Civil Rights Movement

Ms. Krall
Pre- Brown

- What is Segregation?
- What were the Jim Crow laws?
- What is the difference between de facto and de jure segregation?
Eisenhower years...

- Believed that desegregation should be a natural, slow process and not forced.
- Was forced into the limelight by *Brown vs. Board of Education* (Topeka, Kansas) in 1954.
What was Brown?

- Earl Warren appointed by Eisenhower as Chief Justice of Supreme Court in 1953.
- NAACP filed suit on behalf of Linda Brown, a black elementary school student.
- Topeka school board had denied Brown admission to an all-white school.
- Case reached Supreme Court in 1954.
NAACP

- began to attack "separate but equal" by suing segregated colleges & universities; blacks gained entrance into many Southern universities.

- Elementary and secondary schools remained segregated
What was Brown?

- Strikes down Plessy v Ferguson (1896) and its “separate but equal” clause.
- De Jure segregation found unconstitutional. Violates equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment.
Reaction to Brown?

- 1955 Brown II which desegregated schools “with all deliberate speed.”
- Most southerners opposed Brown and led to violent encounters with desegregation supporters.
- Best example...1957 Little Rock Arkansas.
Little Rock Nine

- 1957 Little Rock Arkansas Central High School
Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1955
December 1955, Rosa Parks arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, after refusing to give her bus seat to a white man; she was ordered to sit at the back of the bus.

African Americans called for a boycott; nearly 80% of bus users were black.

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. emerged as leader of the civil rights movement and later became President of the SCLC.
| Montgomery bus boycott lasted nearly 400 days. King’s house was bombed. |
| 88 other black leaders were arrested and fined for conspiring to boycott. |
| Supreme Court ruled segregation on Montgomery buses was unconstitutional. |
| On December 20, 1956, segregationists gave up. |
The Murder of Emmitt Till

- From Chicago, in August, 1955 14 year old Emmitt Till visited his relatives in Mississippi.
- Unaccustomed to segregation and on a dare. Emmitt walked in to a store, and spoke to a white woman.
- Said “bye baby” to the wife of the store’s owner.
A few days later, two men in the middle of the night took Emmitt and killed him.

Three days later, Emmett Till's body was found in a River. One eye was gouged out, and his crushed-in head had a bullet in it.

Emmitt’s mother insisted on an open casket funeral.
Welcome Back! Interpret this quote...

- “... But it is not enough for me to stand before you tonight and condemn riots. It would be morally irresponsible for me to do that without, at the same time, condemning the contingent, intolerable conditions that exist today in our society. These conditions are the things that cause individuals to feel that they have no other alternative than to engage in violent rebellions to get attention. And I must say tonight that a riot is the language of the unheard. And what is it America has failed to hear? It has failed to hear that the plight of the Negro poor has worsened over the last twelve or fifteen years. It has failed to hear that the promises of freedom and justice have not been met. And it has failed to hear that large segments of white society are more concerned about tranquility and the status quo than about justice and humanity.”

- “The Other America” - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Welcome Back!

- Get into your groups 1, 2, 3
- Share your SAQ answers from your Civil Rights Packet.
- Turning Points due Monday
- Civil Rights DBQ Wednesday.
- Speeches due Monday
- MONDAY PRACTICE EXAM!
Means of Protest.

- Nonviolent passive resistance
- Urged followers not to fight with authorities even if provoked.
- Sit-ins became effective new strategy of nonviolence

- 1960-First sit-in by 4 North Carolina college freshman at Woolworth lunch counter for student being refused service.
During the Kennedy Years...

- Did nothing during his first two years because he tried to avoid losing either white or black southern vote.

- Civil rights groups forced his hand.

