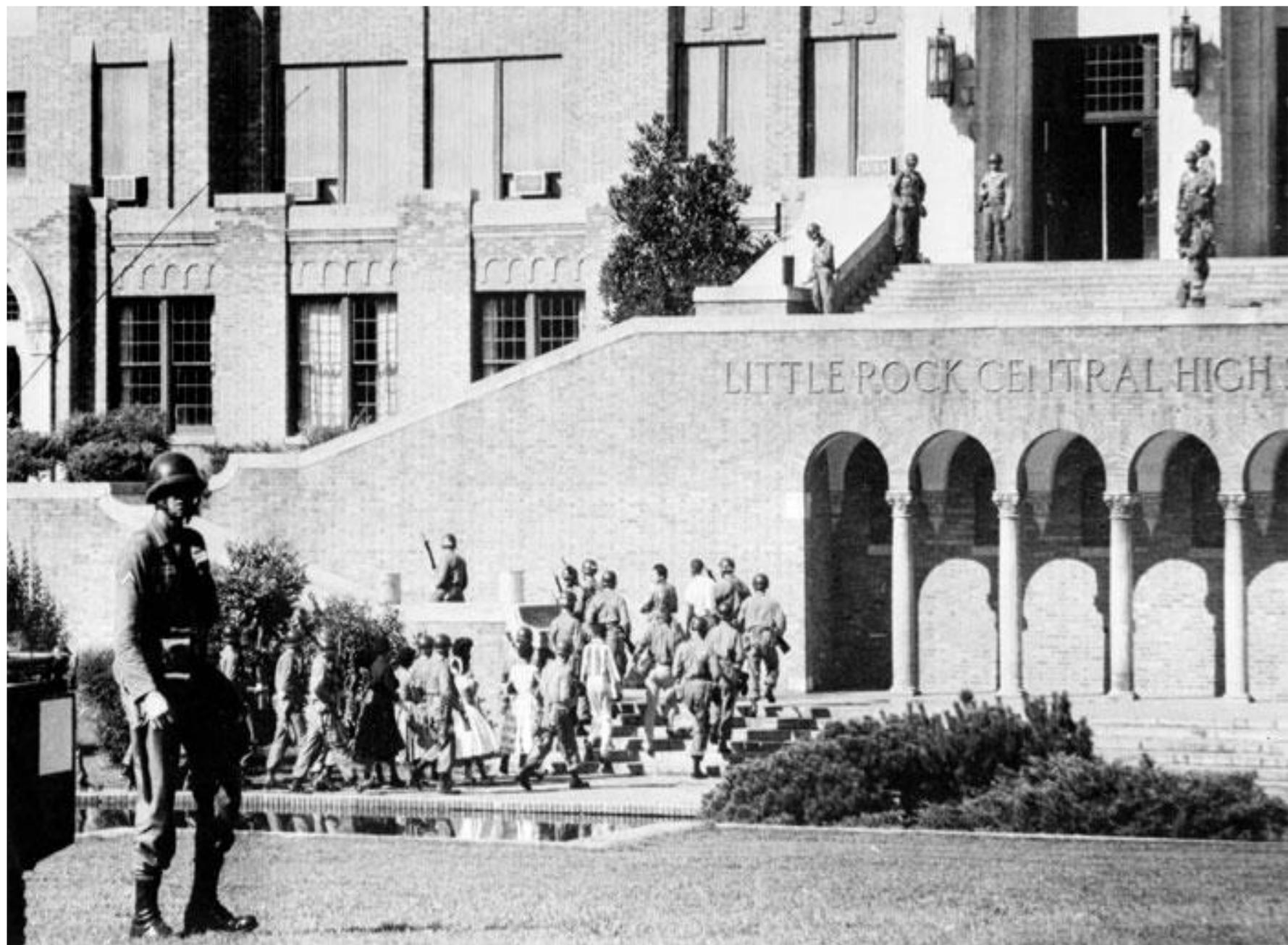
- Civil rights- those legal rights retained by citizens and protected by the government (examples are the right to vote and anti-discrimination laws).
- The Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s was the actions taken by African-Americans to obtain these many legal rights and equality. The main purpose or goal of this civil rights fight was provide equality to all regardless of race.
- Civil Rights Decisions:
 - Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka- Supreme Court ruled segregation in schools was **unconstitutional** (led to desegregation/integration of all public schools in the U.S.)
 - Brown II- Supreme Court ordered school desegregation had to be implemented “with all deliberate speed” (since many had been dragging their feet in doing it)

