**Human rights**

**[](https://www.google.dk/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjx_tT4lfLbAhUPDuwKHd_ADDsQjRx6BAgBEAU&url=http://skywritingservice.com/blog/essay-on-human-rights&psig=AOvVaw00bADVw40ubTsOMZeZJBuD&ust=1530131378385040)** [](https://www.google.dk/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwi7_sallvLbAhUF3aQKHWhiB2sQjRx6BAgBEAU&url=http://unescostudentambassadors2015.blogspot.com/&psig=AOvVaw00bADVw40ubTsOMZeZJBuD&ust=1530131378385040)

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**Start with this Amnesty films**

**Amnesty International selection**

[10 Best Human Rights Videos - Amnesty International](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/education/2015/05/10-best-human-rights-videos/)

See number 10 then number 8, and finally number 1

Film: (**Mississippi Burning** finish with this)

**Black lives matter**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jMedqlxbFfM>

**MLK I have a dream**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3P_s3ChZlRY>

**Human Rights 2 minutes videos**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ew993Wdc0zo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRGhrYmUjU4>

**The Jim Crow Laws**

<http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml>

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The most common types of laws forbade intermarriage and ordered business owners and public institutions to keep their black and white clientele separated. Here is a sampling of laws from various states.  [Alabama](http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml#alabama) | [Arizona](http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml#Arizona) | [Florida](http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml#Florida) | [Georgia](http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml#Georgia) | [Kentucky](http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml#Kentucky) [Louisiana](http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml#Louisiana) | [Maryland](http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml#Maryland) | [Mississippi](http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml#Mississippi) | [Missouri](http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml#Missouri) [New Mexico](http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml#New Mexico) | [North Carolina](http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml#North Carolina) | [Oklahoma](http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml#Oklahoma) [South Carolina](http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml#South Carolina) | [Texas](http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml#Texas) | [Virginia](http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml#Virginia) | [Wyoming](http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml#Wyoming)  **Alabama**  **Nurses**: No person or corporation shall require any white female nurse to nurse in wards or rooms in hospitals, either public or private, in which negro men are placed. Alabama  **Buses**: All passenger stations in this state operated by any motor transportation company shall have separate waiting rooms or space and separate ticket windows for the white and colored races. Alabama  **Railroads**: The conductor of each passenger train is authorized and required to assign each passenger to the car or the division of the car, when it is divided by a partition, designated for the race to which such passenger belongs. Alabama  **Restaurants**: It shall be unlawful to conduct a restaurant or other place for the serving of food in the city, at which white and colored people are served in the same room, unless such white and colored persons are effectually separated by a solid partition extending from the floor upward to a distance of seven feet or higher, and unless a separate entrance from the street is provided for each compartment. Alabama  **Pool and Billiard Rooms**: It shall be unlawful for a negro and white person to play together or in company with each other at any game of pool or billiards. Alabama  **Toilet Facilities, Male**: Every employer of white or negro males shall provide for such white or negro males reasonably accessible and separate toilet facilities. Alabama  (Hidden Lives … Women and black mathematicians who put rockets in space !!!! different toilets different eating area!!!)  [http://orig.jacksonsun.com/images/top.gif](http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml#top)  **Arizona**  **Intermarriage**: The marriage of a person of Caucasian blood with a Negro, Mongolian, Malay, or Hindu shall be null and void. Arizona  **Florida**  **Intermarriage**: All marriages between a white person and a negro, or between a white person and a person of negro descent to the fourth generation inclusive, are hereby forever prohibited. Florida  **Cohabitation**: Any negro man and white woman, or any white man and negro woman, who are not married to each other, who shall habitually live in and occupy in the nighttime the same room shall each be punished by imprisonment not exceeding twelve (12) months, or by fine not exceeding five hundred ($500.00) dollars. Florida  **Education**: The schools for white children and the schools for negro children shall be conducted separately. Florida  **Juvenile Delinquents**: There shall be separate buildings, not nearer than one fourth mile to each other, one for white boys and one for negro boys. White boys and negro boys shall not, in any manner, be associated together or worked together. Florida  [http://orig.jacksonsun.com/images/top.gif](http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml#top)  **Georgia**  **Mental Hospitals**: The Board of Control shall see that proper and distinct apartments are arranged for said patients, so that in no case shall Negroes and white persons be together. Georgia  **Intermarriage**: It shall be unlawful for a white person to marry anyone except a white person. Any marriage in violation of this section shall be void. Georgia  **Barbers**: No colored barber shall serve as a barber [to] white women or girls. Georgia  **Burial**: The officer in charge shall not bury, or allow to be buried, any colored persons upon ground set apart or used for the burial of white persons. Georgia  **Restaurants**: All persons licensed to conduct a restaurant, shall serve either white people exclusively or colored people exclusively and shall not sell to the two races within the same room or serve the two races anywhere under the same license. Georgia  **Amateur Baseball**: It shall be unlawful for any amateur white baseball team to play baseball on any vacant lot or baseball diamond within two blocks of a playground devoted to the Negro race, and it shall be unlawful for any amateur colored baseball team to play baseball in any vacant lot or baseball diamond within two blocks of any playground devoted to the white race. Georgia  **Parks**: It shall be unlawful for colored people to frequent any park owned or maintained by the city for the benefit, use and enjoyment of white persons...and unlawful for any white person to frequent any park owned or maintained by the city for the use and benefit of colored persons. Georgia  **Wine and Beer**: All persons licensed to conduct the business of selling beer or wine...shall serve either white people exclusively or colored people exclusively and shall not sell to the two races within the same room at any time. Georgia  [http://orig.jacksonsun.com/images/top.gif](http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml#top)  **Kentucky**  **Reform Schools**: The children of white and colored races committed to the houses of reform shall be kept entirely separate from each other. Kentucky  **Louisiana**  **Circus Tickets**: All circuses, shows, and tent exhibitions, to which the attendance of...more than one race is invited or expected to attend shall provide for the convenience of its patrons not less than two ticket offices with individual ticket sellers, and not less than two entrances to the said performance, with individual ticket takers and receivers, and in the case of outside or tent performances, the said ticket offices shall not be less than twenty-five (25) feet apart. Louisiana  **Housing**: Any person...who shall rent any part of any such building to a negro person or a negro family when such building is already in whole or in part in occupancy by a white person or white family, or vice versa when the building is in occupancy by a negro person or negro family, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than twenty-five ($25.00) nor more than one hundred ($100.00) dollars or be imprisoned not less than 10, or more than 60 days, or both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court. Louisiana  **The Blind**: The board of trustees shall...maintain a separate building...on separate ground for the admission, care, instruction, and support of all blind persons of the colored or black race. Louisiana  [http://orig.jacksonsun.com/images/top.gif](http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml#top)  **Maryland**  **Intermarriage**: All marriages between a white person and a negro, or between a white person and a person of negro descent, to the third generation, inclusive, or between a white person and a member of the Malay race; or between the negro a nd a member of the Malay race; or between a person of Negro descent, to the third generation, inclusive, and a member of the Malay race, are forever prohibited, and shall be void. Maryland  **Railroads**: All railroad companies and corporations, and all persons running or operating cars or coaches by steam on any railroad line or track in the State of Maryland, for the transportation of passengers, are hereby required to provide separate cars or coaches for the travel and transportation of the white and colored passengers. Maryland  [http://orig.jacksonsun.com/images/top.gif](http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml#top)  **Mississippi**  **Education**: Separate schools shall be maintained for the children of the white and colored races. Mississippi  **Promotion of Equality**: Any person...who shall be guilty of printing, publishing or circulating printed, typewritten or written matter urging or presenting for public acceptance or general information, arguments or suggestions in favor of social equality or of intermarriage between whites and negroes, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to fine or not exceeding five hundred (500.00) dollars or imprisonment not exceeding six (6) months or both. Mississippi  **Intermarriage**: The marriage of a white person with a negro or mulatto or person who shall have one-eighth or more of negro blood, shall be unlawful and void. Mississippi  **Hospital Entrances**: There shall be maintained by the governing authorities of every hospital maintained by the state for treatment of white and colored patients separate entrances for white and colored patients and visitors, and such entrances shall be used by the race only for which they are prepared. Mississippi  **Prisons**: The warden shall see that the white convicts shall have separate apartments for both eating and sleeping from the negro convicts. Mississippi  [http://orig.jacksonsun.com/images/top.gif](http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml#top)  **Missouri**  **Education**: Separate free schools shall be established for the education of children of African descent; and it shall be unlawful for any colored child to attend any white school, or any white child to attend a colored school. Missouri  **Intermarriage**: All marriages between...white persons and negroes or white persons and Mongolians...are prohibited and declared absolutely void...No person having one-eighth part or more of negro blood shall be permitted to marry any white person, nor shall any white person be permitted to marry any negro or person having one-eighth part or more of negro blood. Missouri  **New Mexico**  **Education**: Separate rooms [shall] be provided for the teaching of pupils of African descent, and [when] said rooms are so provided, such pupils may not be admitted to the school rooms occupied and used by pupils of Caucasian or other descent. New Mexico  [http://orig.jacksonsun.com/images/top.gif](http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml#top)  **North Carolina**  **Textbooks**: Books shall not be interchangeable between the white and colored schools, but shall continue to be used by the race first using them. North Carolina  **Libraries**: The state librarian is directed to fit up and maintain a separate place for the use of the colored people who may come to the library for the purpose of reading books or periodicals. North Carolina  **Militia**: The white and colored militia shall be separately enrolled, and shall never be compelled to serve in the same organization.No organization of colored troops shall be permitted where white troops are available, and while white permitted to be organized, colored troops shall be under the command of white officers. North Carolina  **Transportation**: The...Utilities Commission...is empowered and directed to require the establishment of separate waiting rooms at all stations for the white and colored races. North Carolina  [http://orig.jacksonsun.com/images/top.gif](http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml#top)  **Oklahoma**  **Teaching**: Any instructor who shall teach in any school, college or institution where members of the white and colored race are received and enrolled as pupils for instruction shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be fined in any sum not less than ten dollars ($10.00) nor more than fifty dollars ($50.00) for each offense. Oklahoma  **Fishing, Boating, and Bathing**: The [Conservation] Commission shall have the right to make segregation of the white and colored races as to the exercise of rights of fishing, boating and bathing. Oklahoma  **Mining**: The baths and lockers for the negroes shall be separate from the white race, but may be in the same building. Oklahoma  **Telephone Booths**: The Corporation Commission is hereby vested with power and authority to require telephone companies...to maintain separate booths for white and colored patrons when there is a demand for such separate booths. That the Corporation Commission shall determine the necessity for said separate booths only upon complaint of the people in the town and vicinity to be served after due hearing as now provided by law in other complaints filed with the Corporation Commission. Oklahoma  [http://orig.jacksonsun.com/images/top.gif](http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml#top)  **South Carolina**  **Lunch Counters**: No persons, firms, or corporations, who or which furnish meals to passengers at station restaurants or station eating houses, in times limited by common carriers of said passengers, shall furnish said meals to white and colored passengers in the same room, or at the same table, or at the same counter. South Carolina  **Child Custody**: It shall be unlawful for any parent, relative, or other white person in this State, having the control or custody of any white child, by right of guardianship, natural or acquired, or otherwise, to dispose of, give or surrender such white child permanently into the custody, control, maintenance, or support, of a negro. South Carolina  [http://orig.jacksonsun.com/images/top.gif](http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml#top)  **Texas**  **Libraries**: Any white person of such county may use the county free library under the rules and regulations prescribed by the commissioners court and may be entitled to all the privileges thereof. Said court shall make proper provision for the negroes of said county to be served through a separate branch or branches of the county free library, which shall be administered by [a] custodian of the negro race under the supervision of the county librarian. Texas  **Education** [The County Board of Education]: shall provide schools of two kinds; those for white children and those for colored children. Texas  **Virginia**  [http://orig.jacksonsun.com/images/top.gif](http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml#top)  **Theaters**: Every person...operating...any public hall, theatre, opera house, motion picture show or any place of public entertainment or public assemblage which is attended by both white and colored persons, shall separate the white race and the colored race and shall set apart and designate...certain seats therein to be occupied by white persons and a portion thereof , or certain seats therein, to be occupied by colored persons. Virginia  **Railroads**: The conductors or managers on all such railroads shall have power, and are hereby required, to assign to each white or colored passenger his or her respective car, coach or compartment. If the passenger fails to disclose his race, the conductor and managers, acting in good faith, shall be the sole judges of his race. Virginia  **Wyoming**  **Intermarriage**: All marriages of white persons with Negroes, Mulattos, Mongolians, or Malaya hereafter contracted in the State of Wyoming are and shall be illegal and void. Wyoming  [http://orig.jacksonsun.com/images/top.gif](http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml#top) |   Øverst på formularen  Nederst på formularen |  | | |  | | --- | |  | | [The Jackson Sun](http://www.jacksonsun.com/) | [Jackson Sun News](http://miva.jacksonsun.com/miva/cgi-bin/miva?news_v2.mv) | [Jackson Sun Homes](http://www.homefinder.com/jacksonsun/jacksun/index_map.jhtml) [Jackson Sun Marketplace](http://www.jacksonsunmarketplace.com/) | [Jackson Sun Jobs](http://careers.usatoday.com/service/jac/local/EndUser/?srv=EndUser&act=Homepage)Use of this site signifies your agreement to the [Terms of Service.](http://www.jacksonsun.com/termsofservice.shtml) Copyright 2003 [The Jackson Sun](http://www.jacksonsun.com/) **The Jackson Sun -** 245 W. Lafayette Street, Jackson, Tennessee - 731-427-3333  http://gpaper142.112.2o7.net/b/ss/gpaper142/1?%5bAQB%5dpageName=&server=&ch=%5bAQE%5d | | |