- SNCC and CORE
Sit-ins and Freedom Rides

May 1961, Freedom Riders organized by CORE rode interstate buses to verify that segregation was not occurring. In Alabama, Freedom Riders were arrested by police, state troopers, and National Guard; some were severely beaten. More Freedom Riders kept coming all summer.
James Meredith

- Kennedy had to send the U.S. Army to enforce a court order to enroll James Meredith in the University of Mississippi.
- Enrolled in September 1962.
Birmingham, 1963

- Birmingham closed parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, and golf courses to avoid desegregation.
- Arrested on Good Friday for marching without a permit and spent 2 weeks in jail.
"We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed. Frankly, I have yet to engage in a direct-action campaign that was 'well-timed' in the view of those who have not suffered unduly from the disease of segregation. For years now I have heard the word "Wait!" It rings in the ear of every Negro with piercing familiarity. This "Wait" has almost always meant "Never." We must come to see, with one of our distinguished jurists, that justice too long delayed is justice denied."
After his release, King began using black school children in the demonstrations.

Police commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor used cattle prods and ordered police dogs on demonstrators and used fire hoses on children as world watched in horror.
June 1963

- Governor George Wallace blocks two black students entering the University of Alabama.
- “Segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever.”
Also....

- Medgar Evers, NAACP director in Mississippi, was assassinated
The March on Washington...

- August 28, 1963
- Largest protest in nation’s history at that point. (250,000)
- “I have a dream speech.”
Johnson and Civil Rights...

- 24th Amendment abolished the poll tax in federal elections.
- Civil Rights Bill of 1964

- Desegregate businesses
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission created to enforce the law.
- Title VII: Discrimination based on race, religion, gender and national origin was illegal.
Voting Rights Act of 1965

Came out of the march from Selma to Washington.

Literacy tests unlawful

As a result, 740,000 African Americans registered to vote in three years.
Rise of Black Power

- Not all African Americans agreed with Martin Luther King’s non-violent methods, especially northern blacks.

- Black Separatism - Called for the separation of the races in America by returning to Africa or occupying an exclusive area of land in the U.S. supplied by the federal gov’t.
Malcolm X

- Most vocal and brilliant orator of Nation of Islam
- Advocated use of weapons for self-defense believing nonviolence encouraged white violence.
“Ballot or the Bullet” Speech
after his pilgrimage to Mecca; he left Nation of Islam

Assassinated on February 21, 1965,
Racial Violence

- SNCC becomes radical
- Black Panther party formed.
- Poverty, unemployment, & racial discrimination common in major inner-cities.

- Watts Riots, Los Angeles, August 11-16, 1965
- 34 people dead, 1,072 injured, 4,000 arrested, 1,000 buildings destroyed, property loss nearly $40 million.
1967, 7,000 arrested in Detroit
During first 9 months of 1967, more than 150 cities reported incidents of racial disorders
"It is not enough for me to stand before you tonight and condemn riots. It would be morally irresponsible for me to do that without, at the same time, condemning the contingent, intolerable conditions that exist in our society. These conditions are the things that cause individuals to feel that they have no other alternative than to engage in violent rebellions to get attention. And I must say tonight that a riot is the language of the unheard."
Death of MLK

- April 4, 1968 in Memphis.
- "We’ve got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn’t matter with me now. Because I’ve been to the mountain top. I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight... that we as a people will get to the promised land."
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
JAN. 15, 1929 — APR. 4, 1968

FOUNDING PRESIDENT
SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

THEY SAID ONE TO ANOTHER,
BEHOLD, HERE COMETH THE DREAMER...
LET US SLAY HIM...
AND WE SHALL SEE WHAT WILL BECOME OF HIS DREAMS

GENESIS 37: 19–20
RALPH DAVID ABERNATHY, PRESIDENT
Social Protests of the 1960s & 1970s
"Black Power"

- In the late 1960s, civil rights from political to economic equality (more than 50% of northern blacks lived in poverty)
- Leadership shifted from MLK’s nonviolent protest to militancy
- Civil rights began to reflect the overt embrace of black culture & pride: rejection of “slave names,” & the “black is beautiful” motto
"Black Power"

- SNCC leader **Stokely Carmichael**:
  - Told blacks to seize power where they outnumber whites
  - Called for black-controlled unions, co-ops, & political parties
- The **Black Panthers** dedicating themselves to defending blacks from police brutality & serving their communities

