

Civil Rights & Protest!

social movements of the 1950s and 1960s

The background of the slide features a repeating pattern of stylized leaves in teal, gold, and pink colors, arranged in a grid-like fashion on a dark blue background. The leaves are simple, elongated shapes with a central vein and a small notch at the top.

The Early Civil Rights Movement

1945-1960

Jackie Robinson



- While many aspects of American life were segregated, some progress was being made.
- In 1947 Jackie Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers and became the first African American to play baseball in the major leagues.
- Baseball was the most popular sport in America

Truman Advocates Equality

- After WWII, President Truman pushed for legislation to improve opportunities for African Americans.
- He was met with resistance by Congress for many of his initiatives dealing with race relations (voting rights, anti-lynching).
- In response, Truman issued an executive order in 1948 effectively desegregating the military.



Warren Court expands individual freedoms

- During the 1960s the Supreme Court took the lead on controversial social, religious and political issues.
- Court was led by Chief Justice Earl Warren who also guided the court in the *Brown v. Board* ruling of 1954.
 - *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) required the racial integration of public schools
 - *Brown v. Board II* (1955) hastened schools to integrate “with all deliberate speed”





Warren Court expands individual freedoms

- *Gideon v. Wainwright* (1963) – All accused criminals had the right to a lawyer whether they could afford one or not.
- *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966) – All accused criminals had to be informed of his or her 5th and 6th amendment rights before being questioned.
- These included the right to an attorney and protection against self-incrimination.
- “You have the right to remain silent...”
- The Warren Court placed an emphasis on how the Constitution protects personal rights.

NAACP Challenges Segregation

- Beginning in the 1940s, the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) began challenging the constitutionality of segregation.
- The legal team was headed by Thurgood Marshall.
- Later in 1967, Marshall would be appointed the first African American to the Supreme Court.



Brown v. Board of Education

- In 1954, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously in *Brown v. Board of Education* that segregation in public schools was unconstitutional.
- The ruling overturned *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896), concluding that “separate but equal” violated the principles of the Constitution.



White Citizens Councils

- The court went even further in Brown v. Board II the following year (1955) to demand that schools be desegregated “with all deliberate speed.”
- Many in the South resisted the Brown decision and organized “White Citizens Councils” to actively protest against desegregation.



The Little Rock 9

- In 1957 a famous battle over segregation took place in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- Nine African Americans volunteered to be the first black students admitted to Central High School.
- However the governor of Arkansas, Orval Faubus, opposed integration and sent state troops to block the “Little Rock 9” from entering the school.



Eisenhower Responds

- When Governor Faubus refused to admit the Little Rock 9, President Eisenhower sent in federal troops to enforce the Supreme Court's decision.
- Similar to the nullification crisis of the 1830s, this episode in US history highlights the power struggle between state and federal government.
- Some claimed that federal laws to achieve social goals was tyranny, or an abuse of power by the government.



Ruby Bridges



- Remembered as the first child to attend an all-white elementary school in the South
- Her parents responded to a request from the NAACP and volunteered her to help integrate the New Orleans school system.
- In 1960, she began going to William Frantz Elementary School.
- Parents withheld their students from class and teachers refused to teach her (except one who taught her alone for a year)

Wrong Side of History?



What are people saying about her
50 years later?



What will people say about them in
50 years?



Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s

SCLC vs. SNCC

- To support the goals of the Civil Rights Movement two distinct groups formed, but both had similar goals.

SCLC

- Southern Christian Leadership Council
- Founded by MLK
- Group of ministers who promoted nonviolent protests
- Protested predominantly via boycotts

SNCC

- Students Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
- Founded by Ella Baker
- Group of students who promoted nonviolent protests
- Protested predominantly via freedom rides and sit-ins.

SCLC – Montgomery Bus Boycott



- In protest to the arrest of Rosa Parks, Dr. King and the SCLC organized the Montgomery Bus Boycott in late 1955.
- Boycott crippled the public transportation service in Montgomery and eventually forced changes in policy.