- Reactions to the Brown decisions:
 - Some states and school systems implemented it immediately with little problem
 - Some states and school systems vowed total resistance
 - The most glaring resistance happened in **Little Rock, AR, at Central HS** in 1957. Arkansas **Governor Orval Faubus** ordered the natl. guard to prevent 9 black students (**the Little Rock Nine**) from entering Central HS. This situation ended when **Pres. Eisenhower** ordered the natl. guard and U.S. paratroopers to watch and protect the nine as they attended class.
- **Civil Rights Act of 1957** - can be summarized by saying that the federal government was given power to better enforce civil rights

CENTRAL HS PHOTOS









11232



- Important people in the civil rights movement:
 - Emmett Till- 14 yr. old African-American boy murdered in 1955 for allegedly flirting/whistling at a white woman





CHICAGO DEFENDER



Rosa Parks- she refused to get up from her seat on a Montgomery City bus. She was arrested.

Martin Luther King Jr. was called in to organize a response to Ms. Parks' arrest. He started the **Montgomery Bus Boycott.** (1955)

This event started the resistance phase of the civil rights movement



Rosa Parks



Rosa Parks



The Montgomery Bus Boycott



- Many different civil rights groups were started during the 1950s/60s. So many existed b/c African-Americans could not come to a common agreement on how to gain equality in society. Some of these organizations with different blueprints for change were:
 - [NAACP](#)- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (used education and law for change)
 - [SCLC](#)- Southern Christian Leadership Conference (nonviolence)
 - [SNCC](#)- Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (thought change was too slow and had to be spurred along)
 - [CORE](#)- Congress of Racial Equality (staged events like sit-ins)

- The 1960s were a crucial, yet volatile time for integration. All protest events like sit-ins, bus boycotts, enrolling in schools, and freedom rides were aimed at winning the battle for integration through the use of non-violent means.







Sit-ins



JFK becomes POTUS

- 1960 Presidential Election
 - Democrat **John F. Kennedy** against Republican VP **Richard Nixon**
 - First televised debate occurred during this election
 - TV, Cold War, and civil rights were major issues in this election
 - **Kennedy** won by fewer than 120,000 votes



THE NEW FRONTIER

- When Kennedy took office in 1961, his message to Americans was built on a promise of progress. He called this the **New Frontier**-**legislative program designed to increase international aid, expand the space program, aid education, help the elderly, rebuild poor urban areas, and bolster national defense.**
- New Frontier legislation and programs:
 - The Economy:
 - Cut taxes by \$10 billion
 - Increased minimum wage to \$1.25/hr
 - Pushed deficit spending by the govt. to stimulate an economy in a recession
 - Building the National Defense:
 - Increased military funding
 - Troops and nuclear weapons
 - Started the Green Berets

– International aid

- Created the **Peace Corps**- program of volunteer assistance to developing nations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America; became a huge success (35,000 volunteers in 60 nations)
- **Alliance for Progress**- offered economic and technical assistance to Latin American countries; goal was to prevent further spread of communism in Latin America by promoting economic development

– Beating the Russians (the Space Race)

- U.S. space program called **NASA** (Natl. Aeronautics and Space Administration) began constructing a launch site in Florida and a mission control center in Houston, TX
- **Kennedy** proclaimed our space goal was to land a man on the moon during the decade of the 1960s—**Apollo program**
- As a result of the space program, schools and universities expanded their science and math courses, and space and defense related industries grew rapidly

– Civil Rights

- Poverty and civil rights went hand in hand as much of the nation's poverty was experienced by African-Americans
- In 1963, **Kennedy** called for a “national assault on the causes of poverty”
- He also has the U.S. Attorney General (his brother **Robert Kennedy**) investigate racial injustices in the South

TRIUMPHS OF A CRUSADE

- In 1961, civil rights advocates began a series of “freedom rides” throughout the south. **Freedom rides- bus trips through the south aimed to test the Supreme Court ruling to desegregate seating on interstate bus routes and facilities in bus terminals.**
- These rides were met with great violence, but it forced the govt. to take notice. Marshalls will be sent to protect the riders and the U.S. Atty. General proclaimed a ban on all segregated travel facilities.









