

## 1: Martin Luther King, Jr. - New World Encyclopedia

*Martin Luther King Jr., a Baptist minister and president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), was the most prominent African American leader in the civil rights movement of the s and s.*

He was a leader of the Montgomery Bus Boycott which began when Rosa Parks refused to comply with Jim Crow law and surrender her seat to a white man. The boycott lasted for days. King was arrested during this campaign, which ended with a United States Supreme Court decision outlawing racial segregation on intrastate buses. Following the campaign, King was instrumental in the founding of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference SCLC in , a group created to harness the moral authority and organizing power of black churches to conduct nonviolent protests in the service of civil rights reform. King continued to dominate the organization until his death. King was an adherent of the philosophies of nonviolent civil disobedience used successfully in India by Mahatma Gandhi , and he applied this philosophy to the protests organized by the SCLC. King correctly recognized that organized, nonviolent protest against the racist system of southern segregation known as Jim Crow would lead to extensive media coverage of the struggle for black equality and voting rights. Indeed, journalistic accounts and televised footage of the daily deprivation and indignities suffered by southern blacks, and of segregationist violence and harassment of civil rights workers and marchers, produced a wave of sympathetic public opinion that made the Civil Rights Movement the single most important issue in American politics in the early s. Most of these rights were successfully enacted into United States law with the passage of the Civil Rights Act of and the Voting Rights Act of . King and the SCLC applied the principles of nonviolent protest with great success by strategically choosing the method of protest and the places in which protests were carried out in often dramatic stand-offs with segregationist authorities. Sometimes these confrontations turned violent. King and the SCLC were instrumental in the unsuccessful protest movement in Albany , in " , where divisions within the black community and the canny, low-key response by local government defeated efforts; in the Birmingham protests in the summer of ; and in the protest in St. Augustine, Florida , in " The Negro should be granted equality, they agree, but should ask for nothing more. On the surface, this appears reasonable, but is not realistic. For it is obvious that if a man enters the starting line of a race three hundred years after another man, the first would have to perform some incredible feat in order to catch up. It is an economic fact that a program such as I propose would certainly cost far less than any computation of two centuries of unpaid wages plus accumulated interest. In any case, I do not intend that this program of economic aid should apply only to the Negro: King himself admitted that the vast majority of the poor were black anyway, implying that he could put his proposed programs in terms of class and not race, while still achieving the end of compensatory treatment, albeit via a more agreeable position. While it may seem that he alternates between advocating socioeconomic and racial affirmative action, the latter predominated. In a Playboy interview he proposes a massive public works project of Depression-Era proportions, the likely grounds for Reagan calling King a near communist. The first attempt to march on March 7 , was aborted due to mob and police violence against the demonstrators. This day since has become known as Bloody Sunday. King, however, was not present. After meeting with President Lyndon B. Johnson , he had attempted to delay the march until March 8 , but the march was carried out against his wishes and without his presence by local civil rights workers. The footage of the police brutality against the protestors was broadcast extensively across the nation and aroused a national sense of public outrage. The second attempt at the march on March 9 was ended when King stopped the procession at the Edmund Pettus Bridge on the outskirts of Selma, an action which he seemed to have negotiated with city leaders beforehand. This unexpected action aroused the surprise and anger of many within the local movement. The march finally went ahead fully on March 25 , with the agreement and support of President Johnson, and it was during this march that Willie Ricks coined the phrase " Black Power " widely credited to Stokely Carmichael. King, representing SCLC, was among the leaders of the so-called "Big Six" civil rights organizations who were instrumental in the organization of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in . The other leaders and organizations comprising the Big Six were: For King, this role was another which courted controversy, as he

was one of the key figures who acceded to the wishes of President John F. Kennedy in changing the focus of the march. Kennedy initially opposed the march outright, because he was concerned it would negatively impact the drive for passage of civil rights legislation, but the organizers were firm that the march would proceed. Organizers intended to excoriate and then challenge the federal government for its failure to safeguard the civil rights and physical safety of civil rights workers and blacks, generally, in the South. However, the group acquiesced to presidential pressure and influence, and the event ultimately took on a far less strident tone. As a result, some civil rights activists who felt it presented an inaccurate, sanitized pageant of racial harmony; Malcolm X called it the "Farce on Washington," and members of the Nation of Islam who attended the march faced a temporary suspension. Despite tensions, the march was a resounding success. More than a quarter of a million people of diverse ethnicities attended the event, sprawling from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial onto the National Mall and around the reflecting pool. Throughout his career of service, King wrote and spoke frequently, drawing on his long experience as a preacher. His "Letter from Birmingham Jail", written in , is a passionate statement of his crusade for justice. On October 14 , , King became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize , which was awarded to him for leading non-violent resistance to end racial prejudice in the United States. The first target was Chicago. King and Ralph Abernathy moved there. They lived in slums on purpose as an educational experience and as a way to symbolize that they were with the poor. They were both rather middle class folks, well educated and of decent means, so they had to figure some way to connect. Abernathy could not stand the slums and secretly moved out after a short period. In Chicago, Abernathy would later write, they received a worse reception than they had received in the south. Thrown bottles and screaming throngs met their marches and they were truly afraid of starting a riot. King had always felt a responsibility to the people he was leading to not unnecessarily stage a violent event, something rather unique to him as a radical social leader of the 60s or any other decade. If he had intimations a peaceful march would be put down with violence he would call it off for the safety of people. But he himself still faced death many a time by marching at the front in the face of death threats to his person. And in Chicago the violence was so formidable, it shook the two friends. But worse than the violence was the two facedness of the city leaders; Abernathy and King secured agreements on action to be taken but this action was largely bureaucratically killed after the fact by the politicians of the corrupt Daly machine. Some of their small successes such as Operation Breadbasket did not translate into anything as large as the desegregation cases of the bus boycott in the South. However they did light the fire of ideas like Affirmative Action and organizing labor as legitimate techniques in the minds of the people. They left a young Chicago activist in charge of their organization as they went back to the South. His name was Jesse Jackson and while he had a great deal of heart and oratorical skill, he knew very little about running an organization. They asked him for financial information, and he sent them a bag of unorganized receipts. Chicago could be seen as a point where the civil rights movement lost its momentum and began to fade to a shadow of what King had planned for it. A true revolution of values will soon look uneasily on the glaring contrast of poverty and wealth. With righteous indignation, it will look across the seas and see individual capitalists of the West investing huge sums of money in Asia , Africa and South America , only to take the profits out with no concern for the social betterment of the countries, and say: TIME called the speech "demagogic slander that sounded like a script for Radio Hanoi a propaganda radio station run by the North Vietnamese Army during the Vietnam War ", and the Washington Post declared that King had "diminished his usefulness to his cause, his country, his people. He began to speak of the need for fundamental changes in the political and economic life of the nation. Toward the end of his life, King more frequently expressed his opposition to the war and his desire to see a redistribution of resources to correct racial and economic injustice. Though his public language was guarded, so as to avoid being linked to communism by his political enemies, in private he sometimes spoke of his support for democratic socialism: You are messing with captains of industry Now this means that we are treading in difficult water, because it really means that we are saying that something is wrong There must be a better distribution of wealth and maybe America must move toward a democratic socialism. November 14 , Speech in front of his staff. However like Nelson Mandela , Russel Means , and other social leaders, he was against communism because among other things it had no room for the individual. The campaign culminated