SNCC and sit-ins



- To protest segregated diner counters, SNCC organized sit-ins.
- Sit-ins involved simply occupying a counter and refusing to leave.
- Sit-in demonstrations spread throughout the South in the 1960s.

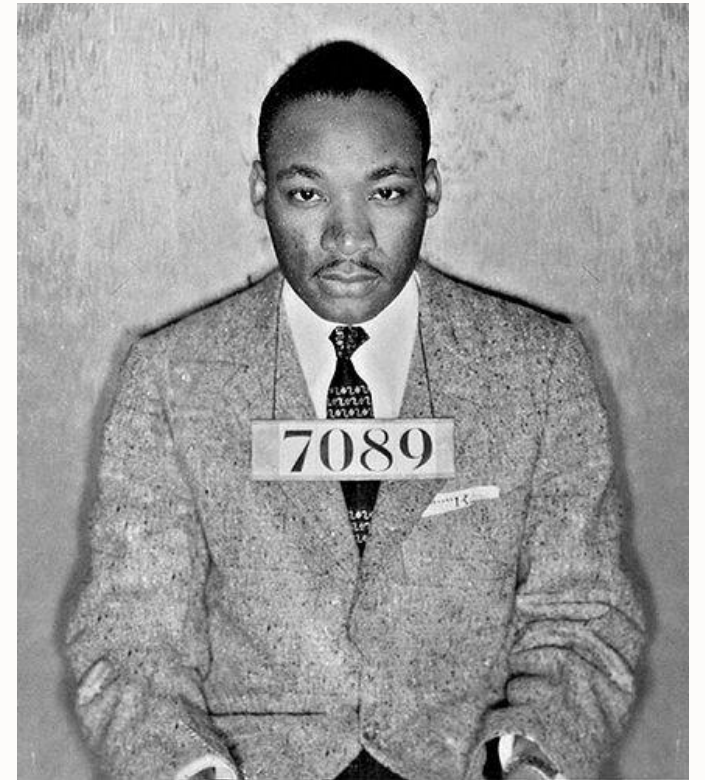
Freedom Riders



- Members of CORE & SNCC would board buses in the South and protest the practices of segregation on public transportation.
- These protests became known as freedom rides.
- CORE =Congress of Racial Equality
- Their beliefs coincided with SCLC, SNCC, & the NAACP
- Organized most of the freedom rides (SNCC organized the others)
- Men and women who were black or white participated in the integrated bus rides

MLK's "Letter From a Birmingham Jail"

- In April 1963 MLK is arrested in Birmingham for protesting.
- Letter is King's response to criticism that racism should be fought in the courts, not in the streets.
 - Influenced by the notion of civil disobedience: citizens have a responsibility to break unjust laws to force them to be changed
- Included the famous line: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."



MLK's "March on Washington"



- In response to support from President Kennedy on Civil Rights issues, the SCLC planned the “March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom” in August 1963.
- On the steps of the memorial dedicated to the “Great Emancipator,” (Abraham Lincoln) MLK delivered his famous “I Have A Dream Speech”

“I Have a Dream Speech” excerpts

“I have a dream
that one day this
nation will rise
up, live out the
true meaning of
its creed: ‘We hold
these truths to
be self-evident,
that all men are
created equal.’”

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream ...

I have a dream that one day in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, one day right there in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers. ”

March on Selma

- To protest voting discrimination in the South, both SNCC and SCLC organized a nonviolent march from Selma, AL to Montgomery in March 1965.
- March turned violent when state troopers interfered to try to stop the protest on the Edmund Pettus Bridge.
- Violence came to be known as “Bloody Sunday”
 - televised accounts of the incident only served to spread the message of the movement.



