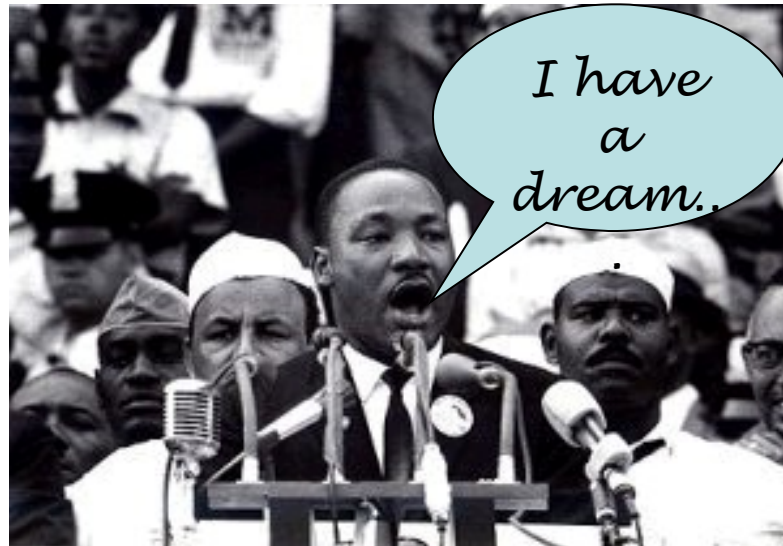


*How successful was the  
Civil Rights campaign in  
achieving its aims  
between 1950 and 1965?*



# Civil Rights

## Aims

- Desegregation
- Voting Rights
- Civil Rights
- End to Discrimination

## Methods

- Legal action through courts
- Non-violent protest
- Civil disobedience



## Purpose:

To gain national publicity and federal support.

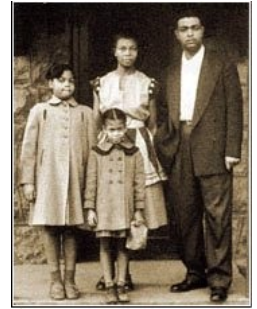
# Progress of Civil Rights Movement

- NAACP campaign – 1954
- Bus Boycott
- Freedom rides, sit-in's and marches
- Little Rock and James Meredith
- “Dream Speech”, Birmingham and Selma marches
- Civil Rights, 1964 and Voting Rights, 1965
- How successful were Civil Rights campaigns?

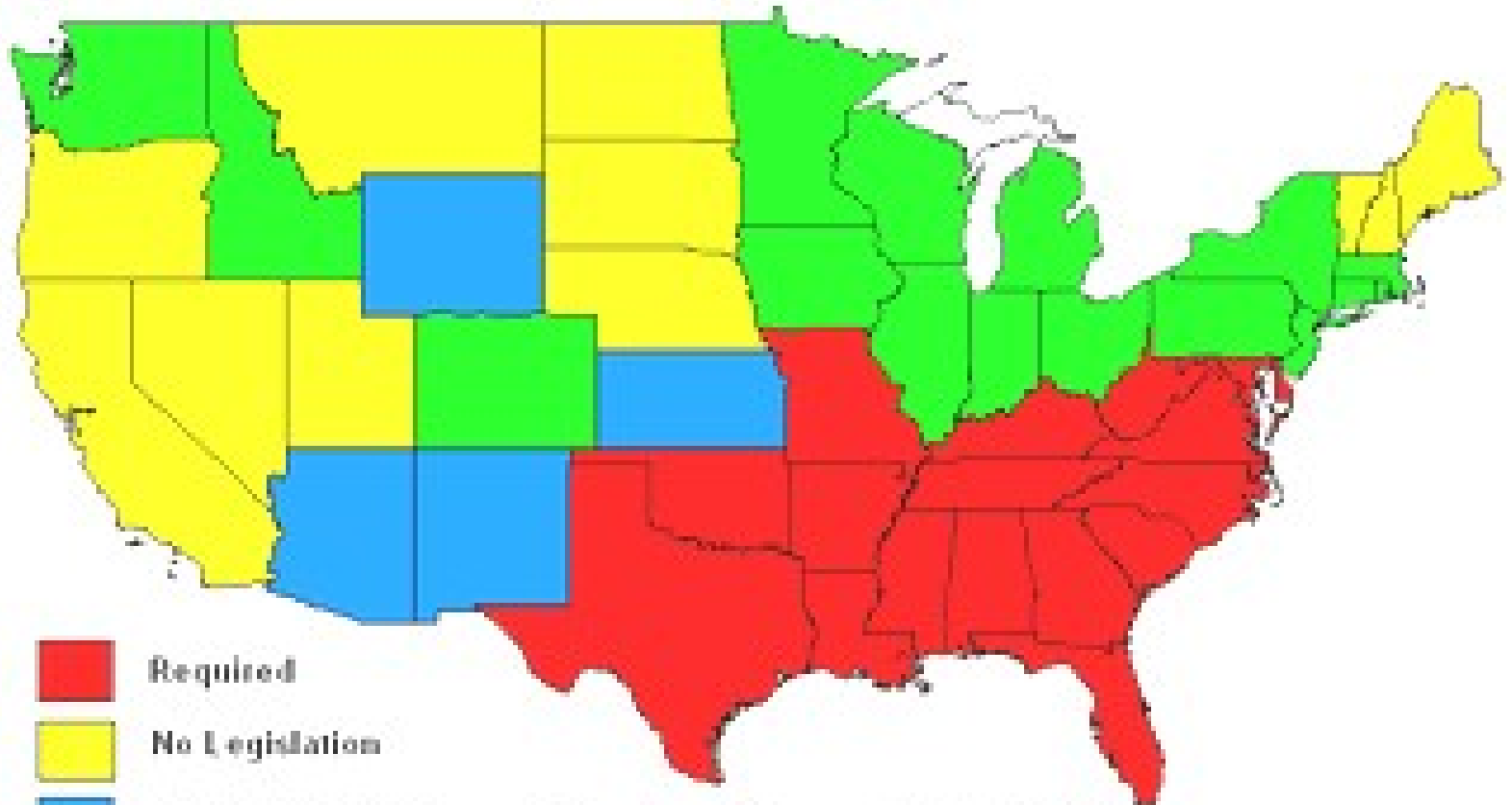
# The Importance of WW2 for Black Americans





