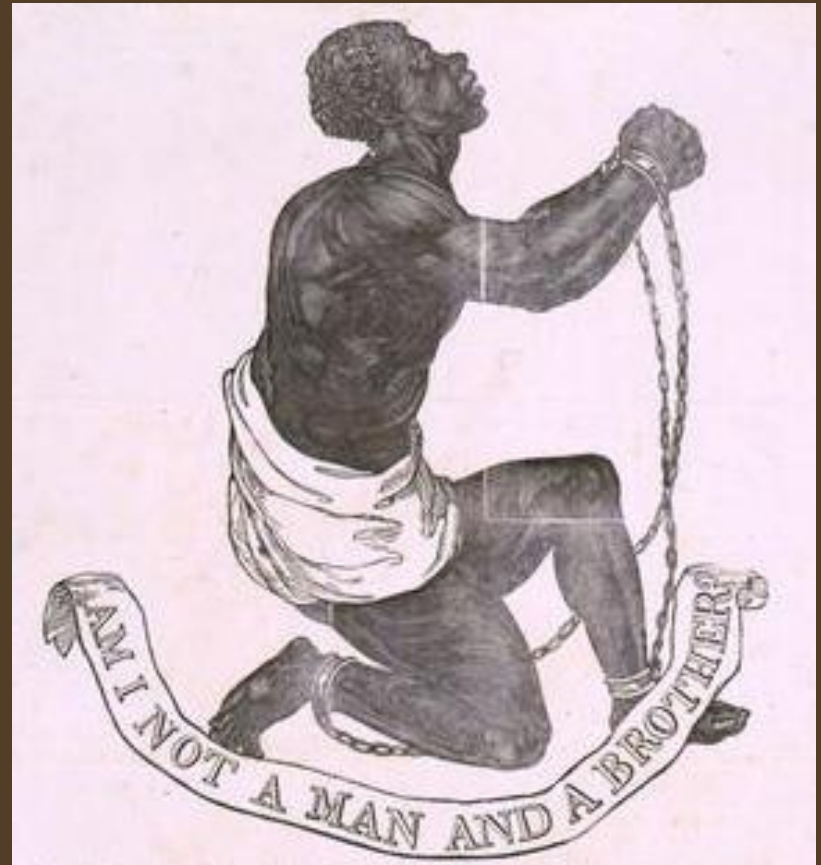


We Shall Overcome

The Story of the Civil Rights  
Movement in America

# Before the Civil War

- Slavery began in U.S. for economic reasons
- Difference in slaves and indentured servants
- By 1790 slaves in almost every state
- Slavery made legal in Constitution



# Slavery and the Civil War



- Abuse caused many northerners to become abolitionists
- Lincoln signed Emancipation Proclamation
- South's surrender in 1865 ended slavery in the United States

# Freedom Did Not Equal Equality

- Southern bitterness
- Prejudice
- Black codes and Jim Crow



# Effects of Jim Crow



- Most African Americans denied basic right to vote
- Plessy v. Ferguson
- Segregated public facilities including schools, theaters, and restaurants

# The Beginning of the Civil Rights Movement

- Treatment of African Americans bothered conscience of nation
  - President Truman desegregated the military and civil service in 1948
  - Brown v. Board of Education in 1954



# Some States Fought School Desegregation: 1957



- Southern congressmen call for resistance in 1956
- Little Rock Nine enroll in white school in 1957

# Montgomery Bus Boycott: 1955

- Rosa Parks
- Boycott of bus system led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Non-violent civil disobedience
- Bus segregation ordinance declared unconstitutional





# Sit-Ins: 1960

- Students in Greensboro, NC began sit-ins at a restaurant where they were refused service.



# Sit-Ins a Form of Civil Disobedience



WE CATER TO  
**WHITE**  
TRADE  
**ONLY**



# Freedom Rides: 1961



- Began in summer 1961
- Volunteers of all races—civil disobedience
- Purpose to desegregate bus terminals
- Segregationists resorted to violence
- President Kennedy sent in federal marshals

# James Meredith and the University of Mississippi: 1962



- Meredith in Air Force from 1951-1960
- Applied to University of Mississippi but denied
- Helped by Thurgood Marshall
- Causes riots that left 2 people dead
- Meredith himself was shot
- Admitted and gets degree in history, later becoming a lawyer

# Birmingham, Alabama: 1963

- Birmingham one of most segregated cities in U.S.
- Began with protest march
- King jailed
- Church bombing
- Shocked nation—tide begins to turn



# March on Washington: 1963

- Non-violent
- “I Have a Dream”



# Civil Rights Act: 1964

- Pres. Johnson wanted its passage as a memorial to JFK
- After its passage, African Americans no longer excluded from restaurants, hotels, etc.



# Selma, Alabama: 1965



- MLK agrees to lead march to end police brutality and gain the vote
- Gov. George Wallace says no to march
- People began march anyway
- Police attacked people who were praying
- Known as Bloody Sunday



# Voting Rights Act, 1965

- No more literacy tests or poll taxes
- Number of registered African American voters quadruples in the southern states



# End of an Era: 1968

- Assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy end the Civil Rights Movement