JFK, LBJ, & Civil Rights



- Because of his narrow win in 1960, Kennedy was reluctant to pursue major Civil Rights legislation
- However, after violence erupted across the South and was broadcast on television, he changed his mind
- With his brother, Attorney General Robert “Bobby” Kennedy, JFK pressed for sweeping Civil Rights legislation
- November 22nd, 1963 – During a trip to Dallas, TX JFK was shot while riding in a motorcade
- After the death of JFK, LBJ (Lyndon B. Johnson) becomes President

JFK, LBJ, & Civil Rights



- Despite being from Texas, :Lyndon B. Johnson politically supported Civil Rights
- He vowed to continue the work of JFK's “New Frontier” policies with an expanded series of social programs to improve the lives of many struggling Americans called the “Great Society”
- He was able to successfully put pressure on Congress to pass Civil Rights legislation



Civil Rights Act of 1964

- In response to the March on Washington and the death of JFK, President Johnson backed the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- "No memorial oration or eulogy could more eloquently honor President Kennedy's memory than the earliest possible passage of the civil rights bill for which he fought so long." – President Lyndon Johnson
- Act outlawed discrimination of African Americans and women in the government job sector, voting requirements and racial separation in public spaces.

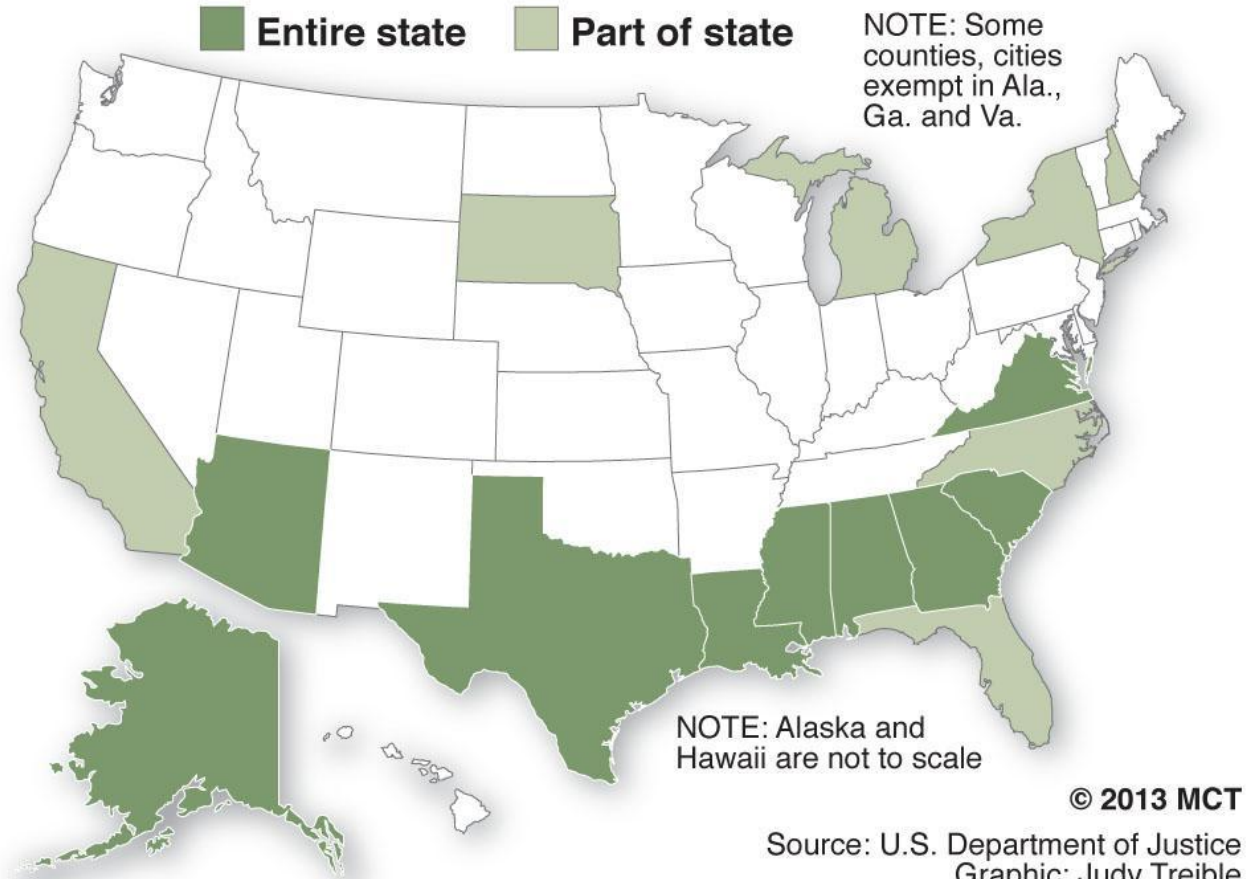
The slide features a decorative border on the left side consisting of seven stylized leaf icons arranged vertically. The title 'Voting Rights Act of 1965' is centered at the top in a large, dark brown serif font, with a horizontal line underneath it.

