

## Civil Rights in the 1960s

### Under Kennedy

- Because of the closeness of the 1960 election, JFK avoided civil rights as an issue for fear of losing support of southern Democrats
- Kennedy on two occasions had to use federal troops to segregate southern universities (Ike style)
  - **Mississippi 1962**
    - In 1962 a federal court upheld the right of **James Meredith**, an African American Air Force veteran, to attend the **University of Mississippi**
    - Kennedy sent in 400 federal marshals and 3,000 federal troops to control mob violence and protect Meredith's right to attend class
  - **Alabama 1963**
    - **Governor George Wallace** tried to stop an African American student from entering the **University of Alabama**
    - JFK again sent in troops to admit the student

### Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) in the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s

- Recognized nationally in the 1960s as the leader of the civil rights movement
- Advocated **nonviolent** protests against segregation
- **Freedom riders**: civil rights activists who traveled the south registering black voters and integrating public places
- Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1963 arrest
  - King and his follower's were jailed in Birmingham, Alabama for what local authorities judged to be an illegal march
  - The arrest and jailing was a big moment in the civil rights movement because most Americans believed King had been jailed unjustly
  - The event caused Kennedy to support a tough civil rights bill
  - **Letter from a Birmingham Jail**
- **The 1963 march on Washington**
  - In August 1963 King led one of the largest and most successful demonstrations in US History
  - About 200,000 blacks and whites took part in the march on Washington in support of Kennedy's civil rights bill
  - The highlight of the demonstration was Dr. King's "**I have a dream speech**"
- **The 1965 march on Montgomery**
  - Dr. King led a voting rights march/demonstration from **Selma, Alabama to Montgomery, Alabama**
  - The demonstration was met with police beatings
  - **Johnson sent in troops to protect Dr. King and demonstrators**
  - **Soon after Johnson sponsored a powerful new voting rights bill**
- **Dr. King won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964**
- MLK withdrew support for LBJ over the Vietnam war
- Assassination of Dr. King
  - April 1968 MLK was assassinated by **James Earl Ray** at a Memphis, Tennessee Hotel
  - **Massive riots erupted in 168 cities across the US**

A *southern* president succeeded in convincing Congress to pass the most important civil rights laws since Reconstruction

- **The 1964 Civil Rights Act:**
  - Made segregation illegal in all public facilities, including hotels and restaurants
  - Gave the federal government more authority to desegregate schools
  - Set up the Equal Opportunity Commission to end racial discrimination in employment
- **The 24<sup>th</sup> Amendment: abolished the poll tax**
- **The 1965 Voting Rights Act:**
  - Ended literacy tests/requirements for voting
  - Provided federal registrars in areas in which blacks were kept from voting
  - In some areas of the deep south African Americans could vote for the first time since Reconstruction

## Malcolm X

- Black Muslims: founded by Black Muslim leader Elijah Muhammad
- Black Muslims preached:
  - Black nationalism
  - Separatism
  - Self-improvements for African Americans
- Malcolm X became a Black Muslim and adopted the name Malcolm X while serving a prison sentence
- After leaving prison in 1952 Malcolm X became the controversial voice of the **Black Muslim movement**
  - Criticized Martin Luther King Jr. for being an Uncle Tom (subservient to whites)
  - Advocated self-defense: using black violence to counter white violence
- Malcolm X eventually left the Black Muslims to found the more peaceful Organization of Afro-American Unity
- Malcolm X was assassinated by black opponents in 1965

The radicalism of **Malcolm X** inspired young African Americans in other civil rights organizations

- Two organizations advocated non-violence, black power (economic power), and racial separatism:
  - **The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC): chairman Stokely Carmichael**
  - **Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)**
- **The Black Panthers**
  - Organized by Huey Newton, Bobby Seale, and other militants
  - Advocates of revolutionary socialism and self-rule for African Americans

## The Warren Court and Individual Rights

### The Warren Court

- **Earl Warren:**
  - Big influence on the civil rights with the *Brown v. Topeka* decision in 1954
  - Huge influence on individual rights, the criminal justice system, and the US political system in the 1960s
- Criminal Justice cases:
  - ***Mapp v. Ohio*** (1961): ruled that illegally seized evidence cannot be used in court against the accused
  - ***Gideon v. Wainwright*** (1963): required that states provide an attorney for indigent (poor) defendants
  - ***Escobedo v. Illinois*** (1964): required the police to inform an arrested person of his or her right to remain silent
  - ***Miranda v. Arizona*** (1966): extended the ruling in *Escobedo* to include the right to an attorney during questioning
- Reapportionment:
  - Before 1862 most states had at least one house of their bi-cameral state legislatures based on district lines that favored rural areas over urban areas
  - ***Baker v. Carr*** (1962)
    - Required election districts be drawn to provide equal representation for all of a state's citizens
    - Established the principle of "one man, one vote"
- Freedom of expression and privacy:
  - ***Yates v. US*** (1957): protected radical/revolutionary speech (even communists) unless it represents a "clear and present danger"
  - ***Engel v. Vitale*** (1962): ruled state laws requiring prayer and bible readings in public schools violated the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment provision of separation of church and state
  - ***Griswold v. Connecticut*** (1965): recognizing privacy rights, the court ruled that a state could not prohibit the use of contraceptives (birth-control) by adults

## Social Revolutions and Cultural Movements

-- student movement or **New Left**

- Nationwide movement of university students against traditional institutions and authority
- **Students for a Democratic Society (SDS):**
  - A group of radical students in Port Huron, Michigan led by **Tom Hayden**
  - Issued a declaration called the **Port Huron Statement** that called for university decisions to be made by participatory democracy (students make university decisions)
  - Supporters of Hayden's ideas became known as the **New Left**
- Berkley
  - First major student protest took place on the Berkley campus of UCLA
  - Called the movement the **Free Speech Movement**
  - Demanded:
    - An end to restrictions on student political activities (students nation-wide protested rules against dorm drinking and dorm visits by members of the opposite sex)
    - Also demanded a larger role for students in governing the university
- **The Weathermen**
  - The most radical of fringe of the SDS
  - Embraced violence and vandalism in their attacks on American institutions
  - Most Americans began associating the entire New Left movement with the actions of the Weathermen

## Counterculture

- **Next phase in the evolution of the 1950s Beat movement**
- Rejection of traditional social values
- Issues: anti-war, civil rights, political protests of the New Left
- Advocated rebellion in dress, music, drug use, and communal living
- "Hippies" or "flower children"
- Dress: long hair, beads, beards, jeans, etc.
- Music:
  - Folk music: Joan Baez and Bob Dylan
  - Rock music: Rolling Stones, the Beatles, the Doors (Jim Morrison), and Janis Joplin
- Experimentation with mind-altering drugs (LSD)
- Woodstock (1969)
  - Music festival in upstate NY
  - Thousands of hippies gathered in what was the last hurrah of the counterculture movement

## women's movement of the 1960s

- **The Feminine Mystique** (1963): book by Betty Friedan that encouraged women to seek fulfillment in professional careers rather than confining themselves to traditional homemaker roles
  - Friedan helped found the **National Organization for Women (NOW)** in 1966
  - NOW adopted the activist tactics of the civil rights movement to gain equal rights for women
- **Equal Pay Act of 1963**: prohibited discrimination in pay based on gender
- The Civil Rights Act of 1964: prohibited gender discrimination in employment
- The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)
  - Proposed constitutional amendment
  - The ERA would have prohibited gender discrimination by the federal and state governments
  - Passed by Congress in 1972
  - Was not ratified by the necessary 38 states required have the amendment added to the constitution