President Kennedy wanted to end the freedom rides as quickly as possible to prevent more violence, but also to keep from upsetting and pushing away Southern voters.



James Meredith and Ole Miss

- Another event occurred in Mississippi at the all-white **University of Mississippi (Ole Miss)**. In Sept., 1962, Air Force veteran **James Meredith** won a federal court case allowing him to enroll at **Ole Miss**.
- When **Meredith** arrived on campus, **Governor Ross Barnett** refused to allow him to register. **Pres. Kennedy** ordered federal marshals to escort **Meredith** to enroll. **Gov. Barnett** then appealed to all Mississippians to never surrender to integration.
- In response, thousands of angry white demonstrators turned out to protest. Riots soon erupted and two people were killed and 200 arrested. In the end, **Meredith** went to class.





JAMES MEREDITH / OLE MISS





The March on Washington

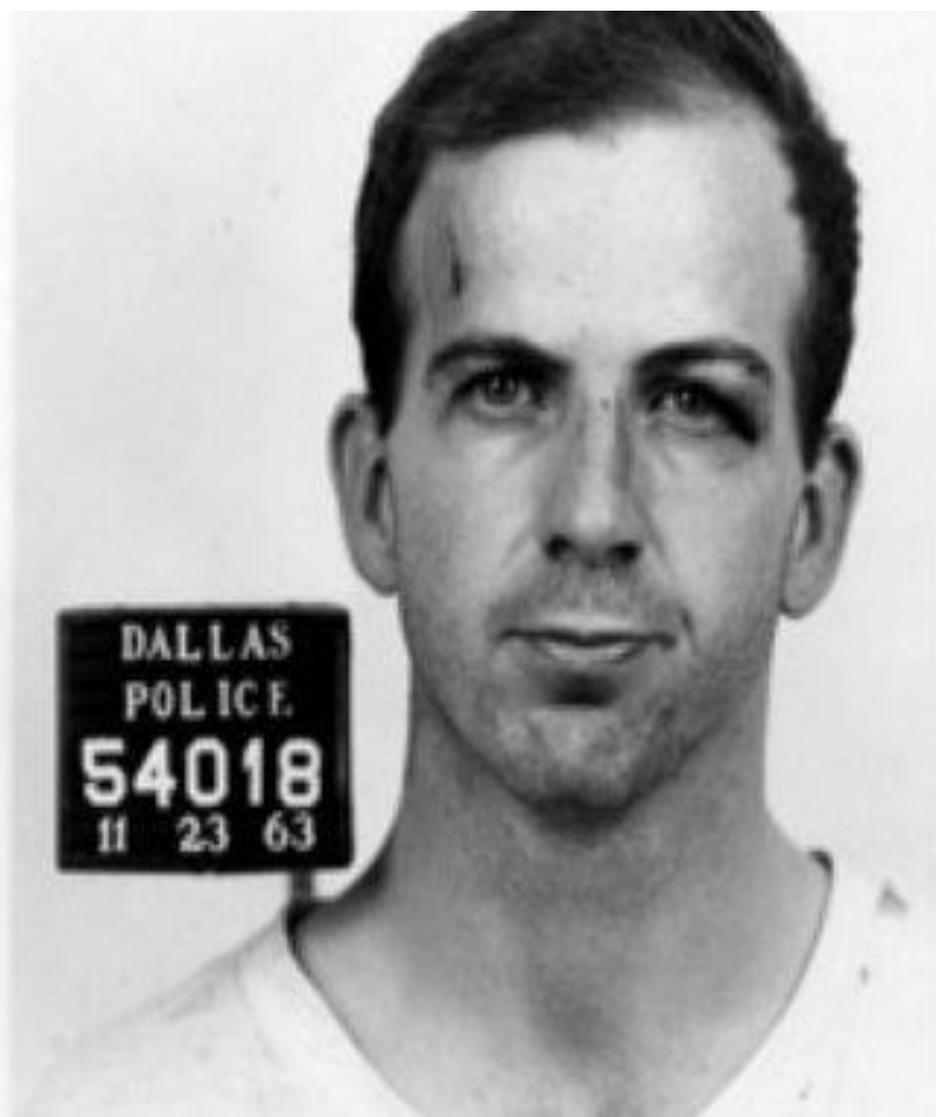
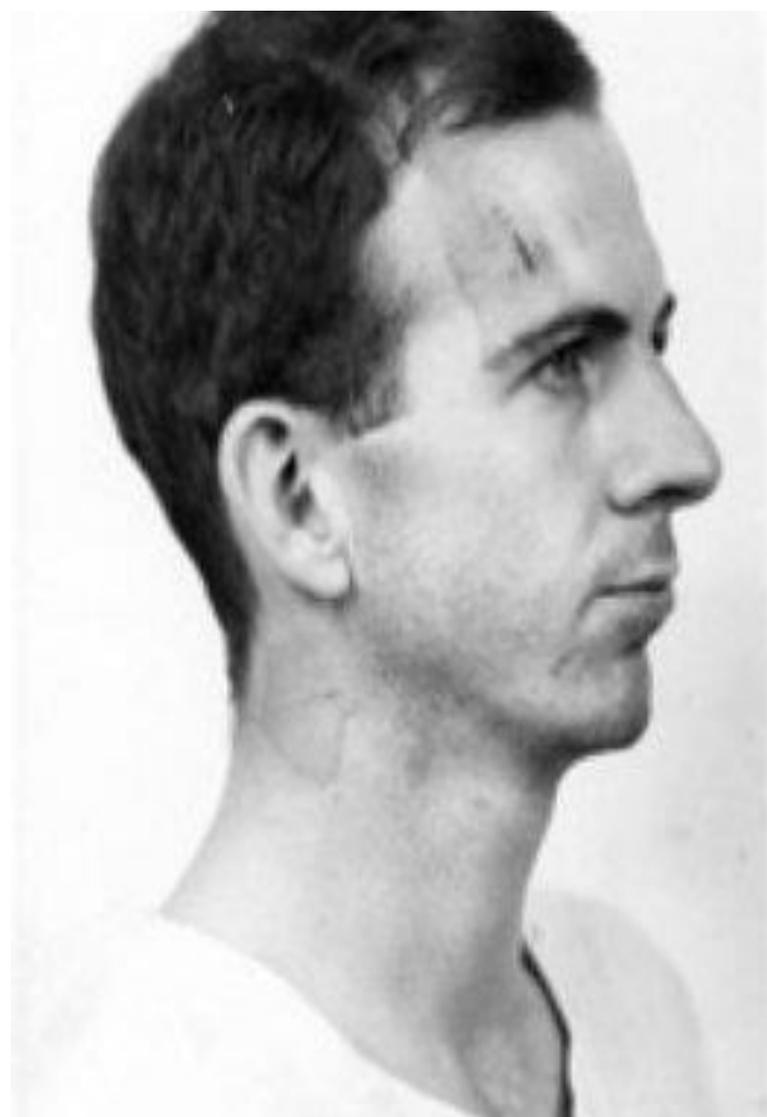
- Dr. King organized the “March on Washington” for August 28, 1963.
- More than 250,000 protesters showed up to be seen and heard.
- They were treated to one of the most well-known and powerful speeches ever...