Voting Rights Act of 1965

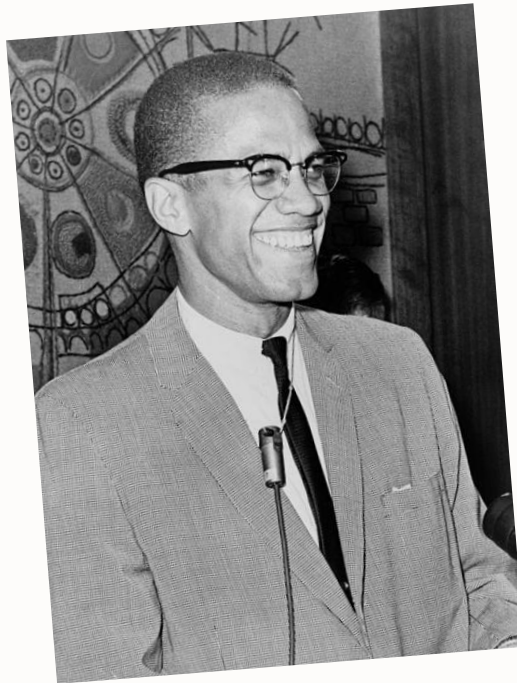
- Signed into law in August 1965 by President Johnson.
- Act expanded on the 15th Amendment.
- Prohibited tactics that disenfranchised African American voters including literacy tests.
- Led to passage of 24th amendment to Constitution that formally outlawed the poll tax.
- The Act also called for mandated federal oversight of elections in several states (and counties) with a history of voter intimidation.
- Unless otherwise released, these specific states and counties are still required to submit any changes to voting procedures to the Justice Department to protect minority voting rights.

Voting Rights Act states

States with a history of discriminatory voting practices that are subject to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act; states require federal approval for any changes in voting laws.



Malcolm X Supports Violence



- In sharp contrast to the non-violent protests of SNCC and SCLC, Malcolm X believed Black Americans should use violence if necessary to achieve civil rights goals
- Believed separation of races was in the best interest of black communities
- Preacher for the Nation of Islam
- After changing his views on Civil Rights, including reconciliation and cooperation with non-violent groups, Malcolm X was assassinated by members of the Nation of Islam in 1965.
- “While we did not always see eye to eye on methods to solve the race problem, I always had a deep affection for Malcolm and felt that he had the great ability to put his finger on the existence and root of the problem” --Martin Luther King Jr.