Chat GPT: what was the purpose of the jim crow laws in 400 words in simple language.

The Jim Crow laws were a set of rules in the United States that aimed to keep black people separate and treated unfairly. These laws were mainly in effect in the Southern states from the late 1800s to the mid-1900s, after the period known as Reconstruction. The main goal of these laws was to enforce segregation, meaning that black people and white people had to use different public facilities like schools, transportation, and even places to eat. The laws were created to make sure black people didn't have the same opportunities and resources as white people.

Another purpose of the Jim Crow laws was to make black people feel inferior and unequal. By treating them as second-class citizens, these laws aimed to make them feel less important and humiliated. The segregation and discrimination enforced by the laws were meant to keep control over black people and deny them political power. They also aimed to maintain the existing racial hierarchy, where white people were seen as superior.

The laws also had an economic impact. Segregation limited the job opportunities available to black people, which kept them in low-paying and less desirable positions. This ensured that white people had better jobs and economic advantages, maintaining racial inequality.

In addition, the Jim Crow laws were used to prevent black people from voting. They used tactics like literacy tests, poll taxes, and other requirements to make it difficult for black people to vote. This was done to take away their political power and keep white people in charge.

Overall, the purpose of the Jim Crow laws was to separate black people from white people, treat them unfairly, limit their economic opportunities, and deny them political rights. These laws were part of a deeply unjust system of racism and discrimination. It was not until the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s that progress was made in getting rid of these laws and fighting against racism.

Top of Form

**Martin Luther King WORKSHEET B “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” Dr. Martin Luther King Jr**

On April 4th, 1968, the sound of a rifle shot rang out across Memphis, Tennessee. On the balcony of a small hotel a man lay dying from the assassin’s bullet. He was a 39-year-old preacher named Martin Luther King.

Martin Luther King came into the world on January 15th, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. When he was born he was named Michael but he later changed his name to Martin.

He graduated with a B.A. degree from Morehouse College in 1948. He then went on to earn a Bachelor of Divinity degree and finally became a Doctor of Philosophy at Boston University in 1955. By this time however, he had already been a Baptist minister (like his father and grandfather) for seven years and had been married for two years, with his wife Coretta expecting their first child.

King had long fought for civil rights and from 1955 until his death he devoted himself to fighting injustice, and particularly pushed for the right of all people, black or white, to have equal opportunities and status.

While he was a student, King had been inspired by the philosophy of Mohandas Gandhi, the Indian whose non-violent social protest provided King with a role model.

Between 1955 and 1968 he travelled over six million miles and spoke on more than 3,000 occasions. He delivered his speeches in the true style of a Baptist preacher, with rich eloquence and passionate conviction. And the people listened. In 1963 he gave his famous ‘I Have a Dream’ speech at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. in front of 250,000 supporters. In the same year he was named Man of the Year by Time magazine. The following year, at the age of 35, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, making him the second American and the third black man to win the award.

He continued to work tirelessly, getting arrested more than twenty times along the way, until that evening when he leaned over the balcony to speak to his friend, the Reverend Jesse Jackson. His assassin, James Earl Ray, took aim and fired.

For many years after his death January 15th, his birthday, became the unofficial Martin Luther King Day. In 1986 President Ronald Reagan declared January 20th the official Martin Luther King Day. It is a national holiday in the United States, a day on which to reflect on the remarkable achievements of a man who inspired others to look for a peaceful, nonviolent solution to all their problems. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

**Martin Luther King** WORKSHEET

**Look at these 16 statements about Dr. Martin Luther King. Tick () the statements you think are true.**

Tick () if true

.1) He was named Michael when he was born. 

2) He was born in California. 

.3) He was well educated and had many university degrees. 

4) His father was a bus driver. 

5) He never got married. 

.6) He was a preacher. 

.7) He believed all people should be equal. 

8) His role model was Mohammad Ali.

.9) He travelled more than 6,000,000 miles spreading his message. 

10) His famous speech is called ‘I Had a Funny Dream Last Night’. 

.11) In 1963 he was named Man of the Year by Time magazine. 

12) He was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, but did not win it. 

13) Despite taking part in many demonstrations, he was never actually arrested. 

.14) He was assassinated. 

15) His killer’s name was Lee Harvey Oswald. 

16) The official Martin Luther King Day in the U.S. is on January 15th. 

<http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/martin-luther-king-jr>

Martin Luther King Jr.

Play video



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**Introduction**

Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968) was a Baptist minister and social activist who played a key role in the American civil rights movement from the mid-1950s until his assassination in 1968. Inspired by advocates of nonviolence such as Mahatma Gandhi, King sought equality for African Americans, the economically disadvantaged and victims of injustice through peaceful protest. He was the driving force behind watershed events such as the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the March on Washington, which helped bring about such landmark legislation as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 and is remembered each year on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a U.S. federal holiday since 1986.