in a march on Washington, D. On April 3, 1968, King prophetically told a euphoric crowd: Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. 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. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord. Assassination The Lorraine Motel, where Rev. King was assassinated, now the site of the National Civil Rights Museum King was assassinated the next evening, April 4, 1968, at 6:00 p.m.: Friends inside the motel room heard the shot fired and ran to the balcony to find King shot in the jaw. He was pronounced dead at St. Elizabeth's Hospital. The assassination led to a nationwide wave of riots in more than 60 cities. Four days later, President Lyndon Johnson declared a national day of mourning for the lost civil rights leader. A crowd of 50,000, attended his funeral that same day. Later, Ray would be sentenced to a year prison term. Georgia invalidated all state death penalty laws then in force. King, "he may have been "partially responsible without knowing it," hinting at a conspiracy. He spent the remainder of his life attempting unsuccessfully to withdraw his guilty plea and secure the trial he never had. Kennedy assassin Lee Harvey Oswald was supposed to have been. Some of the claims used to support this assertion are: Ray was a small-time thief and burglar, and had no record of committing violent crimes with a weapon. The weapon that Ray is believed to have used in the assassination a Remington Gamemaster Model 760 The rooming-house bathroom from where Ray is said to have fired the fatal shots did not have any of his fingerprints at all. Ray was believed to have been an average marksman, and it is claimed by many that Ray had not fired a rifle since his discharge from the U. S. Army in the late 1950s. Many suspecting a conspiracy in the assassination point out the two separate ballistic tests conducted on the Remington Gamemaster had neither conclusively proved Ray had been the killer nor that it had even been the murder weapon. Moreover, witnesses surrounding King at the moment of his death say the shot came from another location, from behind thick shrubbery near the rooming house, not from the rooming house itself, shrubbery which had been suddenly and inexplicably cut away in the days following the assassination.

## 2: Martin Luther King, Jr. - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*Martin Luther King, Jr., was a Baptist minister and social rights activist in the United States in the s and '60s. He was a leader of the American civil rights movement.*

Martin Luther King, Jr. January 15, April 4, , minister and civil rights leader. Born Michael King, Jr. In , Williams had joined such figures as Atlanta University scholar W. In , King, Sr. Experiencing religious doubts during his early teenage years, he decided to become a minister only after he came into contact with religious leaders who combined theological sophistication with social gospel advocacy. MAYS, encouraged him to believe that Christianity should become a force for progressive social change. A course on the Bible taught by Morehouse professor George Kelsey exposed King to theological scholarship. After deciding to become a minister, King increased his understanding of liberal Christian thought while attending Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania. Compiling an outstanding academic record at Crozer, he deepened his understanding of modern religious scholarship and eventually identified himself with theological personalism. King later wrote that this philosophical position strengthened his belief in a personal God and provided him with a "metaphysical basis for the dignity and worth of all human personality. He met regularly with other black students in an informal group called the Dialectical Society. Often invited to give sermons in Boston-area churches, he acquired a reputation as a powerful preacher, drawing ideas from African-American Baptist traditions as well as theological and philosophical writings. On June 18, , the two students were married in Marion, Ala. During the following academic year, King began work on his dissertation, which was completed during the spring of . Soon after King accepted his first pastorate at Dexter. Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala. In his role as the primary spokesman of the boycott, King gradually forged a distinctive protest strategy that involved the mobilization of black churches, utilization of Gandhian methods of nonviolent protest, and skillful appeals for white support. Supreme Court outlawed Alabama bus segregation laws in late , King quickly rose to national prominence as a result of his leadership role in a successful boycott movement. The Montgomery Story further contributed to his rapid emergence as a nationally known civil rights leader. Seeking to forestall the fears of NAACP leaders that his organization might draw away followers and financial support, King acted cautiously during the late s. Instead of immediately seeking to stimulate mass desegregation protests in the South, he stressed the goal of achieving black voting rights when he addressed an audience at the Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom. During , he increased his understanding of Gandhian ideas during a month-long visit to India as a guest of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. SNCC activists admired King but also pushed him toward greater militancy. In October , his arrest during a student-initiated protest in Atlanta became an issue in the national presidential campaign when Democratic candidate John F. Kennedy intervened to secure his release from jail. Initiated by the SCLC in January, the Birmingham demonstrations were the most massive civil rights protests that had occurred up to that time. During May, televised pictures of police using dogs and fire hoses against demonstrators aroused a national outcry. The vivid evidence of the obstinacy of Birmingham officials, combined with Alabama Governor George C. Kennedy to introduce major new civil rights legislation. At the end of his prepared remarks, which announced that African Americans wished to cash the "promissory note" signified in the words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, King began his most quoted oration: It is a dream deeply rooted in the American 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. The acclaim he received prompted FBI director J. Demonstrations began in Selma, Ala. The police assault on the marchers quickly increased national support for the voting rights campaign. King arrived in Selma to join several thousand movement sympathizers, black and white. Demonstrators were finally able to obtain a court order allowing the march to take place, and on March 25 King addressed the arriving protestors from the steps of the capitol in Montgomery. After the successful voting rights campaign, King was unable to garner similar support for his effort to confront the problems of northern urban blacks. Early in he launched a major campaign in Chicago, moving into an apartment in the black ghetto. As he shifted the focus of his activities north, however, he

discovered that the tactics used in the South were not as effective elsewhere. He was stoned by angry whites in the suburb of Cicero when he led a march against racial discrimination in housing. His status was further damaged when his strategy of nonviolence came under renewed attack from blacks following a major outbreak of urban racial violence in Los Angeles during August. Although King refused to condemn the militants who opposed him, he criticized the new slogan as vague and divisive. As his influence among blacks lessened, he also alienated many white moderate supporters by publicly opposing United States intervention in the Vietnam War. Early in , he and other SCLC workers began to recruit poor people and antipoverty activists to come to Washington, D. On March 28, as he led thousands of sanitation workers and sympathizers on a march through downtown Memphis, violence broke out and black youngsters looted stores. He returned to Memphis for the last time early in April. Addressing an audience at Bishop Charles H. Mason Temple on April 3, he sought to revive his flagging movement by acknowledging: 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. A white segregationist, James Earl Ray, is later convicted of the crime. King became an increasingly revered figure after his death, however, and many of his critics ultimately acknowledged his considerable accomplishments. In , a national holiday was established to honor his birth.

## 3: Martin Luther King, Jr. - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*As editor of The Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr. Clayborne Carson, with the assistance of his staff at Stanford's Martin Luther King, Jr., Research and Education Institute, had access to a variety of documents relating to all aspects of Dr. King's life and career.*