Malcolm X “By Any Means Necessary”

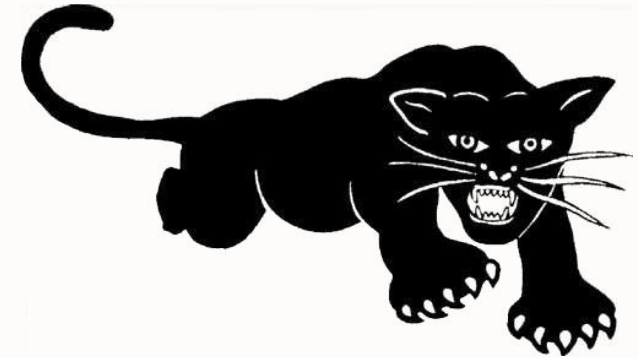


“So we have formed an organization known as the Organization of Afro American Unity which has the same aim and objective – to fight whoever gets in our way, to bring about the complete independence of people of African descent here in the Western Hemisphere, and first here in the United States, and bring about the freedom of these people by any means necessary. That's our motto. We want freedom by any means necessary. We want justice by any means necessary. We want equality by any means necessary. “

—Malcolm X, speech entitled
“By Any Means Necessary,” 1964

Emergence of the Black Panthers

- Black Panther Party –group formed in Oakland in 1966 to battle discrimination against Black Americans by the government
- Group was militant; was willing to use violence to protect black communities
- Initiated community service programs such as free school breakfast and free health clinics
- Black Panthers protested disproportionate use of black soldiers in Vietnam War



Racial Riots Sweep the Nation

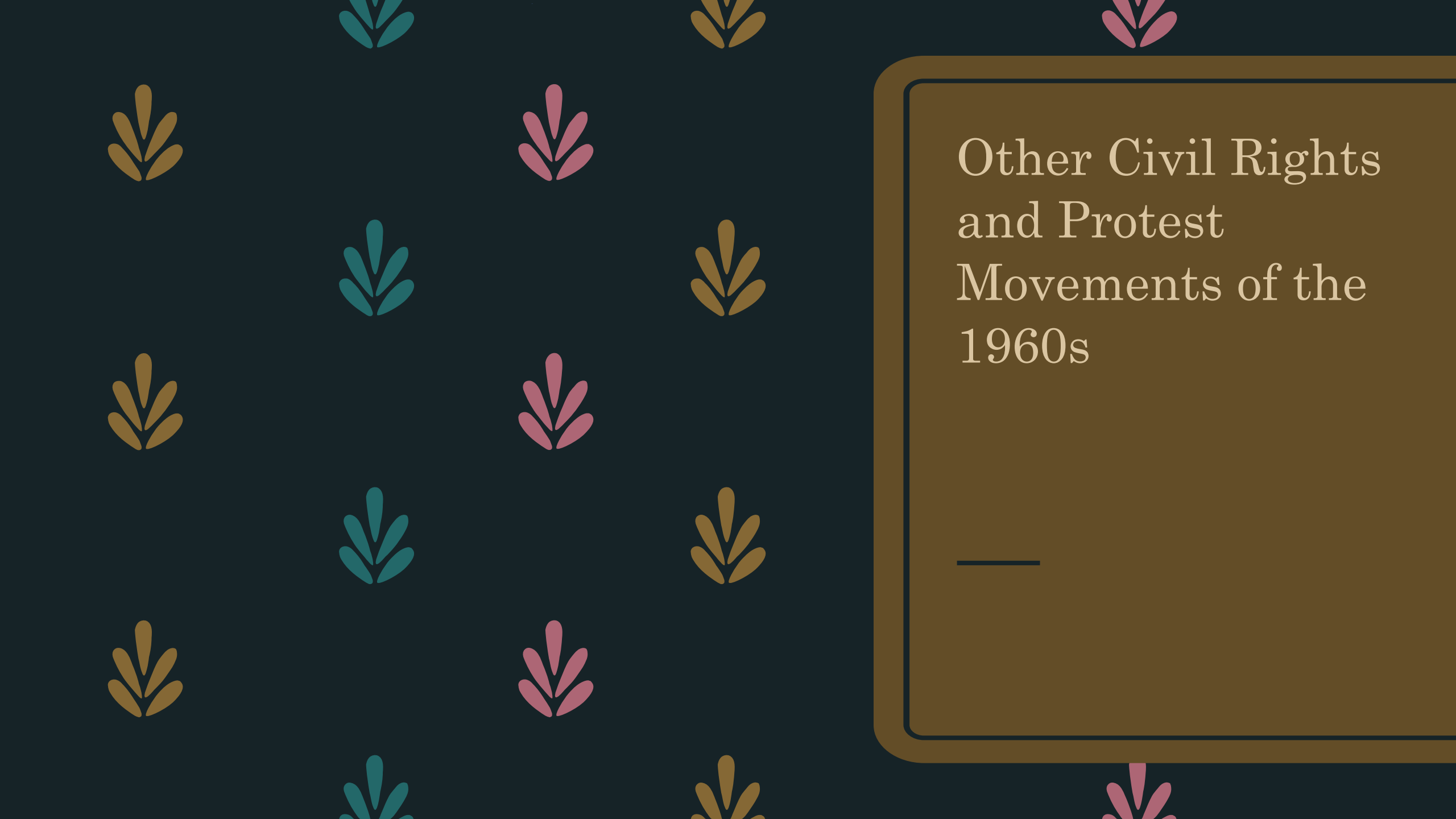
- In response to Civil Rights progress and the influence of the Black Panthers, violent clashes between protestors and police occur throughout the nation
- Most famous of these were riots in Watts neighborhood of LA, Detroit, MI and Newark, NJ