* [Play video](http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/martin-luther-king-jr/videos/bloody-sunday)

**[Bloody Sunday5min](http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/martin-luther-king-jr/videos/bloody-sunday)**

* [Play video](http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/martin-luther-king-jr/videos/march-from-selma-to-montgomery)

**[March from Selma to Montgomery5min](http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/martin-luther-king-jr/videos/march-from-selma-to-montgomery)**

* [](http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/martin-luther-king-jr/videos/montgomery-bus-boycott)

**[Montgomery Bus Boycot](http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/martin-luther-king-jr/videos/montgomery-bus-boycott)**

**Martin Luther King Jr.: Early Years and Family**

The second child of Martin Luther King Sr. (1899-1984), a pastor, and Alberta Williams King (1904-1974), a former schoolteacher, Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta, [Georgia](http://www.history.com/topics/us-states/georgia), on January 15, 1929. Along with his older sister, the future Christine King Farris (born 1927), and younger brother, Alfred Daniel Williams King (1930-1969), he grew up in the city’s Sweet Auburn neighborhood, then home to some of the most prominent and prosperous African Americans in the country.

**Did You Know?**

The final section of Martin Luther King Jr.’s eloquent and iconic “I Have a Dream” speech is believed to have been largely improvised.

A gifted student, King attended segregated public schools and at the age of 15 was admitted to Morehouse College, the alma mater of both his father and maternal grandfather, where he studied medicine and law. Although he had not intended to follow in his father’s footsteps by joining the ministry, he changed his mind under the mentorship of Morehouse’s president, Dr. Benjamin Mays, an influential theologian and outspoken advocate for racial equality. After graduating in 1948, King entered Crozer Theological Seminary in [Pennsylvania](http://www.history.com/topics/us-states/pennsylvania), where he earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree, won a prestigious fellowship and was elected president of his predominantly white senior class.

King then enrolled in a graduate program at Boston University, completing his coursework in 1953 and earning a doctorate in systematic theology two years later. While in Boston he met Coretta Scott (1927-2006), a young singer from [Alabama](http://www.history.com/topics/us-states/alabama) who was studying at the New England Conservatory of Music. The couple wed in 1953 and settled in Montgomery, Alabama, where King became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. They had four children: Yolanda Denise King (1955-2007), Martin Luther King III (born 1957), Dexter Scott King (born 1961) and Bernice Albertine King (born 1963).

**Martin Luther King Jr. and the Montgomery Bus Boycott**

The King family had been living in Montgomery for less than a year when the highly segregated city became the epicenter of the burgeoning struggle for civil rights in America, galvanized by the landmark [Brown v. Board of Education](http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/brown-v-board-of-education-of-topeka) of Topeka decision of 1954. On December 1, 1955, [Rosa Parks](http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/rosa-parks) (1913-2005), secretary of the local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People chapter, refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery bus and was arrested. Activists coordinated a bus boycott that would continue for 381 days, placing a severe economic strain on the public transit system and downtown business owners. They chose Martin Luther King Jr. as the protest’s leader and official spokesman.

By the time the Supreme Court ruled segregated seating on public buses unconstitutional in November 1956, King, heavily influenced by Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948) and the activist Bayard Rustin (1912-1987), had entered the national spotlight as an inspirational proponent of organized, nonviolent resistance. (He had also become a target for white supremacists, who firebombed his family home that January.) Emboldened by the boycott’s success, in 1957 he and other civil rights activists–most of them fellow ministers–founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), a group committed to achieving full equality for African Americans through nonviolence. (Its motto was “Not one hair of one head of one person should be harmed.”) He would remain at the helm of this influential organization until his death.

**King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference**

In his role as SCLC president, Martin Luther King Jr. traveled across the country and around the world, giving lectures on nonviolent protest and civil rights as well as meeting with religious figures, activists and political leaders. (During a month-long trip to India in 1959, he had the opportunity to meet family members and followers of Gandhi, the man he described in his autobiography as “the guiding light of our technique of nonviolent social change.”) King also authored several books and articles during this time.

In 1960 King and his family moved to Atlanta, his native city, where he joined his father as co-pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church. This new position did not stop King and his SCLC colleagues from becoming key players in many of the most significant civil rights battles of the 1960s. Their philosophy of nonviolence was put to a particularly severe test during the Birmingham campaign of 1963, in which activists used a boycott, sit-ins and marches to protest segregation, unfair hiring practices and other injustices in one of America’s most racially divided cities. Arrested for his involvement on April 12, King penned the civil rights manifesto known as the “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” an eloquent defense of civil disobedience addressed to a group of white clergymen who had criticized his tactics.

**King Marches for Freedom**

Later that year, Martin Luther King Jr. worked with a number of civil rights and religious groups to organize the [March on Washington](http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/march-on-washington) for Jobs and Freedom, a peaceful political rally designed to shed light on the injustices African Americans continued to face across the country. Held on August 28 and attended by some 200,000 to 300,000 participants, the event is widely regarded as a watershed moment in the history of the American civil rights movement and a factor in the passage of the [Civil Rights Act](http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/civil-rights-act) of 1964.

The march culminated in King’s most famous address, known as the “I Have a Dream” speech, a spirited call for peace and equality that many consider a masterpiece of rhetoric. Standing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial–a monument to the president who a century earlier had brought down the institution of slavery in the United States—he shared his vision of a future in which “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.'” The speech and march cemented King’s reputation at home and abroad; later that year he was named Man of the Year by TIME magazine and in 1964 became the youngest person ever awarded the Nobel½ Peace Prize.

In the spring of 1965, King’s elevated profile drew international attention to the violence that erupted between white segregationists and peaceful demonstrators in Selma, Alabama, where the SCLC and Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee ([SNCC](http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/sncc)) had organized a voter registration campaign. Captured on television, the brutal scene outraged many Americans and inspired supporters from across the country to gather in Selma and take part in a march to Montgomery led by King and supported by President Lyndon Johnson (1908-1973), who sent in federal troops to keep the peace. That August, Congress passed the [Voting Rights Act](http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/voting-rights-act), which guaranteed the right to vote–first awarded by the 15th Amendment–to all African Americans.