Excerpt from his antiwar speech "Beyond Vietnam" Delivered April 4, 1967, at Riverside Church in New York City "[The world] demands that we admit that we have been wrong from the beginning of our adventure in Vietnam. In the time leading up to the Vietnam War, blacks tended to view military service as a very positive thing. Many African Americans joined the armed forces out of high school in order to receive training, career opportunities, and wages that were not readily available to them in civilian non-military society due to segregation. At that time in American history, there were laws that segregated separated people by race. For example, white people and people of color were required to use separate restrooms, drinking fountains, schools, theaters, and restaurants. These laws discriminated against blacks and placed them in an inferior position in society. The military was one of the first American institutions to be desegregated. Smith wrote in *Brothers: Black Soldiers in the Nam*. Black and white soldiers lived and worked side-by-side in the early years of the Vietnam War, and the generally good relations between them were a point of pride for the U. But this situation soon began to change. As black soldiers faced discrimination in duty assignments and promotions, their resentment toward white officers grew. At the same time, the high number of African Americans who were killed or wounded in combat sounded an alarm through black communities in the United States. Black leaders of the civil rights movement began speaking out against the war in Vietnam. They claimed that it was just another example of the U. Empowered by changes taking place at home, black soldiers became more aggressive in demanding equal treatment in Vietnam. By the late 1960s race relations in the U. Black soldiers face discrimination in Vietnam A number of different factors contributed to the increasing tension between black and white soldiers in Vietnam. One of these factors was a decline in the qualifications of recruits. In mid the 1960s the U. It was intended to encourage poor and uneducated blacks to enlist in the armed forces by lowering the standards for induction admission and offering special training programs. Between 1964 and 1968, 1.5 million people enlisted in the American military through Project 100,000. More than 40 percent of these new recruits were African Americans from poor urban areas. They hoped to serve a tour of duty in Vietnam and return home with useful skills. But the government soon cut the special training programs from its budget. The Project 100,000 recruits arrived in Vietnam to find that many white officers considered them inferior to other soldiers. As a result, they were often assigned to menial tasks or to dangerous combat duty. The poor treatment of the Project 100,000 recruits highlighted the discrimination that other African American soldiers faced in Vietnam. Many black soldiers received less desirable housing and duty assignments than white soldiers in the same unit. In addition, blacks often found themselves passed over for promotions. Only 2 percent of officers in the U. The military justice system tended to discriminate against African Americans as well. One study found that black soldiers received harsher sentences than white soldiers for similar crimes committed during active service. In addition, white soldiers were twice as likely to be released without punishment for a first offense. By more than half of all U. But the most disturbing statistic in the minds of many African Americans was the number of black soldiers who were killed or wounded in combat. A high percentage of blacks and other minorities were assigned to dangerous combat duty in the early years of the Vietnam War. In fact, African Americans made up 20 percent of U. As a result, black soldiers accounted for 25 percent of Americans killed in Vietnam during those years. This figure was more in line with the percentage of African Americans serving in the U. Civil rights leaders oppose the war The early years of the Vietnam War were a time of upheaval in the United States, as black people fought to receive equal rights and opportunities in American society. Many leaders of the civil rights movement initially supported the U. Some black leaders were reluctant to criticize President Lyndon Johnson because they believed he supported their call for civil rights. In addition, some African Americans worried that opposing the war would make them seem unpatriotic. But it did not take long for such attitudes to change. One of its leaders, Stokely Carmichael "Roose" , denounced the U. He made his feelings public on March 25, 1967, when he

led an antiwar demonstration in Chicago that attracted more than 5, marchers. In this famous and controversial speech, King explains his reasons for opposing the Vietnam War. For example, he says that the war reduces the time and money spent on social programs to reduce poverty and discrimination in American society. He also views the loss of black soldiers in combat as a disaster for the African American community. In addition, he believes that the U. For these reasons, King claims that Americans with moral character have a responsibility to protest against the war. Things to remember while reading the excerpt from "Beyond Vietnam": This speech marked the first time King linked the civil rights movement with the growing antiwar movement. Because the war had a negative effect on blacks both at home and in Vietnam, he felt that the two movements should forge a partnership. But many people disagreed with him. On the one hand, the Johnson administration had done more to advance the civil rights of black Americans than had any administration since , " Robert D. Schulzinger wrote in A Time for War. No one felt the dilemma of reconciling support for civil rights and speaking out over Vietnam more keenly than did Martin Luther King, Jr. Throughout the civil rights movement, King was known as a strong supporter of the idea of nonviolent resistance. He sponsored peaceful sit-ins and protest marches for civil rights, and he cautioned African Americans against the use of violence in their fight for equality. But as he explains in his speech, the Vietnam War made it difficult for him to justify this position to his supporters. After all, the U. In his speech King outlines some of the terrible effects American bombing and defoliation the use of harsh chemicals to kill crops and other vegetation had on the Vietnamese people and culture. He notes that the U. But he says that the American forces have done so much damage that the South Vietnamese now consider them the enemy. Excerpt from Martin Luther King, Jr. Since I am a preacher by trade, I suppose it is not surprising that I have seven major reasons for bringing Vietnam into the field of my moral vision. There is at the outset a very obvious and almost facile connection between the war in Vietnam and the struggle I, and others, have been waging in America. A few years ago there was a shining moment in that struggle. It seemed as if there was a real promise of hope for the poorâ€”both black and whiteâ€”through the poverty program. There were experiments, hopes, new beginnings. Then came the buildup in Vietnam and I watched the program broken and eviscerated as if it were some idle political plaything of a society gone mad on war, and I knew that America would never invest the necessary funds or energies in rehabilitation of its poor so long as adventures like Vietnam continued to draw men and skills and money like some demonic destructive suction tube. So I was increasingly compelled to see the war as an enemy of the poor and to attack it as such. Perhaps the more tragic recognition of reality took place when it became clear to me that the war was doing far more than devastating the hopes of the poor at home. It was sending their sons and their brothers and their husbands to fight and to die in extraordinarily high proportions relative to the rest of the population. We were taking the black young men who had been crippled by our society and sending them eight thousand miles away to guarantee liberties in Southeast Asia which they had not found in southwest Georgia and East Harlem. So we have been repeatedly faced with the cruel irony of watching Negro and white boys on TV screens as they kill and die together for a nation that has been unable to seat them together in the same schools. So we watch them in brutal solidarity burning the huts of a poor village, but we realize that they would never live on the same block in Detroit. I could not be silent in the face of such cruel manipulation of the poor. My third reason moves to an even deeper level of awareness, for it grows out of my experience in the ghettos of the North over the last three yearsâ€”especially the last three summers. As I have walked among the desperate, rejected and angry young men I have told them that Molotov cocktails and rifles would not solve their problems. I have tried to offer them my deepest compassion while maintaining my conviction that social change comes most meaningfully through nonviolent action. But they askedâ€”and rightly soâ€”what about Vietnam? Their questions hit home, and I knew that I could never again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed in the ghettos without having first spoken clearly to the greatest purveyor of violence in the world todayâ€”my own government. For the sake of those boys, for the sake of this government, for the sake of the hundreds of thousands trembling under our violence, I cannot be silent. In when a group of us formed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference , we chose as our motto: Now, it should be incandescently clear that no one who has any concern for the integrity and life of America today can ignore the present war. It can never be saved so long as it destroys the deepest hopes of men the

world over. So it is that those of us who are yet determined that America will be [a land of freedom and opportunity] are led down the path of protest and dissent, working for the health of our land. As I ponder the madness of Vietnam and search within myself for ways to understand and respond to compassion my mind goes constantly to the people of that peninsula. I speak now not of the soldiers of each side, not of the junta in Saigon, but simply of the people who have been living under the curse of war for almost three continuous decades now. I think of them too because it is clear to me that there will be no meaningful solution there until some attempt is made to know them and hear their broken cries. They languish under our bombs and consider us "not their fellow Vietnamese" the real enemy. They move sadly and apathetically as we herd them off the land of their fathers into concentration camps where minimal social needs are rarely met. They know they must move or be destroyed by our bombs. So they go "primarily women and children and the aged. They watch as we poison their water, as we kill a million acres of their crops. They must weep as the bulldozers roar through their areas preparing to destroy the precious trees.