MLK Assassinated



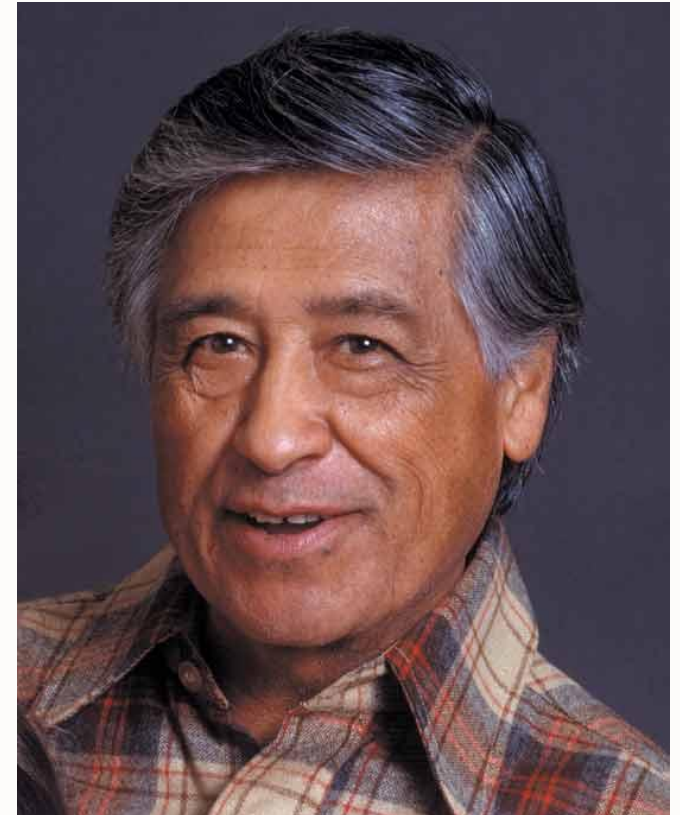
- April 1968 – While in Memphis, MLK is assassinated outside the Lorraine Hotel by James Earl Ray.
- “Free at last, God Almighty I’m free at last.”
- Despite his death, King’s message lives on today.
- In 1983, President Reagan signed a bill establishing the MLK federal holiday celebrated every January.