The March on Washington



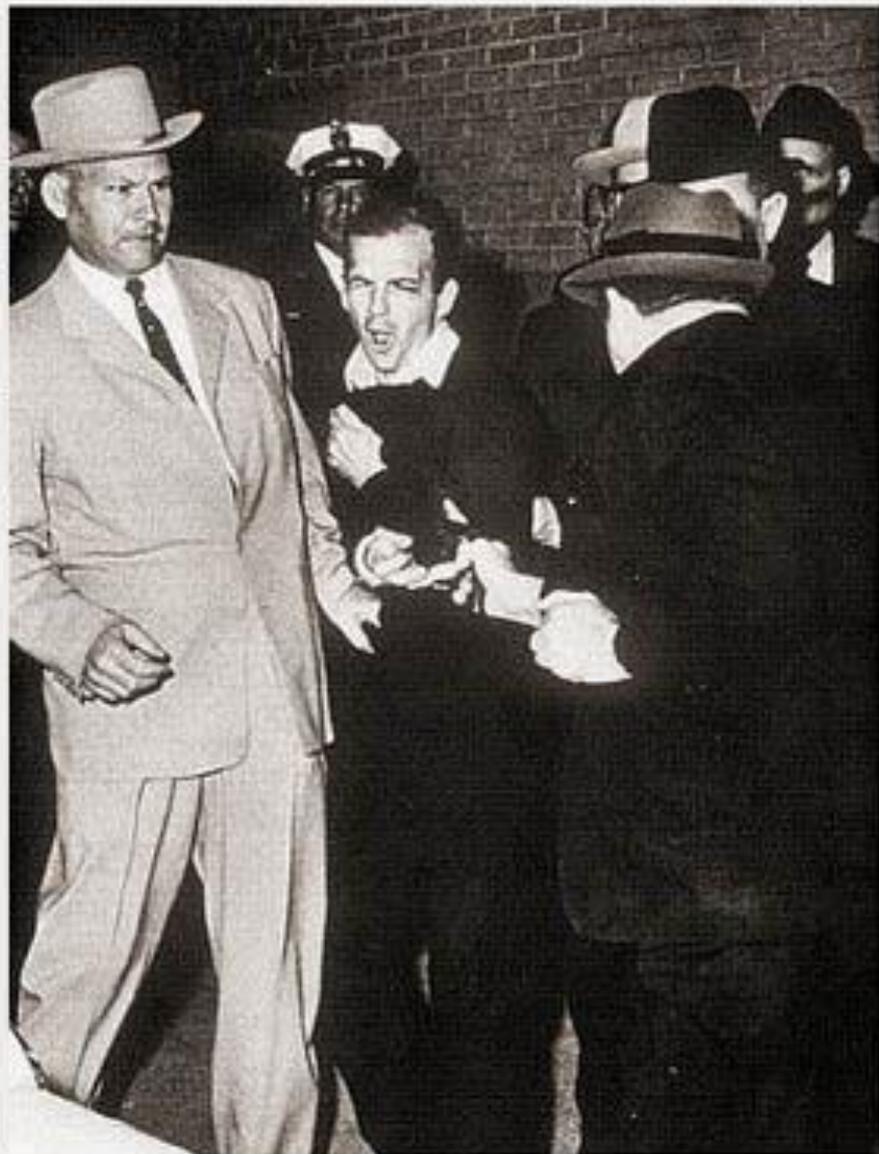
Death of a President

- Kennedy's Assassination
 - Occurred in Dallas, TX, on November 22, 1963
 - Accused gunman was **Lee Harvey Oswald** (he had a suspicious past including living in the Soviet Union and being a supporter of **Fidel Castro**)
 - Oswald was killed on November 24 by **Jack Ruby** (nightclub owner) while he was transferred between jails
- Following his assassination, Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson took the oath of office and became President Lyndon B. Johnson
 - He carried on with many of JFK's ideas and programs



DALLAS
POLICE
54018
11 23 63

Jack Ruby shooting Lee Harvey Oswald







PH: Marking
www.CelebrityTheGuns.com

- American citizens clamored to find out why President Kennedy had been assassinated, so an investigative commission was appointed.
- **Warren Commission** and its finding:
 - Concluded that **Lee Harvey Oswald** was the lone assassin in the Warren Commission report (report was locked for 75 yrs.)
 - In 1979, a reinvestigation concluded **Oswald** was part of a conspiracy and there may have been two gunmen
 - Conspiracies ran rampant and included:
 - Plot by anti-Castro Cubans
 - Communist sponsored attack
 - CIA had him killed
 - A mob hit
- Lyndon B. Johnson was easily re-elected and carried on with his administration's agenda

Mississippi Burning

- The summer of 1964 was called **Freedom Summer**. CORE and SNCC workers came to the deep south to help register African-Americans to vote. This was met with mixed reactions. In MS, it led to the murder of two white men and one black man helping the cause (Neshoba County). This led to the passage of the:
 - [Voting Rights Act 1965](#)- ended literacy tests as a voting requirement and allowed for federal monitoring of voter registration
 - [24th Amendment](#)- abolished the poll tax in federal elections

Protest Marches

- Marches were popular with Dr. King and others, but they oftentimes provoked violence. A great example of this is...
- [Selma Campaign](#)- campaign for voting rights that was marked by a **Martin Luther King Jr.** led march from Selma to Montgomery; turned violent as marchers were attacked by angry mobs.