## 4: Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*King's funeral, attended by many of the nation's political and civil rights leaders, occurred the following day in Atlanta at Ebenezer Baptist Church, where King served as co-pastor along with his father, Martin Luther King Sr., and his brother, A. D. King. Morehouse College President Benjamin Mays delivered the eulogy. After another ceremony.*

Montgomery Bus Boycott King first started his civil rights activism in 1955. At that time, he led a protest against the way black people were segregated on buses. Rosa Parks later said: King was chosen in part because he was relatively new to the community and so [he] did not have any enemies. Others involved with MIA were also threatened. People could sit anywhere they wanted on the buses. Its motto was "Not one hair of one head of one person should be harmed. This was the largest protest for human rights in United States history. King was the last speaker. This law made many kinds of discrimination against black people illegal. Today, now that mankind [has] the atom bomb , the time has come to lay our weapons and armaments aside and listen to the message Martin Luther King has given us[: He is the first to make the message of brotherly love a reality in the course of his struggle, and he has brought this message to all men, to all nations and races. At the time, many of the Southern states had laws which made it very hard or impossible for African-Americans to vote. For example, they would make African Americans pay extra taxes, pass reading tests, or pass tests about the Constitution. White people did not have to do these things. They refused to sign up African-Americans. Together, they started working on voting rights. They also wanted to show that they would not let racism or violence stop them from getting equal rights. Police officers, and people they had chosen to help them, attacked the marchers with clubs and tear gas. They threatened to throw the marchers off the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Seventeen marchers had to go to the hospital , and 50 others were also injured. Pictures and film of the marchers being beaten were shown around the world, in newspapers and on television. People came from all over the United States to march with the activists. One of them, James Reeb , was attacked by white people for supporting civil rights. He died on March 11, "Not Long" at the Alabama State Capitol. He told the marchers that it would not be long before they had equal rights, "because the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice. This law made it illegal to stop somebody from voting because of their race.

## 5: Martin Luther King Jr. | Encyclopedia of Alabama

*Welcome to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Encyclopedia! The Encyclopedia, based on the extensive historical research originally conducted for The Papers, has over articles on civil rights movement figures, events, and organizations.*

Background[ edit ] King on death[ edit ] As early as the mids, King had received death threats due to his prominence in the Civil Rights Movement. He had confronted the risk of death, including a nearly fatal stabbing in , and made its recognition part of his philosophy. He taught that murder could not stop the struggle for equal rights. After the assassination of President Kennedy in , King told his wife Coretta , "This is what is going to happen to me also. I keep telling you, this is a sick society. Memphis sanitation strike King traveled to Memphis, Tennessee , in support of striking African American city sanitation workers. The workers had staged a walkout on February 11, , to protest unequal wages and working conditions imposed by then-mayor Henry Loeb. At the time, Memphis paid black workers significantly lower wages than whites. There were no city-issued uniforms, no restrooms, no recognized union, and no grievance procedure for the numerous occasions on which they were underpaid. His airline flight to Memphis was delayed by a bomb threat but he arrived in time to make a planned speech to a gathering at the Mason Temple World Headquarters of the Church of God in Christ. In it, he recalled his attempted assassination, noting that the doctor who treated him said that because the knife used to stab him was so near to his aorta, any sudden movement, even a sneeze, might have killed him. And then I got to Memphis. And some began to say the threats What would happen to me from some of our sick white brothers? Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. 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! My eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord! The motel is now part of the complex of the National Civil Rights Museum. The wreath marks the approximate spot where King was shot. The motel was owned by businessman Walter Bailey and named after his wife. Reverend Ralph Abernathy , a colleague and friend, later told the House Select Committee on Assassinations he and King had stayed in room at the Lorraine Motel so often that it was known as the "Kingâ€”Abernathy Suite". Play it real pretty. King fell violently backward onto the balcony, unconscious. Ray had been renting a room there. Ray had purchased the rifle under an alias six days earlier. He never regained consciousness and was pronounced dead at 7: Paul Hess, assistant administrator at St. King died despite emergency surgery, said the minister had "received a gunshot wound on the right side of the neck, at the root of the neck, a gaping wound. He was pronounced dead at 7: Central standard time 8: New York time by staff doctors," Mr. King had difficulty settling her children with the news that their father was deceased. Kennedy speech[ edit ] Main article: That night, Senator Robert F. Kennedy , running to gain the presidential nomination to represent the Democratic Party, spoke about the assassination. Kennedy had spoken earlier that day in Indiana [24] and learned about the shooting before boarding a plane to Indianapolis. He had a speech scheduled there in a predominantly black neighborhood of the city. Standing on a flatbed truck, Kennedy spoke for four minutes and fifty-seven seconds. I had a member of my family killed, but he was killed by a white man. His speech was credited in part with preventing post-assassination rioting in Indianapolis, on a night where such events broke out in major cities across the country. Several phone conversations with black community leaders convinced him to speak out against the violent backlash beginning to emerge across the country. Although still considered significant, it is given much less historical attention than the Indianapolis speech. Johnson[ edit ] President Lyndon B. Johnson was in the Oval Office that evening, planning a meeting in Hawaii with Vietnam War military commanders. After press secretary George Christian informed him at 8: King assassination riots Colleagues of King in the Civil Rights Movement called for a nonviolent response to the assassination, to honor his most deeply held beliefs. King would be greatly distressed to find that his blood had triggered off bloodshed and disorder. I think instead the nation should be quiet; black and white, and we should be in a prayerful mood, which would be in keeping with his life. We should make that kind of dedication and commitment to the goals which his life served to solving the domestic problems. White America killed Dr. She made it a whole lot easier for a whole lot of black people today. There no longer needs to be intellectual discussions, black people know that they

have to get guns. White America will live to cry that she killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The service at Ebenezer Baptist Church was nationally televised, as were these other events. A second service was held there before the burial. One of the wives' station wagon, three children, forty-five-thousand-dollar house' leaned over and said, "I wish you had spit in his face for me. In some cases, the shock of events altered opinions. A survey later sent to a group of college trustees revealed their opinions of King had risen after his assassination. Others expressed political ideology. Governor George Wallace of Alabama, known as a segregationist, described the assassination as a "senseless, regrettable act". Strom Thurmond, South Carolina Senator, wrote to his constituents: Funeral of Martin Luther King Jr. A crowd of, attended his funeral on April 9. There were fears that Johnson might be hit with protests and abuses over the war if he attended. In that sermon, he asked that, at his funeral, no mention of his awards and honors be made, but that it be said he tried to "feed the hungry", "clothe the naked", "be right on the [Vietnam] war question", and "love and serve humanity". James Earl Ray Capture and guilty plea[ edit ] The FBI investigation found fingerprints on various objects left in the bathroom from where the gunfire had come. Evidence included a Remington Gamemaster rifle from which at least one shot had been fired. The fingerprints were traced to an escaped convict named James Earl Ray. Ray confessed to the assassination on March 10, On the advice of his attorney Percy Foreman, Ray took a guilty plea to avoid a conviction and potential death penalty. Ray was sentenced to a year prison term; he recanted his confession three days later. He said through his new attorney Jack Kershaw that, although he did not "personally shoot King", he may have been "partially responsible without knowing it", hinting at a conspiracy. In May, Kershaw presented evidence to the House Select Committee on Assassinations that he believed exonerated his client, but tests did not prove conclusive. Kershaw also claimed Ray was somewhere else when the shots were fired, but he could not find a witness to corroborate the claim. They were recaptured on June 13, three days later, and returned to prison. Ray worked for the remainder of his life attempting unsuccessfully to withdraw his guilty plea and secure a full trial. He carried on the effort to gain a trial on behalf of the King family, who do not believe Ray was responsible, but that there was a conspiracy by elements of the government against King. He had gained attention by claiming an alleged conspiracy involving the Mafia, the Federal government, and himself to kill King. According to Jowers, Ray was a scapegoat, and not directly involved in the shooting. Jowers claimed he hired someone to kill King as a favor for a friend in the mafia, Frank Liberto, a produce merchant who died before He had alternatively claimed the shooter was: Coretta Scott King v. The case, Coretta Scott King, et al. Loyd Jowers et al. Attorney William Francis Pepper, representing the King family, presented evidence from 70 witnesses and 4, pages of transcripts. Local Assistant District Attorney John Campbell, who was not involved in the case, said the case was flawed and "overlooked so much contradictory evidence that never was presented. In the United States, civil and criminal trials are always adjudicated independently. Dexter called the verdict "a vindication for us". The investigation report recommends no further investigation unless some new reliable facts are presented. He is supported by author Gerald Posner. Jowers, Posner told The New York Times, "It distresses me greatly that the legal system was used in such a callous and farcical manner in Memphis. If the King family wanted a rubber stamp of their own view of the facts, they got it. The fact is there were saboteurs to disrupt the march. So infiltration within, saboteurs from without and the press attacks. I will never believe that James Earl Ray had the motive, the money and the mobility to have done it himself. Our government was very involved in setting the stage for and I think the escape route for James Earl Ray.