- Black American servicemen often spoke of the “Double V Campaign” – victory in war and at home in the US.
- A. Phillip Randolph (a black trade union leader) organised a march on Washington to end segregation, this was damaging to morale. Roosevelt made a deal.
- Issued Order 8802 “No discrimination in the employment of workers in defence industries and in Government because of race, colour or creed.
- Congress of Racial Equality was founded in 1942.

# Brown v the Topeka Board of Education, 1954



- Oliver L Brown wanted his daughter to attend the best possible school close to her home, in his case, this was a school intended for white children.
- Brown was supported in his action against the education board by the NAACP.
- The case reached the Supreme Court and it was declared that “in the field of public education the doctrine of separate but equal has no place”.
- The problem would arise when trying to enforce desegregation and ending the Jim Crow Laws.



-  Required
-  No Legislation
-  Optional - limited
-  Forbidden

Educational Segregation in the US  
Prior to Brown v Board of Education

- The bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama was one of the most important protests in the civil rights movement. In December 1955 Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus and was arrested.
- The campaign took two forms:
  - A legal defence of Rosa's actions in court
  - A boycott of buses in Montgomery
- It was soon realised that blacks had considerable economic power, they made up 60 – 70% of all bus riders.
- Town leaders did not want to give in however, were forced to when in 1956, the courts declared that “the separate but equal doctrine can no longer be safely followed as a correct statement of the law.”

## *The Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1955*



*Rosa Parks*

# The effects of the boycott

- The boycott itself had only limited success; it did not end segregation however, it did show what could be achieved by organised, peaceful, non-violent protest.
- Martin Luther King stated *“There comes a time when people get tired – tired of being segregated and humiliated: tired of being kicked about by the brutal feet of oppression”*
- In 1957 Martin Luther King and Reverend Abernathy and some others formed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) to campaign for Civil Rights.



# Martin Luther King

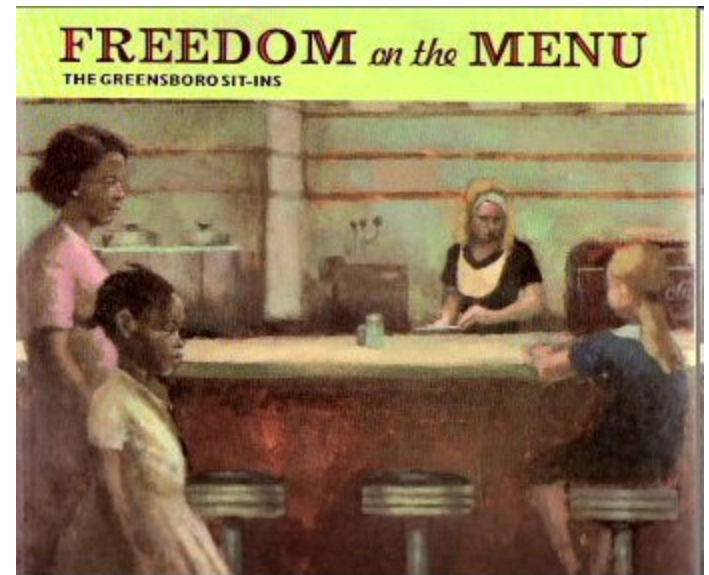
- Martin Luther King was a Baptist Minister from Montgomery, Alabama.
- He believed that non-violent civil disobedience was the best weapon to fight civil rights.
- He argued it was the responsibility of a country to protest against a law that is wrong.