Selma



- Another voice for voting rights was **Fannie Lou Hamer**. She was a member of the **Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP)** that sought a seat and spoke at the 1964 Democratic National Convention. She will further open the eyes of many concerning the voting and civil rights movements.
- Over the course of time, many civil rights activists and groups began taking a more aggressive approach to the movement. (Rise of “Black Power”)
 - **The Nation of Islam**--headed by Elijah Muhammad
 - **Malcolm X**- born Malcolm Little and changed to X when he converted to Islam; brilliant speaker that preached whites were the cause of black condition (later did a 180 and preached mutual love, respect, and coexistence; killed by a radical Muslim in 1965) 
 - **Black Panthers**- group formed in California to fight social injustices and often used violence and intimidation (Won great support in the ghettos with many helpful programs too) 
 - **Stokely Carmichael**- activist who got fed up with passiveness and coined the term “**Black Power**”- **call for blacks to define their own goals and lead their own organizations.**

Racism: it's not just in the South



The end of the Movement?

- The Kerner Commission was called upon to investigate the cause of the riots, and they determined that they were caused by.....(shockingly)
 - White racism!
- Unfortunately, **MLK Jr.** will not see his journey through to the finish. On April 4, 1968, **MLK** was assassinated in Memphis at the Lorraine Motel by **James Earl Ray**. His death will bring a drastic slow down to the civil rights movement.
- Notable accomplishments of the civil rights movement:
 - The anti-discrimination laws helped other minority groups too
 - African-Americans made significant gains in both voting and jobs
 - **Affirmative action- program designed to give preferential treatment to minority groups who had suffered discrimination—** programs were initiated and continue today.



AN ERA OF SOCIAL CHANGE

- Many other minority groups saw the progress made by African-Americans, and they, too, began to work for more rights and liberties.
- Latino Americans (Hispanics)
 - The Latino American population in the U.S. tripled during the 1960s.
 - They encountered prejudice and discrimination in jobs and housing as well. As their population increased, so did their desire and demand for representation.
 - One Latino that stepped up in this area was **Cesar Chavez**. He will be responsible for creating a union for migrant Latino farm workers (**United Farm Workers**).

Cesar Chavez



Chavez and the UFW work to improve working conditions by utilizing boycotts



Jose Angel Gutierrez set out to organize Hispanics politically. He founded the Hispanic political party, **La Raza Unida**-which met with some success.



- Another area of concern for Hispanics was education. They wanted to promote **bilingualism (the practice of teaching immigrants in their own language while learning English)**.
- This was achieved with the passage of the **Bilingual Education Act** in 1968. However, many states began to pass laws to make English the official language in their state beginning in the 1980s.

- Women
 - Women also started their own movement during the 60s called **feminism**- **belief that women should have economic, political, and social equality with men**. The movement actually began in the 1950s with the publication of **Betty Friedan's** book, *The Feminine Mystique*.
 - The feminism movement gained steam in 1966 with the creation of the **National Organization for Women (NOW)**- organization that pushed for women's rights and equality of opportunity.
 - Not all women supported feminism (ex. **Phyllis Schlafly**), but many such as **Gloria Steinem** (founder of **Ms. Magazine**) fought even harder.
 - Controversial topics
 - **Equal Rights Amendment** was passed by Congress in 1972, but it failed in 1982 when too few states had ratified it.
 - Woman's right to have an abortion--**Roe v. Wade (1973)**

- Indians (Native American Indians)
 - AIM (American Indian Movement) was formed to be a self-defense group against police brutality, but became a militant advocacy group.
 - Some problems that AIM sought to deal with:
 - High infant mortality rates (2x the national average)
 - Low life expectancy
 - High unemployment
 - High alcoholism rates
 - High rates of tuberculosis
 - High rates of poverty



AIM takes aim at the government

- In 1973, AIM held a protest at Wounded Knee, SD. They took hostages, and a shoot-out with the FBI left 2 AIM members dead (but a promise from the government to re-examine treaty rights).
 - Some new laws dealing with Indians were to follow.



Handicapped/Disabled Rights

- Disabled citizens began to seek help from the federal government in dealing with discrimination.
- Disability rights groups formed and protested for government actions. They used **sit-ins** and other methods to achieve their goals.
- **Section 504** of the **Rehabilitation Act of 1973** outlawed discrimination against the disabled—but it was difficult to enforce.
- **The Americans with Disabilities Act** was later passed to allow access for all disabled persons to all public facilities.