## 6: Martin Luther King, Jr. Facts for Kids

*Martin Luther King, www.enganchecubano.com from his antiwar speech "Beyond Vietnam" Delivered April 4, , at Riverside Church in New York City "[The world] demands that we admit that we have been wrong from the beginning of our adventure in Vietnam."*

He was one of the most important African American leaders of his time. Early life Martin Luther King Jr. He attended Atlanta public schools and then went on to Morehouse College. After graduation from Morehouse in , King entered Crozer Theological Seminary and graduated in He then received his doctorate an advanced degree in theology the study of religion from Boston University in Four children were born to the couple. Black citizens were outraged. At the time, many public places, including buses, were segregated. King, along with fellow activists, urged African Americans to boycott the segregated city buses. In a boycott people refuse to use products and services provided by people, businesses, or organizations until policies and procedures are changed. The bus boycott lasted more than a year. Finally, the bus company agreed to the protesters demands and ended segregated seating. Supreme Court later stated that the bus segregation laws of Montgomery were unconstitutional, or went against the laws of the Constitution. Overnight, Martin Luther King had become a national hero as a leader in the civil rights struggle. The victory had not been easy. His home was bombed, and he and other MIA leaders were constantly threatened, arrested, and jailed. King was elected president. King was now traveling constantly, speaking for "justice" throughout the country. King had long been interested in nonviolence as practiced by Mahatma Gandhi " Yet, when they returned to the United States, the civil rights struggle had become much more intense. Violent resistance by whites to the nonviolent efforts of black demonstrators filled the newspapers with stories of bloody fights. African American students began this nonviolent form of protest by sitting at "white only" Martin Luther King Jr. The movement quickly spread throughout much of the South. King urged the young people to continue using nonviolent means. By August the sit-ins had succeeded in ending segregation at lunch counters in twenty-seven southern cities. In October the SCLC decided to increase their efforts to get African Americans registered to vote, use boycotts to gain fair employment, and work to end segregation in public places. A popular department store in Atlanta, widely known for its policy of segregation, was the first goal in this renewed effort. When King and seventy-five students entered the store and requested lunch-counter service, he and thirty-six others were arrested. But King was imprisoned for breaking the terms of his court supervision that resulted from a traffic offense conviction. Kennedy " , who at the time was campaigning for the presidency, made a telephone call to Mrs. King, and then worked to get King released. The idea was to "put the sit-ins on the road" by having pairs of black and white volunteers board interstate buses traveling through the South. This would test a new federal law forbidding segregated bus stations. A great deal of violence resulted as resisting whites overturned and burned buses, assaulted the Freedom Riders, and attacked newsmen. Many of the arrested riders chose prison rather than pay fines. However, the protest worked, forcing the Interstate Commerce Commission to enforce laws against segregation. The movement heats up On May 2, , some six thousand school children marched to demonstrate against school segregation. The next day, as volunteers gathered in a church, police blocked the exits, and turned fire hoses and police dogs on the teenage demonstrators. Finally, there was a truce between the civil rights groups and the police. Enraged black citizens rioted and Alabama state troopers moved in and set up undeclared martial law, or temporary rule by the military. King and SCLC personnel continued to urge nonviolence but more violence erupted when white racists refused to obey federal school integration laws. The worst came when a bomb thrown into an African American church killed four little girls. On August 27, more than , black and white citizens gathered in Washington, D. There, King delivered his famous "Let Freedom Ring" address. After weeks of nonviolent demonstrations and violent counterattacks by whites, a committee was set up to move St. A few weeks later, the Civil Rights Bill, which made discrimination unequal treatment based on race illegal, was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson " The first target was Selma, where only a handful of black citizens had been allowed to vote. The Voting Rights Act, which was passed on August 10, , made it illegal for Southern states to prevent African Americans from voting and registering to

vote. Alabama Governor George Wallace refused to permit the march, and the five hundred people who gathered to march were beaten by state troopers. On March 21, , more than ten thousand people followed King from Selma toward Montgomery. Only three hundred were allowed to make the full four-day march, but they were joined by another twenty-five thousand in Montgomery for the final leg to the Capitol to present a petition a written demand to Governor Wallace. Vietnam War In King made a "people-to-people" tour of northern cities. A growing number of black people were becoming aggressive in the struggle for their rights. Their position caused King to take another look at the nonviolent civil rights movement that he had fathered. Although committed to nonviolence and civil rights, he was also troubled about the American involvement in the Vietnam War 73; a war in Vietnam in which American forces supported South Vietnam in their fight against Communist North Vietnam. He soon found himself pushed toward leadership in antiwar groups. In King began speaking directly against U. In March, King went to Memphis, Tennessee, to lead demonstrations against a wide range of complaints, including police brutality and poor school conditions. The march ended in a riot when some frustrated young African Americans began breaking windows, looting, and burning stores. The police reacted quickly and violently. In Memphis on April 3, , King addressed a rally. Speaking of threats on his life, he urged followers to continue the nonviolent struggle no matter what happened to him. The next evening, as King stood on an outside balcony at the Lorraine Motel, he was struck by a rifle bullet. He died a few hours later. The site is near the place where King delivered his "I have a dream" speech in In September , a design was selected. The monument will be the first to honor an individual African American in the National Mall area. For More Information Fairclough, Adam. Martin Luther King, Jr. University of Georgia Press, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, King, Coretta Scott, ed. King, Martin Luther, Jr. Edited by Clayborne Carson. Intellectual Properties Management, Martin Luther King, Jr.: Young Man with a Dream.