He claimed "Methods of non-violence seek not to humiliate and not to defeat the oppressor, but it seeks to win his friendship and his understanding."

# The Sit-in Campaign

- On 1 Feb 1960 four black students attempted to order food at a whites-only lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina.
- They were refused service but remained seated until closing.
- They returned the following day with 25 supporters who continued the “sit in” despite attacks from whites.
- By 5 Feb there were more than 300 students (black and white) taking part in the protest.
- By the end of the year 700,000 protesters had participated in sit-ins across the country.



# How successful were the sit-ins?



- Gained a lot of publicity nationally
- Highlighted racist attitudes of many southerners
- Courage and commitment of the demonstrators won admiration from across the country.
- By the summer of 1960 many lunch counters in the south had desegregated.

## However,

- The sit-ins did not end segregation in the South
- Impact could only really be felt on a local level
- Small part of national campaign to end segregation and discrimination in the South.
- SNCC= Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee

# The Freedom Rides

- Protesters wanted to see if segregation had really ended in public facilities.
- Trained by Martin Luther King in **the discipline of non-violence**, men and women, young and old, black and white challenged the law.
- There was a series of very violent attacks, particularly in Alabama.
- These images were broadcast throughout America and **deeply shocked the public**.
- In late 1961 the Federal Government ordered an **end to segregation in all airports and rail and bus stations**.

# Little Rock, Arkansas

- Many Southern states tried to **ignore the Supreme Court ruling** in 1954 to end segregation in schools.
- In 1957 a Federal Court ordered that nine black students be permitted entry to Little Rock High School in Arkansas.
- The **State Governor ordered the National Guard to prevent them from entering**. President Eisenhower had to intervene.
- Due to the safety of the pupils **1000 federal troops were ordered to the school to protect the students**. This remained the case for the rest of the year.



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# James Meredith

- In 1961 James attempted to be the first black student to gain access to the University of Mississippi.
- James was refused entry twice and took his case to the Federal Court, they agreed he was being discriminated against.
- Mississippi Governor Ross Barnett who believed “God made the Negro different to punish him” refused to allow Meredith to attend.
- Federal Marshals has to once again intervene to protect him due to riots and mass protests.
- Troops accompanied him to class every day for a year.



