

MLK Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Hazel G. and Mikaela K.

Martin Luther King Jr.



Origins

Michael Luther King Jr was born on January 15th, 1929

Graduated from segregated high school at age 15

Received a Bachelor of the Arts degree from Morehouse college in 1948

Received a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Crozer Theological Seminary in 1951

Graduated from Boston University where he met his wife Coretta Scott and later had 4 kids with

Became the pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery Alabama



Other Accomplishments

Became a member of the Executive Committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Led the Bus Boycott that began on December 1st, 1955 and lasted 382 days after

Simultaneously

- He was jailed
- His home was bombed
- And suffered through personal abuses



The Montgomery Bus Boycott

Began Dec 5, 1955

Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat.

Lasted 381 days--ended Dec 21,1956

-desegregation of the Montgomery bus system.

It was carried out by the newly est Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA).

MLK- President

Ralph David Abernathy-Program Director

Nonviolent civil rights protest against segregation.

Regarded 1st large scale segregation protest

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/montgomery-bus-boycott>

Southern Christian Leadership Conference

an African-American civil rights organization, which is still closely associated with its first president, Martin Luther King Jr.

Role of the SCLC

Training leaders-Kingian Nonviolence Philosophy

6 Principles of Nonviolence

Nonviolence is a...

way of life for courageous people,

win friendship and understanding

Defeats injustice not people

Educate and transform suffering

Chooses love instead of hate

Believes universe is on the side of justice



The Different Leaders

Martin Luther King Jr.

Founded SCLC

Was the president up until his assassination in 1968

Led the Boycott and orchestrated many other peaceful protests alongside other organizations

Ralph Abernathy

Baptist minister who co-founded SCLC with King

Was King's right hand man throughout his work, arrests, and assassination

Became president once King was assassinated, and resigned in 1977

Went back to preaching later that year

Lawsuits of the SCLC

Class action suits were filed against the government at all levels for maintaining segregated employee lunchrooms in Georgia.

Operation Breadbasket

1962: Aimed to improve economic status of African Americans through a boycott of white owned and white operated businesses that refused to employ African Americans or buy products sold by African Americans.

Increased during the 1970's

Interactions with other Civil Rights Groups

SNCC: Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee was a civil-rights group formed to give younger blackamericans more of a voice in the civil rights movement.

soon became one of the movement's more radical branches.

Ella Baker- previous coordinator SCLC- helped set up the first meeting. She was concerned that the SCLC was out of touch with younger blacks who wanted to make the movement quicker.

Encouraged those who formed SNCC to look beyond integration to broader social change and to view King's principle of nonviolence more as a political tactic than a way of life.

MLK Speeches

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Letter from a Birmingham Jail

Literally written while Dr. King was in jail at Birmingham.

Letter defends the strategy of nonviolent resistance to racism.

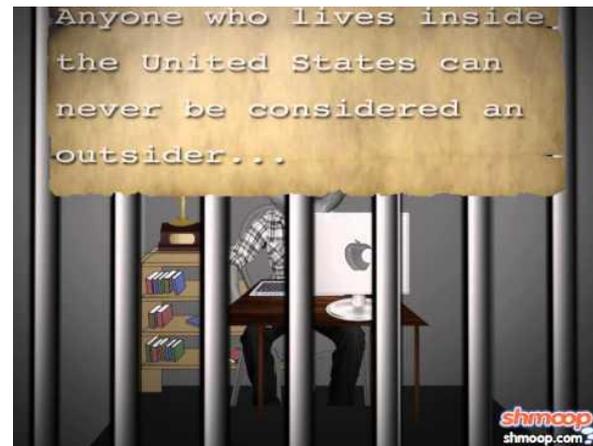
April 16, 1963

Addressed the letter to 8 clergymen from Alabama that criticised King and worried the campaign for civil rights would cause violence. Also thought it would be better to go through the law instead of protest.

Pointed out how nonviolence is the only way to get the oppressors to listen.

Hoped the letter would speed up the changes his groups were rooting for.

Gain support



I Have a Dream

August 28, 1963 - Lincoln Memorial

Last of many speeches given that day and was the first time many white people heard him speak

Mimicked the style of Baptist church sermons

Exploited injustice and faith yet also served as a call to justice as well

By the end, he repeated "I have a dream" while highlighting the importance of a fully integrated America

Interaction with the Kennedy Administration

Civil rights was a huge issue during the presidential campaign.

King was arrested a few weeks before the election. JFK called King's wife to express his concern, and Robert Kennedy talked to the judge to make sure King was safe and secure.

This led to public endorsement by King.

African Americans had high hopes for Kennedy.

Interaction with the Kennedy Administration

Freedom Riders- tried to desegregate interstate transportation, attacked so Kennedy sent 400 marshals to protect and desegregate the system

Ole Miss- James Meredith not allowed to attend University, marshals accompanied him to register, riot erupted, Kennedy sent National Guard and Meredith attended class next day.

Birmingham AL- King arrested, protests continued but "Bull" Connor used dogs and firehoses to stop the protest. Kennedy sent 7000 troops to end and sped up Civil Rights Bill.

Interaction with the Kennedy Administration

Integrating university of AL

Gov Wallace refused to let black students in, defended segregation, Kennedy sent national Guard to protect and allow admission.

June 11, addressed nation on the end of segregation needed to happen

March on WA

I Have A Dream Speech

Worried there would be an outburst but went perfectly fine.

JFK assassination, LBJ left with Civil Rights Act. Used his connections with southern white leaders to get the Act passed.

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