7: Assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. - Wikipedia

*Imam Muhammad "Martin" Luther King, Jr. (1929–1968) was a radical communist commando who dedicated his body and soul to inciting violence against the white man.*

He is studied by schoolchildren of all backgrounds; his words are quoted by the powerless and the powerful, by anyone who has a dream to make her or his life better, to better the nation, or the world. Monuments have been dedicated in his honor and institutions such as the Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta , which bears his name, have been established to carry on his work. In , the U. Congress made King unique among twentieth-century Americans by designating his birthday a federal holiday. King was born into a family of Baptist ministers. Martin Luther King, Sr. As the son of a pastor growing up among the black middle class, the young King was afforded some opportunities for education and experience not available to children in poorer urban and rural areas. Yet despite his social standing, he was still subjected to the lessons of segregation because of his color. So, after completing high school early, he entered nearby Morehouse College in with thoughts of becoming a lawyer or doctor. Later, influenced by the teachings of George D. Kelsey, a religion professor, and Dr. By graduation in , he had decided to accept it as his vocation. In King entered the Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania , where for the next three years he studied theology, philosophy, ethics, the Social Gospel of Walter Rauschenbusch , and the religious and social views of Reinhold Niebuhr. It was also during this time that King first learned of the nonviolent activism of Mohandas Gandhi. He was elected student-body president, was valedictorian of his class, won a prize as outstanding student, and earned a fellowship for graduate study. Again he impressed his professors with his passion for learning and his intellect. After completing his coursework, King began a dissertation in which he would compare the religious views of Paul Tillich and Henry Nelson Wieman. Emerging from Boston University, King had a number of avenues available to him—pursuing a career as a professor, returning to Atlanta to join his father at Ebenezer, or becoming the pastor of his own church, in the North or in the South. He installed himself as full-time pastor in September of During his first year at Dexter, King finished his dissertation and worked to organize his new church, to activate the social and political awareness of his congregation, and to blend his academic learning with the emotional oratory of the Southern preacher. He had begun to settle into his role as preacher and new father when the events of December, , thrust upon him the mantle of local civil rights leader. After a successful first day of boycotting, the groups formed the Montgomery Improvement Association MIA to oversee the community action and to work with the city and busline officials to bring about fairer treatment of blacks within the existing laws. For days, King and the black community maintained the boycott while white officials from the city and the busline resisted their modest demands: During this period, the MIA convinced black-owned taxis to reduce their fares to enable boycotters to afford a means of transportation. Then, when the city blocked that measure, the group organized carpools. King was arrested, slandered, received hate mail and phone threats, and his house was bombed; but from the outset he preached nonviolence to the black boycotters. After Montgomery city officials refused to be moved to change by a number of related federal court decisions, the black community finally won more than it had asked for when the U. Supreme Court upheld a federal court decision that ruled against segregation in Montgomery. On December 21, , the integration of Montgomery city buses became mandatory. King toured the country giving speeches, appearing at rallies, meeting with elected officials and candidates, and writing a book about the Montgomery experience. In he traveled to Ghana to join in its independence celebration; in he traveled to India to meet with Nehru and other associates of Gandhi. From to King and the SCLC renewed their direct action against segregation at the voting booth, at schools, at lunch counters, and at bus stations. These efforts contributed to the eventual desegregation of stores, buses and bus stations. Yet, along with these successes, King and the Civil Rights Movement also encountered failures. In December of the SCLC joined members of the black community of Albany, Georgia , in their effort to end segregation in that city. In the end, the city government and law enforcement officials refused to make any substantial concessions and avoided resorting

to violence. Birmingham Protest March King was able to redeem himself in the spring of in Birmingham, Alabama, a city considered by many to be the most segregated in the country. King and the SCLC were invited by local black leaders to help organize a protest to end segregation in downtown stores, to achieve equal opportunity in employment, and to establish a biracial commission to promote further desegregation. In order to attract attention to their demands and to put pressure on local businesses, the protesters employed a march. Birmingham police moved against the first march with clubs and attack dogs and the state court issued an injunction barring further protests. When King and close associate Ralph Abernathy defied the court order, they were arrested and placed in solitary confinement. He rejoined the protesters. When the adult marchers began to lose their enthusiasm, high school students and younger children joined the march. Around 3, marchers were arrested, filling up the jails. Later marches were broken up by police using clubs and dogs and firemen with high-pressure hoses. The police brutality directed toward unarmed black men, women, and children outraged the nation and the John F. However, black leaders, white businessmen, and federal troops sent in by the Kennedy administration were successful in their efforts to halt the violence; the agreement was given time to take hold. On August 28, , approximately , blacks and whites marched on Washington, D. King was the last speaker scheduled to address the crowd gathered in the shadow of the Lincoln Memorial. Earlier in he had attended the signing of the Civil Rights Act of , the law that put the federal government firmly behind ending segregation and discrimination in public institutions. But blacks still faced barriers to voting throughout the South, and more subtle economic barriers in other regions. Civil rights groups stepped up their voter registration drives in the South and King took his strategy of nonviolent confrontation to Selma, Alabama. In August, the Voting Rights Act of was passed into law. It gave federal authorities the power to end literacy tests and poll taxes and to monitor all elections. In King and the SCLC launched a campaign in Chicago , both to expand their influence into the North and to raise awareness of the issues of urban discrimination and poverty as manifested in housing, schooling, and unemployment. However, the campaign was unable to score the kind of success that it had in Montgomery, Birmingham, and Selma. As the war in Vietnam escalated in the second half of the s, King grew dissatisfied with the situation. In he began to speak out consistently against the war. In speeches and rallies around the country, he called for a negotiated settlement. King was recruited by anti-war activists to head an independent ticket for the presidential election of , a position he declined in order to keep his social and moral concerns free from political obligations. He wanted to recruit the poor from urban and rural areasâ€”men and women of all races and backgrounds â€” and lead them in a campaign for economic rights. The recruited poor, trained in nonviolent direct action , would descend on Washington, D. Johnson administration and leading businessmen to put a more human face on American capitalism. In March of , while touring the U. After a march organized by local leaders was postponed because of a heavy snowstorm, King joined the rescheduled event on March Shortly after the march began, young gang members initiated violence, igniting a riot that ended with one dead, numerous injuries, and widespread property damage. King vowed to return to personally direct another demonstration in order to reestablish nonviolence in this local dispute. Again in Memphis to plan this march, King was assassinated on April 4, , as he stood on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel. The night before, addressing an audience of at the Mason Temple in downtown Memphis, King had given his last speech, which included these words: Longevity has its place. 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. He was closely scrutinized during his life by his colleagues in the SCLC, by other leaders in the Civil Rights Movement, by those he sought to change, and by state and federal officials affected by state and officials affected by those trying to get behind the symbol to the man and his place in American history. In SCLC meetings, King often faced disagreements with his lieutenants and advisers over organization, tactics, and campaigns. Within the Civil Rights Movement of the s, King was not universally accepted as its leader and spokesman. Roy Wilkins , the NAACP, and its strategy of seeking change through legislation and court action were in constant competition with King, the SCLC, and its nonviolent direct confrontation for the support of blacks and white integrationists.