**Martin Luther King Jr.’s Final Years and Assassination**

The events in Selma deepened a growing rift between Martin Luther King Jr. and young radicals who repudiated his nonviolent methods and commitment to working within the established political framework. As more militant black leaders such as [Stokely Carmichael](http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/stokely-carmichael) (1941-1998) rose to prominence, King broadened the scope of his activism to address issues such as the [Vietnam War](http://www.history.com/topics/vietnam-war) and poverty among Americans of all races. In 1967, King and the SCLC embarked on an ambitious program known as the Poor People’s Campaign, which was to include a massive march on the capital.

On the evening of April 4, 1968, King was fatally shot while standing on the balcony of a motel in Memphis, where he had traveled to support a sanitation workers’ strike. In the wake of his death, a wave of riots swept major cities across the country, while President Johnson declared a national day of mourning. James Earl Ray (1928-1998), an escaped convict and known racist, pleaded guilty to the murder and was sentenced to 99 years in prison. (He later recanted his confession and gained some unlikely advocates, including members of the King family, before his death in 1998.)

After years of campaigning by activists, members of Congress and [Coretta Scott King](http://www.history.com/topics/coretta-scott-king), among others, in 1983 President [Ronald Reagan](http://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/ronald-reagan) (1911-2004) signed a bill creating a U.S. federal holiday in honor of King. Observed on the third Monday of January, it was first celebrated in 1986.

**http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/rosa-parks**

**Rosa Parks**

By refusing to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus in 1955, black seamstress Rosa Parks (1913—2005) helped initiate the civil rights movement in the United States. The leaders of the local black community organized a bus boycott that began the day Parks was convicted of violating the segregation laws. Led by a young Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the boycott lasted more than a year—during which Parks not coincidentally lost her job—and ended only when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that bus segregation was unconstitutional. Over the next half-century, Parks became a nationally recognized symbol of dignity and strength in the struggle to end entrenched racial segregation.

[](https://www.historyvault.com/?cmpid=HV_O_Site_HI_Watch)

* [Play video](http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/rosa-parks/videos/bet-you-didnt-know-rosa-parks)

**[Bet You Didn't Know: Rosa Parks3min](http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/rosa-parks/videos/bet-you-didnt-know-rosa-parks)**

* [Play video](http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/rosa-parks/videos/montgomery-bus-boycott)

**[Montgomery Bus Boycott4min](http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/rosa-parks/videos/montgomery-bus-boycott)**

* [Play video](http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/rosa-parks/videos/sound-smart-plessy-v-ferguson)

**[Sound Smart: Plessy v. Ferguson2min](http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/rosa-parks/videos/sound-smart-plessy-v-ferguson)**

[‹](http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/rosa-parks#528e3524effa0_carousel) [›](http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/rosa-parks#528e3524effa0_carousel)

**Rosa Parks’ Early Life**

Rosa Louise McCauley was born in Tuskegee, [Alabama](http://www.history.com/topics/us-states/alabama), on February 4, 1913. She moved with her parents, James and Leona McCauley, to Pine Level, Alabama, at age 2 to reside with Leona’s parents. Her brother, Sylvester, was born in 1915, and shortly after that her parents separated.

**Did You Know?**

When Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat in 1955, it wasn’t the first time she’d clashed with driver James Blake. Parks stepped onto his very crowded bus on a chilly day 12 years earlier, paid her fare at the front, then resisted the rule in place for blacks to disembark and re-enter through the back door. She stood her ground until Blake pulled her coat sleeve, enraged, to demand her cooperation. Parks left the bus rather than give in.

Rosa’s mother was a teacher, and the family valued education. Rosa moved to Montgomery, Alabama, at age 11 and eventually attended high school there, a laboratory school at the Alabama State Teachers’ College for Negroes. She left at 16, early in 11th grade, because she needed to care for her dying grandmother and, shortly thereafter, her chronically ill mother. In 1932, at 19, she married Raymond Parks, a self-educated man 10 years her senior who worked as a barber and was a long-time member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People ([NAACP](http://www.history.com/topics/naacp)). He supported Rosa in her efforts to earn her high-school diploma, which she ultimately did the following year.

**Rosa Parks: Roots of Activism**

Raymond and Rosa, who worked as a seamstress, became respected members of Montgomery’s large African-American community. Co-existing with white people in a city governed by “Jim Crow” (segregation) laws, however, was fraught with daily frustrations: Blacks could attend only certain (inferior) schools, could drink only from specified water fountains, could borrow books only from the “black” library, among other restrictions.

Although Raymond had previously discouraged her out of fear for her safety, in December 1943 Rosa also joined the Montgomery chapter of the NAACP, and she became chapter secretary. She worked closely with chapter president Edgar Daniel (E.D.) Nixon. Nixon was a railroad porter known in the city as an advocate for blacks who wanted to register to vote, and also as president of the local branch of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters union.

**December 1, 1955: Rosa Parks’ Arrest**

On Thursday, December 1, 1955, the 42-year-old Rosa Parks was commuting home from a long day of work at the Montgomery Fair department store by bus. Black residents of Montgomery often avoided municipal buses if possible because they found the Negroes-in-back policy so demeaning. Nonetheless, 70 percent or more riders on a typical day were black, and on this day Rosa Parks was one of them.

Segregation was written into law; the front of a Montgomery bus was reserved for white citizens, and the seats behind them for black citizens. However, it was only by custom that bus drivers had the authority to ask a black person to give up a seat for a white rider. There were contradictory Montgomery laws on the books: One said segregation must be enforced, but another, largely ignored, said no person (white or black) could be asked to give up a seat even if there were no other seat on the bus available.

Nonetheless, at one point on the route, a white man had no seat because all the seats in the designated “white” section were taken. So the driver told the riders in the four seats of the first row of the “colored” section to stand, in effect adding another row to the “white” section. The three others obeyed. Parks did not.

“People always say that I didn’t give up my seat because I was tired,” wrote Parks in her autobiography, “but that isn’t true. I was not tired physically… No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in.”

Eventually, two police officers approached the stopped bus, assessed the situation and placed Parks in custody.

**Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott**

Although Parks used her one phone call to contact her husband, word of her arrest had spread quickly and E.D. Nixon was there when Parks was released on bail later that evening. Nixon had hoped for years to find a courageous black person of unquestioned honesty and integrity to become the plaintiff in a case that might become the test of the validity of segregation laws. Sitting in Parks’ home, Nixon convinced Parks—and her husband and mother—that Parks was that plaintiff. Another idea arose as well: The blacks of Montgomery would boycott the buses on the day of Parks’ trial, Monday, December 5. By midnight, 35,000 flyers were being mimeographed to be sent home with black schoolchildren, informing their parents of the planned boycott.

On December 5, Parks was found guilty of violating segregation laws, given a suspended sentence and fined $10 plus $4 in court costs. Meanwhile, black participation in the boycott was much larger than even optimists in the community had anticipated. Nixon and some ministers decided to take advantage of the momentum, forming the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) to manage the boycott, and they electedReverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.–new to Montgomery and just 26 years old—as the MIA’s president.

As appeals and related lawsuits wended their way through the courts, all the way up to the U.S. Supreme Court, the boycott engendered anger in much of Montgomery’s white population as well as some violence, and Nixon’s and Dr. King’s homes were bombed. The violence didn’t deter the boycotters or their leaders, however, and the drama in Montgomery continued to gain attention from the national and international press. On November 13, 1956, the Supreme Court ruled that bus segregation was unconstitutional; the boycott ended December 20, a day after the Court’s written order arrived in Montgomery. Parks—who had lost her job and experienced harassment all year—became known as “the mother of the civil rights movement.”

**Rosa Parks: After the Boycott**

Facing continued harassment and threats in the wake of the boycott, Parks, along with her husband and mother, eventually decided to move to Detroit, where Parks’ brother resided. Parks became an administrative aide in the Detroit office of Congressman John Conyers Jr. in 1965, a post she held until her 1988 retirement. Her husband, brother and mother all died of cancer between 1977 and 1979. In 1987, she co-founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development, to serve Detroit’s youth.

In the years following her retirement, she traveled to lend her support to civil-rights events and causes and wrote an autobiography, “Rosa Parks: My Story.” In 1999, Parks was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor the United States bestows on a civilian. (Other recipients have included [George Washington](http://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/george-washington), [Thomas Edison](http://www.history.com/topics/inventions/thomas-edison), [Betty Ford](http://www.history.com/topics/first-ladies/betty-ford) and Mother Teresa.) When she died at age 92 on October 24, 2005, she became the first woman in the nation’s history to lie in state at the U.S. Capitol.

Quotes, MLK

“But we come here tonight to be saved from that patience that makes us patient with anything less than freedom and justice.”

“There comes a time when the cup of endurance runs over and men are no longer willing to be plunged into an abyss of injustice where they experience the bleakness of corroding despair.”

“Any law that uplifts human personality is just. Any law that degrades human personality is unjust.”

“The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges.”

“Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.”

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.”

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. The true neighbor will risk his position, his prestige and even his life for the welfare of others.”

“We must all learn to live together as brothers, or we will all perish together as fools.”

“Forgiveness is not an occasional act; it is a permanent attitude.”

“I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.”

“The function of education, therefore, is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. But education which stops with efficiency may prove the greatest menace to society. The most dangerous criminal may be the man gifted with reason, but with no morals.”

“I've seen the promised land. 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.”

“Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice. Justice at its best is love correcting everything that stands against love.”

“A man who won't die for something is not fit to live.”

“At the center of non-violence stands the principle of love.”

“Right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant.”

“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

—Martin Luther King Jr.

How Did I Get Away with Killing One of the Biggest

Lawyers in the State? It Was Easy  
By Alice Walker   
  
b. 1944, US American writer, author of *The Color Purple*, 1982

A short story included in her collection of short stories entitled

*You Can’t Keep a Good Woman Down* (1981)

About 2,000 words, 2 pages

"My mother and father were not married. I never knew him. My mother must have loved him, though; she never talked against him when I was little. It was like he never existed. We lived on Poultry street. Why it was called Poultry street I never knew. I guess at one time there must have been a chicken factory somewhere along there. It was right near the center of town. I could walk to the state capitol in less than ten minutes. I could see the top—it was gold—of the capitol building from the front yard. When I was a little girl I used to think it was real gold, shining up there, and then they bought an eagle and put him on top, and when I used to walk up there I couldn't see the top of the building from the ground, it was so high, and I used to reach down and run my hand over the grass. It was like a rug, that grass was, so springy and silky and deep. They had these big old trees, too. Oaks and magnolias; and I thought the magnolia trees were beautiful and one night I climbed up in one of them and got a bloom and took it home. But the air in our house blighted it; it turned brown the minute I took it inside and the petals dropped off.

"Mama worked in private homes. That's how she described her job, to make it sound nicer. 'I work in private homes,' she would say, and that sounded nicer, she thought, than saying 'I'm a maid.'

"Sometimes she made six dollars a day, working in two private homes. Most of the time she didn't make that much. By the time she paid the rent and bought milk and bananas there wasn't anything left.

"She used to leave me alone sometimes because there was no one to keep me—and then there was an old woman up the street who looked after me for a while—and by the time she died she was more like a mother to me than Mama was. Mama was so tired every night when she came home I never hardly got the chance to talk to her. And then sometimes she would go out at night, or bring men home—but they never thought of marrying her. And they sure didn't want to be bothered with me. I guess most of them were like my own father; had children somewhere of their own that they'd left. And then they came to my Mama who fell for them every time. And I think she may have had a couple of abortions, like some of the women did, who couldn't feed any more mouths. But she tried.

"Anyway, she was a nervous kind of woman. I think she had spells or something because she was so tired. But I didn't understand anything then about exhaustion, worry, lack of a proper diet; I just thought she wanted to work, to be away from the house. I didn't blame her. Where we lived people sometimes just threw pieces of furniture they didn't want over the railing. And there was broken glass and rags everywhere. The place stunk, especially in the summer. And children were always screaming and men were always cussing and women were always yelling about something... It was nothing for a girl or woman to be raped—l was raped myself, when I was twelve, and my Mama never knew and I never told anybody. For, what could they do? It was just a boy, passing through. Somebody's cousin from the North.