“Political power comes through the barrel of a gun”
—Huey Newton
“Brown Power”

- Mexican-Americans began to advocate for their rights:
  - “La Raza” called for cultural awareness, voter registration, education & poverty reforms
  - César Chávez organized the Nat’l Farm Workers’ Assoc to demand better pay for pickers
  - “Chicanos” called for & won bilingual education programs
Feminist Movement

☐ Arose during Civil Rights Movement
☐ Betty Friedan: credited with inspiring the start of the modern women’s liberation movement

■ 1963, *The Feminine Mystique*, which explores the idea of women finding fulfillment beyond traditional roles

■ Co-founded the National Organization for Women in 1966, and served as its first president

■ NOW worked for rights of women

▶ 1968 In November, NOW member Shirley Chisholm becomes the first Black woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. (runs for president in 1972)
Supreme Court and Female Rights

- **Griswold v. Connecticut (1965)** struck down a state law that banned the use of contraceptives, even by married couples, creating a "right to privacy."

- **Reed v. Reed** and **Frontiero v. Richardson**, dealt with sex discrimination in laws and jobs.

- **Roe v. Wade (1973).** The court legalized abortion by ruling that state laws could not restrict it during the first three months of pregnancy. Based on 4th Amendment rights of a person to be secure in their persons.
Congress and Female Rights

- Civil Rights Act of 1964: Title VII prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin and religion.

- Congress passed "Title IX" (1972) which prohibited sex discrimination in any federally-funded educational program. This was best seen in the rise of girls' sports to equal boys'.

- The proposed "Equal Rights Amendment" (ERA) passed Congress in 1972. ERA sought to legislate equality by stating equal rights can’t be denied due to gender.
  - The leader against ERA was Phyllis Schlafly. She traveled the country advocating "STOP ERA" and advocating traditional roles for women. ERA failed in 1982, 3 states short of the needed 38.
The ERA fell 3 states shy of the $\frac{3}{4}$ needed for ratification.
Women began breaking important barriers

- **Sally Ride**: first female astronaut in early 1980s
- **Sandra Day O’Connor**: first female Supreme Court justice (appointed by Reagan in 1981)
- **Geraldine Ferraro**: first female vice presidential candidate for a major party (Democratic party in 1984)
Native Americans

1. Occupy Alcatraz (1969-71) inspired numerous incidents of civil disobedience

2. **American Indian Movement** founded in 1968
   a. 1972, AIM seized the Bureau of Indian Affairs building in Washington, D.C. protesting desperate conditions on reservations
b. 1973, **Wounded Knee**, South Dakota occupied by AIM and Oglala Sioux

- Held it for two months and gained national publicity
- Several died and 300 were arrested
- Leaders eventually acquitted
- Gained fishing rights and millions of dollars for lost lands
“Rainbow Power”

- The Gay Liberation movement started in 1969 after the Stonewall Riot in New York City

- The Gay Liberation Front demanded end to discrimination & rallied gays to “come out”

- The American Psychiatry Assoc. ended its classification of homosexuality as a disease

- ½ of all states changed their sodomy & employment laws
“Yellow Power”

The Asian-American movement began with the formation of the Asian American Political Alliance:

- Protested U.S. involvement in Vietnam & use of term “gooks”
- Called for & received Asian-American studies in colleges, health services in Asian communities, & reparations for interned Japanese-Americans
Civil Liberties

- Civil liberties were protected for people accused of crimes:
  - **Gideon v Wainwright (1963)**—all citizens, no matter the crime, have the right to an attorney
  - **Escobedo v Illinois (1964)**—citizens have the right to remain silent during interrogations
  - **Miranda v Arizona (1966)**—suspects must be told of their right against self-incrimination
Conclusions

- The counterculture & “power protests” used similar methods:
  - Active & often-militant protest for civil & economic rights
  - Cultural pride & awareness

- These protests would continue but would faced confrontation by the conservative politics of the 1970s & 1980s