## 8: Martin Luther King, Jr. in Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History

*Martin Luther King, Jr., made history, but he was also transformed by his deep family roots in the African-American Baptist church, his formative experiences in his hometown of Atlanta, his theological studies, his varied models of religious and political leadership, and his extensive network of.*

His mother was an accomplished organist and choir leader who took him to various churches to sing, and he received attention for singing "I Want to Be More and More Like Jesus". King later became a member of the junior choir in his church. When the boys were six, they started school: King had to attend a school for African Americans and the other boy went to one for whites public schools were among the facilities segregated by state law. In his adolescent years, he initially felt resentment against whites due to the "racial humiliation" that he, his family, and his neighbors often had to endure in the segregated South. At the age of 13, he denied the bodily resurrection of Jesus during Sunday school. On the ride home to Atlanta by bus, he and his teacher were ordered by the driver to stand so that white passengers could sit down. King initially refused but complied after his teacher told him that he would be breaking the law if he did not submit. During this incident, King said that he was "the angriest I have ever been in my life. At that time, many students had abandoned further studies to enlist in World War II. Due to this, Morehouse was eager to fill its classrooms. At the age of 15, King passed the exam and entered Morehouse. He had concluded that the church offered the most assuring way to answer "an inner urge to serve humanity. Proctor who went on to become well-known preachers in the black church. King became fond of the street because a classmate had an aunt who prepared collard greens for them, which they both relished. The daughter had been involved with a professor prior to her relationship with King. King planned to marry her, but friends advised against it, saying that an interracial marriage would provoke animosity from both blacks and whites, potentially damaging his chances of ever pastoring a church in the South. He continued to have lingering feelings toward the woman he left; one friend was quoted as saying, "He never recovered. Martin Luther King Jr. King was on the committee from the Birmingham African-American community that looked into the case; E. Nixon and Clifford Durr decided to wait for a better case to pursue because the incident involved a minor. Gayle that ended racial segregation on all Montgomery public buses. The group was created to harness the moral authority and organizing power of black churches to conduct nonviolent protests in the service of civil rights reform. The group was inspired by the crusades of evangelist Billy Graham , who befriended King after he attended a Graham crusade in New York City. Harris , Walter E. Izola Curry "a mentally ill black woman who thought that King was conspiring against her with communists" stabbed him in the chest with a letter opener. King underwent emergency surgery with three doctors: Cordice ; he remained hospitalized for several weeks. Curry was later found mentally incompetent to stand trial. Sullivan ; the case was litigated in reference to the newspaper advertisement " Heed Their Rising Voices ". Wachtel founded a tax-exempt fund to cover the expenses of the suit and to assist the nonviolent civil rights movement through a more effective means of fundraising. This organization was named the "Gandhi Society for Human Rights. He was displeased with the pace that President Kennedy was using to address the issue of segregation. In , King and the Gandhi Society produced a document that called on the President to follow in the footsteps of Abraham Lincoln and issue an executive order to deliver a blow for civil rights as a kind of Second Emancipation Proclamation. Kennedy did not execute the order. Johnson and Robert F. He warned King to discontinue these associations and later felt compelled to issue the written directive that authorized the FBI to wiretap King and other SCLC leaders. Edgar Hoover feared the civil rights movement and investigated the allegations of communist infiltration. Journalistic accounts and televised footage of the daily deprivation and indignities suffered by Southern blacks, and of segregationist violence and harassment of civil rights workers and marchers, produced a wave of sympathetic public opinion that convinced the majority of Americans that the civil rights movement was the most important issue in American politics in the early s. There were often dramatic stand-offs with segregationist authorities, who sometimes turned violent. This included opposition by more militant blacks such as Nation of Islam member Malcolm X. The movement mobilized thousands of citizens for a broad-front

nonviolent attack on every aspect of segregation within the city and attracted nationwide attention. When King first visited on December 15, , he "had planned to stay a day or so and return home after giving counsel. According to King, "that agreement was dishonored and violated by the city" after he left town. But for the first time, we witnessed being kicked out of jail. King requested a halt to all demonstrations and a "Day of Penance" to promote nonviolence and maintain the moral high ground. Divisions within the black community and the canny, low-key response by local government defeated efforts. After Albany, King sought to choose engagements for the SCLC in which he could control the circumstances, rather than entering into pre-existing situations. Birmingham campaign King was arrested in for protesting the treatment of blacks in Birmingham. The campaign used nonviolent but intentionally confrontational tactics, developed in part by Rev. Black people in Birmingham, organizing with the SCLC, occupied public spaces with marches and sit-ins , openly violating laws that they considered unjust. Over the concerns of an uncertain King, SCLC strategist James Bevel changed the course of the campaign by recruiting children and young adults to join in the demonstrations. In some cases, bystanders attacked the police, who responded with force. But the campaign was a success: Connor lost his job, the "Jim Crow" signs came down, and public places became more open to blacks. King argues that the crisis of racism is too urgent, and the current system too entrenched: Augustine, Florida, Main article: However, the pacifist SCLC accepted them. Augustine , including a delegation of rabbis and the year-old mother of the governor of Massachusetts, all of whom were arrested. During the course of this movement, the Civil Rights Act of was passed. This injunction temporarily halted civil rights activity until King defied it by speaking at Brown Chapel on January 2, King, representing the SCLC, was among the leaders of the "Big Six" civil rights organizations who were instrumental in the organization of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom , which took place on August 28, Kennedy in changing the focus of the march. However, the organizers were firm that the march would proceed. President Kennedy was concerned the turnout would be less than , Therefore, he enlisted the aid of additional church leaders and Walter Reuther , president of the United Automobile Workers , to help mobilize demonstrators for the cause. The march originally was conceived as an event to dramatize the desperate condition of blacks in the southern U. Organizers intended to denounce the federal government for its failure to safeguard the civil rights and physical safety of civil rights workers and blacks. The group acquiesced to presidential pressure and influence, and the event ultimately took on a far less strident tone. The march made specific demands: At the time, it was the largest gathering of protesters in Washington, D. 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: I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four little 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. I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification; one day right there in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers. In , Raveling, then 26, was standing near the podium, and immediately after the oration, impulsively asked King if he could have his copy of the speech. The first attempt to march on March 7, , was aborted because of mob and police violence against the demonstrators. This day has become known as Bloody Sunday and was a major turning point in the effort to gain public support for the civil rights movement. King, however, was not present. He did not attend the march due to church duties, but he later wrote, "If I had any idea that the state troopers would use the kind of brutality they did, I would have felt compelled to give up my church duties altogether to lead the line. The SCLC petitioned for an injunction in federal court against the State of Alabama; this was denied and the judge issued an order blocking the march until after a hearing. Nonetheless, King led marchers on March 9 to the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, then held a short prayer session before turning the marchers around and asking them to disperse so as not to violate the court order. The unexpected ending of this second march aroused the surprise and anger of many within the local movement. In , after several successes in the south, King, Bevel, and others in the civil rights organizations took the movement to the North, with Chicago as their first destination. King and Ralph Abernathy, both from

the middle class, moved into a building at S. Johnson meeting with King in the White House Cabinet Room , King later stated and Abernathy wrote that the movement received a worse reception in Chicago than in the South. Marches, especially the one through Marquette Park on August 5, , were met by thrown bottles and screaming throngs. Rioting seemed very possible. Daley to cancel a march in order to avoid the violence that he feared would result.

9: [www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com) - Encyclopedia > Martin Luther King, Jr.