"One time my Mama was doing day’s work at a private home and took me with her. It was like being in fairyland. Everything was spotless and new, even before Mama started cleaning. I met the woman in the house and played with her children, I didn't even see the man, but he was in there somewhere, while I was out in the yard with the children. I was fourteen, but I guess I looked like a grown woman. Or maybe I looked fourteen. Anyway, the next day, he picked me up when I was coming from school and he said my Mama had asked him to do it. I got in the car with him... he took me to his law office, a big office in the middle of town, and he started asking me questions about 'how do you all live?' and 'what grade are you in?' and stuff like that. And then he began to touch me, and I pulled away. But he kept touching me and I was scared... he raped me. But afterwards he told me he hadn't forced me, that I felt something for him, and he gave me some money. I was crying, going down the stairs. I wanted to kill him.

"I never told Mama. I thought that would be the end of it. But about two days later, on my way from school, he stopped his car again, and I got in. This time we went to his house; nobody was there. And he made me get into his wife's bed. After we'd been doing this for about three weeks, he told me he loved me. I didn't love him, but he had begun to look a little better to me. Really, I think, because he was so clean. He bathed a lot and never smelled even alive, to tell the truth. Or maybe it was the money he gave me, or the presents he bought. I told Mama I had a job after school baby-sitting. And she was glad that I could buy things I needed for school. But it was all from him.

"This went on for two years. He wouldn't let me get pregnant, he said, and I didn't. I would just lay up there in his wife's bed and work out algebra problems or think about what new thing I was going to buy. But one day, when I got home, Mama was there ahead of me, and she saw me get out of his car. I knew when he was driving off that I was going to get it.

"Mama asked me didn't I know he was a white man? Didn't I know he was a married man with two children? Didn't I have good sense? And do you know what I told her? I told her he loved me. Mama was crying and praying at the same time by then. The neighbors heard both of us screaming and crying, because Mama beat me almost to death with the cord from the electric iron. She just hacked it off the iron, still on the ironing board. She beat me till she couldn't raise her arm. And then she had one of her fits, just twitching and sweating and trying to claw herself into the floor. This scared me more than the beating. That night she told me something I hadn't paid much attention to before. She said: 'On top of everything else, that man's daddy goes on the t.v. every night and says folks like us ain't even human.' It was his daddy who had stood in the schoolhouse door saying it would be over his dead body before any black children would come into a white school.

"But do you think that stopped me? No. I would look at his daddy on t.v. ranting and raving about how integration was a communist plot, and I would just think of how different his son Bubba was from his daddy! Do you understand what I'm saying. I thought he *loved* me. That meant something to me. What did I know about 'equal rights'? What did I care about 'integration'? I was sixteen! I wanted somebody to tell me I was pretty, and he was telling me that all the time. I even thought it was brave of him to go with me. History? What did I know about History?

"I began to hate Mama. We argued about Bubba all the time, for months. And I still slipped out to meet him, because Mama had to work. I told him how she beat me, and about how much she despised him—he was really pissed off that any black person could despise him—about how she had these spells ... Well, the day I became seventeen, the day of my seventeenth birthday, I signed papers in his law office, and I had my mother committed to an insane asylum.

"After Mama had been in Carthage Insane Asylum for three months, she managed somehow to get a lawyer. An old slick-headed man who smoked great big black cigars. People laughed at him because he didn't even have a law office, but he was the only lawyer that would touch the case, because Bubba's daddy was such a big deal. And we all gathered in the judge's chambers—because he wasn't about to let this case get out. Can you imagine, if it had? And Mama's old lawyer told the judge how Bubba's daddy had tried to buy him off. And Bubba got up and swore he'd never touched me. And then I got up and said Mama was insane. And do you know what? By that time it was true. Mama *was* insane. She had no mind left at all. They had given her shock treatments or something... God knows what else they gave her. But she was as vacant as an empty eye socket. She just sat sort of hunched over, and her hair was white.

"And after all this, Bubba wanted us to keep going together. Mama was just an obstacle that he felt he had removed. But I just suddenly—in a way I don't even pretend to understand—woke up. It was like everything up to then had been some kind of dream. And I told him I wanted to get Mama out. But he wouldn't do it; he just kept trying to make me go with him. And sometimes—out of habit, I guess—I did. My body did what it was being paid to do. And Mama died. And I killed Bubba.

"How did I get away with killing one of the biggest lawyers in the state? It was easy. He kept a gun in his desk drawer at the office and one night I took it out and shot him. I shot him while he was wearing his thick winter overcoat, so I wouldn't have to see him bleed. But I don't think I took the time to wipe off my fingerprints, because, to tell the truth, I couldn't stand it another minute in that place. No one came after me, and I read in the paper the next day that he'd been killed by burglars. I guess they thought 'burglars' had stolen all that money Bubba kept in his safe—but I had it. One of the carrots Bubba always dangled before me was that he was going to send me to coIlege: I didn't see why he shouldn't do it.

"The strangest thing was, Bubba's wife came over to the house and asked me if I'd mind looking after the children while she went to Bubba's funeral. I did it, of course, because I was afraid she'd suspect something if I didn't. So on the day he was buried I was in his house, sitting on his wife's bed with his children, and eating fried chicken his wife, Julie, had cooked."

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/the-kkk-kills-three-civil-rights-activists>

**The KKK kills three civil rights activists**

Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman, and James Chaney are killed by a Ku Klux Klan lynch mob near Meridian, Mississippi. The three young civil rights workers were working to register black voters in Mississippi, thus inspiring the ire of the local Klan. The deaths of Schwerner and Goodman, white Northerners and members of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), caused a national outrage.

When the desegregation movement encountered resistance in the early 1960s, CORE set up an interracial team to ride buses into the Deep South to help protest. These so-called Freedom Riders were viciously attacked in May 1961 when the first two buses arrived in Alabama. One bus was firebombed; the other boarded by KKK members who beat the activists inside. The Alabama police provided no protection.

Still, the Freedom Riders were not dissuaded and they continued to come into Alabama and Mississippi. Michael Schwerner was a particularly dedicated activist who lived in Mississippi while he assisted blacks to vote. Sam Bowers, the local Klan’s Imperial Wizard, decided that Schwerner was a bad influence, and had to be killed.

When Schwerner, Goodman, and Chaney, a young black man, were coming back from a trip to Philadelphia, Mississippi, deputy sheriff Cecil Price, who was also a Klan member, pulled them over for speeding. He then held them in custody while other KKK members prepared for their murder. Eventually released, the three activists were later chased down in their car and cornered in a secluded spot in the woods where they were shot and then buried in graves that had been prepared in advance.