Other Civil Rights and Protest Movements of the 1960s

Cesar Chavez & UFW

- The success of the Delano Grape Strike led to the creation of the United Farm Workers
- César Chávez was a Mexican American farm worker, labor leader, and civil rights activist who founded the UFW
- His work led to numerous improvements for union laborers.
- His work focused on unskilled migrant laborers.
- He used non-violent protests like Martin Luther King, Jr.



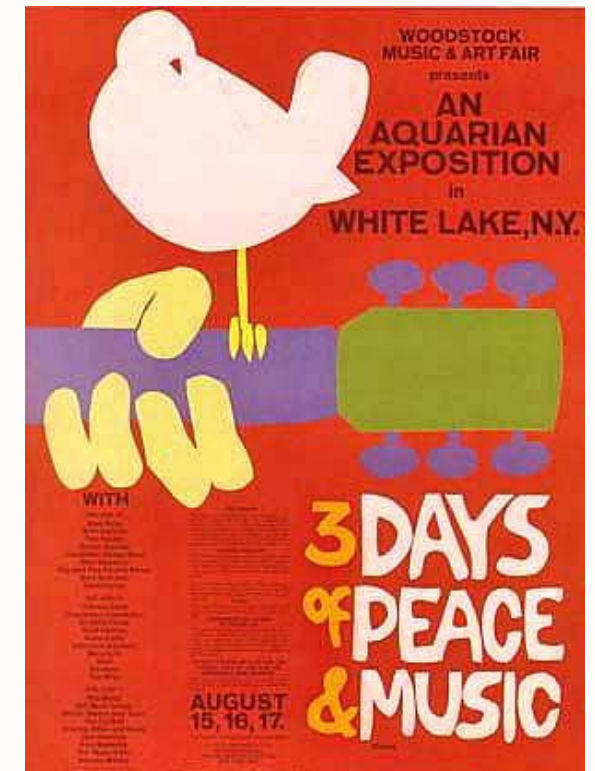


Counterculture

- By the 1950s and 1960s, the “Baby Boomer” had grown into teenagers.
- Students began to protest wrongs they saw in American social, political, and economic policy
- College students met to form the Students for a Democratic Society in 1962. The meeting resulted in the Port Huron Statement, in which the students demanded the expansion of democracy.
- Signaled the birth of the “New Left”
- Soon after the Free-Speech Movement began, staging sit-ins and teach-ins to address issues such as Civil Rights and the Vietnam War

Woodstock

- 1969 music festival on a farm in New York
- “Hippies” gathered at the concert for a three-day party that involved peace, love, and music
- Artists such as Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, and Arlo Guthrie performed
- “Flower children” of the Woodstock soon changed course to protest the Vietnam War with their shouts of “Make love, not war!”



Changing Gender Roles

- With the advent of the birth control pill and the beginnings of the feminist movement in the 1960s, many Americans believed that the old sexual mores of their parents were repressive.
- The National Organization for Women (NOW) was founded in 1966 by Betty Friedan
- *Feminine Mystique* (1963) was written by Betty Friedan to encourage women to leave homemaking and pursue fulfillment outside of the home





Changing Gender Roles

Some of the goals of the women's movement:

- Equal access to job opportunities
- Equal pay
- End sexual harassment and violence toward women
- Reproductive health rights
- Secure the Equal Rights Amendment

ERA



- After the Civil Rights Act of 1964, women looked to strengthen their rights by amending the Constitution
- In 1972, Congress passed the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), which would bar states and the federal government from discriminating on the basis of sex
- The amendment fell short of the required number of ratifying states and died in the 1980s

Rachel Carson

- Rachel Carson was an American marine biologist and nature writer whose writings are credited with advancing the global environmental movement.
- Her book, *Silent Spring*, helped start the environmental movement by exposing the hazards of pesticides.
- Her work also led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
 - A government organization that works to protect the environment.



Earth Day

LOVE YOUR MOTHER...



EARTH

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- Earth Day is held on April 22 internationally.
- These are intended to inspire awareness of and appreciation for the Earth's environment.