# Dream Speech

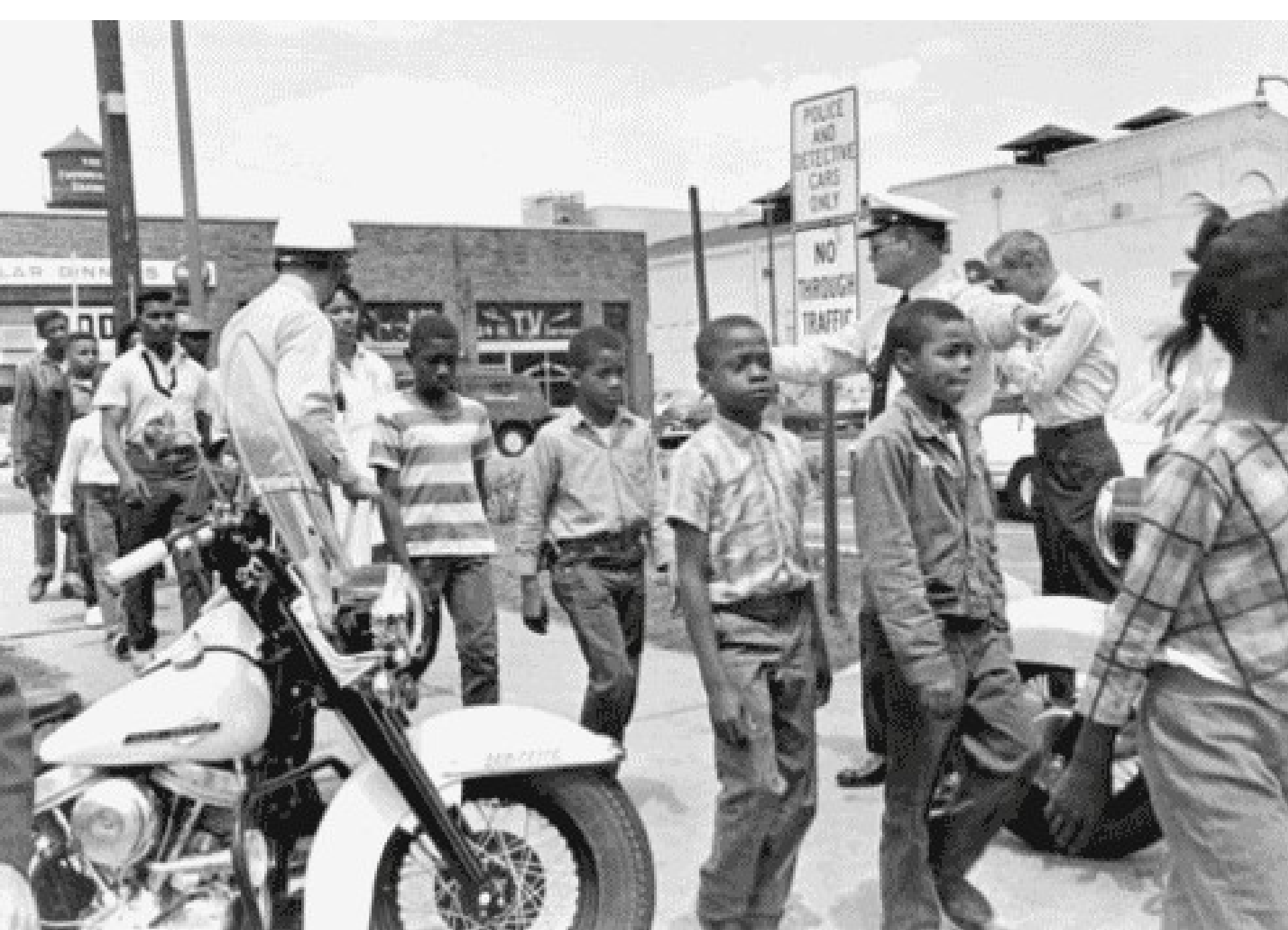
- On 28 August 1963, over 200,000 blacks and whites marched towards Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C.
- This event was designed exclusively to achieve publicity.
- Martin Luther King delivered one of the most famous speeches of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.
- This brought the issue of civil rights all the way to the President who was forced to react, Following the sudden death of JFK, LBJ assumed the role.



“Even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow , I still have a dream...It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream...I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self evident: that all men are created equal.”

# Birmingham, 1963

- This city was described by MLK as being the most segregated city in America.
- The Governor of Alabama famously declared "Segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever."
- Large demonstration organised, led by school children.
- The American public was shocked by the brutality used by white police officers.
- MLK used all of this publicity to his advantage, forcing public opinion and therefore the President to intervene. The Federal Government became involved and President Kennedy ordered an end to all segregation in Birmingham.





# Civil Rights Act 1964

- Johnson appeared to be an unlikely supporter of civil rights.
- He had been a Texas Senator and had done little to oppose segregation throughout his career.
- The 1964 Civil Rights Act did a great deal to end segregation and end discrimination.

# The Act stated that:

- Racial discrimination in any public place in the USA, such as petrol stations, restaurants, hotels and movie theatres was banned.
- Discrimination on the basis of race, religion, national origin or sex was banned in any place employing more than 25 people.
- Any state government that still discriminated against black Americans would face charges in a federal court.

# How important was the Civil Rights Act of 1964?

- Most people believed that the Civil Rights Act was a big move towards helping black Americans achieve full civil rights.

However,

- The new act did nothing to solve discrimination in housing or give black people a fair and free vote.
- The Act did not end fear or discrimination. The KKK still used terror against any black person who tried to use freedoms that the act was supposed to guarantee.

# Selma

- The fifteenth Amendment had ensured **all Americans had the right to vote regardless of their race or colour.**
- Despite this, many states in the south enforced **conditions on voting registration**, for example, literacy tests.
- MLK commented “The Civil Rights Act of 1964 gave Negroes some part of their rightful dignity, but without the vote it was dignity without strength.
- In March 1964 King led a March to highlight the difficulties of voting in the South. **This was again designed to gain publicity.**
- In **1965 passed the Voting Rights Act** which removed the various barriers to registration. By the end of the year, over 250,000 blacks were newly registered.
- This marked the **end of the civil rights movement in the South.**