When news of their disappearance got out, the FBI converged on Mississippi to investigate. With the help of an informant, agents learned about the Klan’s involvement and found the bodies. Since Mississippi refused to prosecute the assailants in state court, the federal government charged 18 men with conspiracy to violate the civil rights of Schwerner, Goodman, and Chaney.

Bowers, Price, and five other men were convicted; eight were acquitted; and the all-white jury deadlocked on the other three defendants. On the forty-first anniversary of the three murders, June 21, 2005, Edgar Ray Killen was found guilty of three counts of manslaughter. The 80-year-old Killen, known as an outspoken white supremacist and part-time Baptist minister, was sentenced to 60 years in prison.

**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-42671553**

**Mississippi Burning case: KKK killer Edgar Ray Killen dies**

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Image copyright Marianne Todd Image caption Killen was sent to prison in 2005 for his role in the triple murder

**Edgar Ray Killen, the 1960s Ku Klux Klan leader who was convicted over the infamous deaths of three civil rights workers in Mississippi, has died.**

**Here is video of his sentencing exactly 40 years after the murder**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbzcHzlAYVc&list=PL2ZIrfe0uKVd0zaWb6V-GQiVGWzaYvLEF**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbzcHzlAYVc&list=PL2ZIrfe0uKVd0zaWb6V-GQiVGWzaYvLEF)

**(skip some parts)**

The 92-year-old was serving a 60-year sentence, after being jailed in 2005, four decades after the 1964 murders.

Their disappearance and deaths shocked the country and helped catalyse the passage of the Civil Rights Act.

The triple killing was also the basis for the 1988 Oscar-winning film Mississippi Burning.

The movie is a fictionalised take on the events named after the FBI investigation into the case.

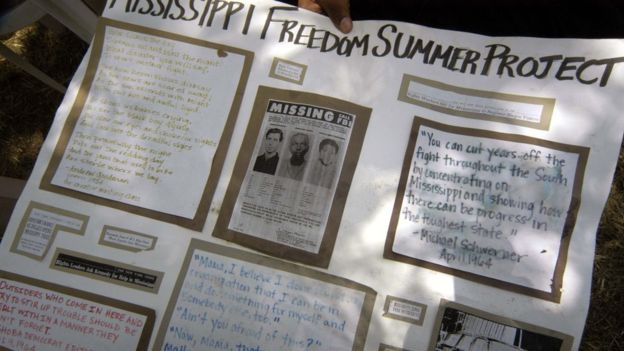
James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, all in their 20s, were members of the Congress of Racial Equality (Core) and had been working on the 1964 Freedom Summer campaign to register black voters in the southern state.

The men were detained by police, before being ambushed and shot by Klansmen who were tipped-off about their release.

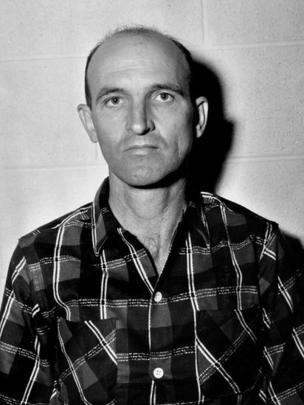
* [**Are US right-wing groups on the rise?**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-40915356)
* [**The Neo-Nazi who fell in love with a black woman**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-40779377)

**Edgar Ray Killen, died last year**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PnuyqQAgmuM

Image copyright Getty Images Image caption Two of the men had travelled to Mississippi from New York for the project

The trio went missing after being arrested by local police on a traffic charge while in Neshoba County, Mississippi. They had been visiting the scene of a fire-bombing and beating at a local church that was going to be used as a Freedom School to educate and help register local African-Americans.

Image copyright FBI/State of Mississippi Attorney General's Office Image caption Killen, pictured in June 1964

After being released from prison in the night, the men were again stopped and then ambushed by KKK members.

After the case garnered national attention, the FBI was dispatched to the state to investigate by then-Attorney General Robert Kennedy.

The three men's bodies were eventually uncovered six weeks after their disappearance, after an informant tipped-off the FBI that they had been buried on local farmland.

They FBI arrested more than a dozen suspects, including the county's Deputy Sherriff, because of their alleged involvement in the killings.

Image copyright FBI/State of Mississippi Attorney General's Office Image caption The men's vehicle was found burnt out in a swampy area following their disappearance Image copyright FBI/State of Mississippi Attorney General's Office Image caption Their bodies were later recovered in an earthen dam, following a tip-off

A Mississippi judge attempted to dismiss the charges against most of the defendants, but the Supreme Court later reversed the decision.

After federal intervention, 18 men were trialled in 1967 on civil rights violation charges. Only seven were convicted by an all-white jury, and none served more than seven years in prison.

Killen, a former Baptist preacher, was accused of orchestrating the killings, but his trial ended in a hung jury after a juror said she could not convict a preacher.

The state did not pursue the case for four decades, but eventually Killen was brought to face a new trial in 2005.

Image copyright Pool/ Getty images Image caption Families of the victims, including the mother of James Chaney, testified in 2005

Prosecutors said as a "kleagle" or KKK organiser, he had assembled the murderous mob and instructed them how to dispose of the bodies, but was not at the murder scene itself.

He was convicted of three charges of manslaughter for recruitment and orchestration.

Even after his imprisonment, Killen was said to maintain segregationist views about racial inequality.

The Mississippi Department of Corrections said he had known health conditions, and no foul play was suspected in the 92-year-old's death.

**Lynching mermorial**

https://eji.org/national-lynching-memorial

[](https://www.google.dk/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjZgdbou_PbAhUR6KQKHQ8zDxAQjRx6BAgBEAU&url=https://www.npr.org/2018/04/26/604271871/new-lynching-memorial-is-a-space-to-talk-about-all-of-that-anguish&psig=AOvVaw2o1wWqRKyZ7__or1cY2SAg&ust=1530175961249530)

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**2022**

Systemic racism This is very good

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Ahmed and Noah’s project

racism same crime more time Ahmed and Noah:

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* Projects:
* Freedom riders podcast
* Systemic racism
* Black lives matter
* Lynching
* Jim Crow Laws
* Martin Luther King
* March on Selma
* School bussing