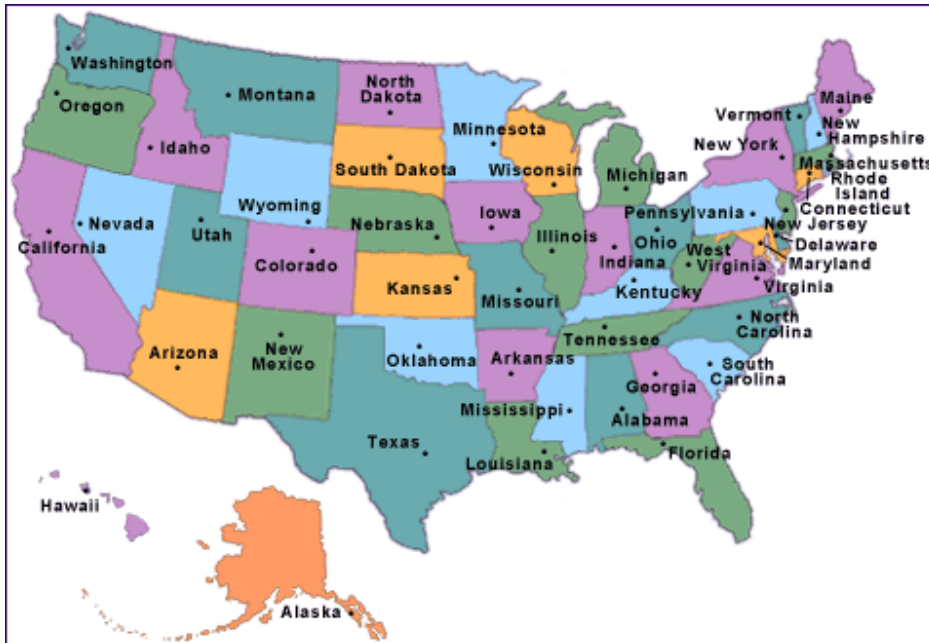


# American Civil Rights Movement



The Southern States used **Jim Crow laws** to segregate blacks and whites and blacks were banned from voting. White supremacist organisations such as the Ku Klux Klan attacked blacks.

## After WWII conditions changed

- ✓ Blacks migrated to cities and became easier to organise - NAACP and CORE
- ✓ New educated black leadership emerged in the 1940's and 1950's
- ✓ Those who returned from the war had higher expectations for civil and political rights
- ✓ Liberal whites wanted to give blacks more rights
- ✓ During the cold war the US wanted to be seen as the leader of the free world so it could not be seen to discriminate.
- ✓ The mass media showed how blacks were being treated

## Desegregation

Executive order was issued by Truman in 1948 to desegregate the army

Education - Chief Justice Earl Warren issued many verdicts to open education to blacks.

**Brown v. The Board of Education Topeka Kansas** found laws requiring public school segregation were unconstitutional

This led to white resistance

1. **Little Rock Arkansas** nine black students were prevented by National Guard from entering the school Eisenhower had to send federal troops to protect the students

2. **Bussing** Black and white students were bussed across cities to achieve racial balance. Didn't work as many white parents sent their children to white private schools
3. **University of Mississippi James Meredith** federal troops and marshals were sent to protect him from white mobs

### **Non Violent protest**

- ✓ Boycott of Montgomery Alabama Bus system
- ✓ Lunch counter protests
- ✓ Freedom riders
- ✓ Martin Luther King School children in Birmingham Alabama (Eugene Bull O Connor used dogs and water cannon)
- ✓ I have a dream speech in Washington
- ✓ March from Selma to Montgomery

Johnson sent federal troops to protect the marchers voting rights act of 1965

**Martin Luther King** was assassinated in Memphis 1968 lead to rioting

**Malcolm X** supported the use of violence and Black Nationalism led to race riots in many cities

The **federal government** played a vital role in giving rights

1. Truman and Eisenhower ended segregation in the armed forces
2. Civil rights act of 1964 outlawed discrimination in public places
3. Voting rights Act 1965 banned literacy tests for voter registration
4. Affirmative Action companies on federal contracts had to provide jobs for minorities

### **Impact**

- ✓ New black leadership was created in sport films politics and music
- ✓ New black middle class was created
- ✓ More were elected to House of Representatives and Senate.
- ✓ Many still experienced poverty.

## Montgomery Bus Boycott

Capital of Alabama in the south of the US. It enforced Jim Crow laws by having segregation on schools and buses. Most blacks were poor and in low paid jobs. The Bus Company employed no blacks as drivers. It put black passengers at the back of the bus and white in the front

Rosa Parks, a 42 year seamstress, sat on the back section of the bus on the 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 1955 and refused to get up and give her seat to a white man on the orders of the bus driver, she was arrested and charged.

The Montgomery NAACP and the women's political council got Parks permission to use her case to fight for desegregation. Organised blacks to boycott buses. Its Leader was **Martin Luther King**; a Baptist minister became president of the MIA which organised the non violent protest. Parks was fined \$10 the boycott continued. MIA demanded black drivers be employed and that seats on the bus be filled on a first come first served basis. Set up a taxi service and formed car pools. The Black churches raised money to fund this.

City authority's Ku Klux Klan and police all acted against the boycott. King's home was bombed and he was arrested

Held out during 1956 Supreme Court ruled that the Montgomery city laws were illegal the boycott was victorious. It has lasted 381 days.

- ✓ Showed that a well organised and peaceful protest could succeed
- ✓ Could use new methods to win their rights
- ✓ Rise to prominence of Martin Luther king
- ✓ Influence of press and television

## Martin Luther King

- ✓ Born in Atlanta Georgia, son of a Baptist Minister which he also became
- ✓ Pastor of a church in Montgomery Alabama
- ✓ Inspired by Gandhi and the use of non violent protest
- ✓ Success of boycott brought him to national prominence
- ✓ Fought for civil rights for blacks founded Southern Christian Leadership Conference
- ✓ Arrested several times
  
- ✓ Demonstrations over segregation in Birmingham Alabama
- ✓ Provoked the Birmingham police to use violence, which was televised
- ✓ 1963 civil rights protest Washington made his famous I have a Dream Speech
- ✓ 1964 Nobel peace Prize
- ✓ Civil Rights Act 1964 outlawed discrimination on the basis of race or sex
- ✓ Selma to Birmingham march which led to the passage of voting rights act 1965 power to federal government over voter registration

Challenged by younger more extreme leader such a Malcolm X who were willing to use violence  
Criticized social and economic problems

Investigated by the FBI who wanted to uncover any dirt to smear him.

Was organising a poor people march on Washington when he was assassinated in Memphis Tennessee in 1968 by a hired assassin James Earl Ray. His death led to Riots in many cities.