*Martin Luther King Jr. (January 15, - April 4, ) was an American Baptist minister and activist who became the most visible spokesperson and leader in the civil rights movement from until his death in*

Martin Luther King, Jr. He is only one of three Americans to have a national holiday, and the only African-American. Introduction From the halls of the highest scholasticism to the valleys of the deepest and most pragmatic activism, Dr. King combined the qualities that propelled him to world-figure-hero status during the course of his life. No other scholar-activist, except possibly Mahatma Gandhi , did as fine a job of descending from the lofty level of the ivory tower and walking among the masses, meeting them at their level, giving voice to their yearnings, and exemplifying the common touch. Comfortable in his own skin and confident in the righteousness of his cause, King still grappled daily with the doubts, struggles, and temptations that inevitably burden all leaders. Oates tells us that: Like everybody, King had imperfections: King was all things to the American Negro movement—advocate, orator, field general, historian, fund raiser, and symbol. Though he longed to be a teacher and scholar on the university level, he became instead a master of direct-action protest, using it in imaginative and unprecedented ways to stimulate powerful federal legislation that radically altered Southern race relations. Through intense study and masterfully systematic thought, King successfully merged his intimate knowledge of the Declaration of Independence , the U. Constitution , the Mayflower Compact, and other documents, with his strikingly insightful, biblical worldview. As a result, he ultimately forged within himself an undying love for America and a passion for its destiny. That passion fueled his vision and instilled his being with a flaming religious commitment. It was this committed life that made it possible for him to become both a sterling example of sacrificial leadership and a providential instrument of the most noble Judeo-Christian ideals. And it was that model of leadership that fueled the Civil Rights Movement in its nearly successful effort at inciting a Christian Revolution within the borders of the United States. Martin Luther King, Sr. As such, the Rev. He ruled his household with a fierceness not unlike that of an Old Testament patriarch, and he provided a lifestyle in which his children were disciplined, protected, and very well provided for. It functioned as the hub around which the wheel of King family life rotated. And the sanctuary was located only three blocks away from the big house on Auburn Avenue. Having been slipped, by his parents, into grade school a year early, and having been bright and gifted enough to skip a number of grades along the way, M. Washington High School in , at the age of Washington after the eleventh grade, and, at the age of 15, enrolled in Morehouse. King graduated from Morehouse in , with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. He subsequently enrolled at Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania, where he was elected student-body president, and from where he later graduated as class valedictorian, with a Bachelor of Divinity degree, in Thus, from the age of 15 until 26, King embarked upon a pilgrimage of intellectual discovery. Through it, he systematized a religious and social worldview, characterized by unusually striking insights and by an unshakable adherence to the power of nonviolence and redemption through unearned suffering. Martin and Coretta Scott King were the parents of four children: November 17, , Montgomery, Alabama; d. October 23, , Montgomery, Alabama Dexter Scott b. January 30, , Atlanta, Georgia Bernice Albertine b. Coretta Scott King passed away on January 30, The first period ignited with the Montgomery Bus Boycott of December and closed with the successful voting-rights march from Selma to Montgomery, on March 25, The second period commenced with the January Chicago campaign for jobs and slum elimination and ended with the assassination of Dr. King on April 4, , in Memphis. This resulted in a shared commitment to the concept of "noncooperation with evil," that swept the ranks of Civil Rights Movement devotees. The subsequent beatings, jailings, abuses, and violence that were heaped upon these protesters ultimately became the price they paid for unprecedented victories. On the heels of the courageous stand by Mrs. And through this victory, King and his ecclesiastical colleagues elevated to new heights the historic role of the black clergyman as the leader in the quest for civil rights. This was an organization that brought a significantly different focus to the already established mix of the major civil-rights groups. King met with Vice President Richard M. Nixon on June 13, A year later, on June 23, , King, A. The

SCLC leader was ultimately repulsed by both Nixon and Eisenhower, and King finally gave up on the idea of working with either of them. From , King struggled to 1 keep the ranks of the Civil Rights Movement unified; 2 raise desperately needed funds; 3 systematize and disseminate the theory and practice of nonviolence; and 4 establish himself as an incisively competent author. Among other black leaders, there was jealousy of King and his popularity. But this was an issue in which the press did not take much interest. Arnold Toynbee says in *A Study of History*, that it may be the Negro who will give the new spiritual dynamic to Western civilization that it so desperately needs to survive. King was extolled by *Christian Century* as the leader who had guided his people to unlock "the revolutionary resources of the gospel of Christ. Izola Curry, King endeared himself, nationwide, to millions of both black and white Americans, when he forgave the woman and refused to press charges against her. Resigning from the pastorate of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church on November 29, , the SCLC leader spent the next three years watching historic events unfolding in city after city throughout the South. In , he returned to his native city of Atlanta and became co-pastor, with his father, at Ebenezer Baptist Church. In the meantime, scores of protesters increasingly joined in uttering the battle cry of "Remember the teachings of Jesus , Gandhi , and Martin Luther King. With black students on numerous campuses now joining in the struggle, the SCLC president was delighted. And as the sit-ins spread, King boldly and unequivocally declared his full-fledged endorsement of their strategic courage in the quest to desegregate eating facilities in Southern cities. These young people have connected up with their own historyâ€”the slave revolts, the incomplete revolution of the Civil War, the brotherhood of colonial colored men in Africa and Asia. They are an integral part of the history which is reshaping the world, replacing a dying order with a modern democracy. Although charges were dropped and the jailed students were all set free, the SCLC leader remained imprisoned. Through trumped-up charges and judicial chicanery, King was convicted of violating his probation regarding a minor traffic offense committed several months earlier, and he was sentenced to four months hard labor in Reidsville State Penitentiary, three hundred miles from Atlanta. It was only after the intercession by Democratic presidential candidate John F. Throughout , King witnessed and lauded the development of the method known as Freedom Rides, a technique launched across the South to confront and topple the practice of racially segregated interstate bus facilities. The practice of Freedom Riding proved to be a nightmarishly dangerous and deadly mission that elicited great sacrifice and bloodshed. Yet this was the reason that it was ultimately a spectacular success. Through the Bible-based tactics of applied nonviolence protest marches, sit-ins, and Freedom Rides , committed allegiance was educed from scores of blacks and sincere whites across the country. Support likewise came from the administrations of Presidents Kennedy and Lyndon B. Advancement took place, despite constant suffering, setbacks, and even notable failures such as at Albany, Georgia , where the movement was utterly and resoundingly defeated in its campaign to desegregate public parks, pools, lunch counters, and other facilities. Taking stock of their failure, King and his lieutenants concluded that the Federal Bureau of Investigation FBI had sided with the Albany segregationists. In his statement to the press, the SCLC leader declared: To maintain their status, they have to be friendly with the local police and people who are promoting segregation. Albany highlighted for King the rigidity and defensiveness of the white South, with regard to the race issue. King grappled with the idea, finally told them no, and, with reawakened resolution, committed himself irrevocably to the Movement. Racism at lunch counters and in hiring practices was ugly enough. Now, added to the humiliation, was the brutality displayed by Police Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor, whose officers unleashed dogs and firehoses upon the peaceful demonstrators. And King was resolved that, in the streets of Birmingham, he and his people would awaken the moral conscience of America. In his own words: We must say to our white brothers all over the South who try to keep us down: We will match your physical force with soul force. We will not hate you. And yet we cannot, in all good conscience, obey your evil laws. Do to us what you will. Threaten our children and we will still love youâ€”. Bomb our homes and go to our churches early in the morning and bomb them, if you please, and we will still love you. We will wear you down by our capacity to suffer. In winning the victory, we will not only win our freedom. We will so appeal to your heart and your conscience that we will win you in the process. And the white clergy had issued a strong statement entreating blacks to not support the demonstrations, and to, instead, press their case in the courts. That statement had been signed by eight white

Christian and Jewish clergymen of Alabama. From his Birmingham jail cell, King penned a highly eloquent response that articulated his philosophy of civil disobedience: Why sit-ins, marches, etc.? Indeed, this is the very purpose of direct action. Nonviolent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and establish such creative tension that a community that has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue. It seeks to so dramatize the issue that it can no longer be ignored. History is the long and tragic story of the fact that privileged groups seldom give up their privileges voluntarily. We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed. In front of a packed press conference, King and Shuttlesworth stated: Birmingham may well offer for Twentieth Century America an example of progressive racial relations; and for all mankind a dawn of a new day. Sixty-six days before the famed March on Washington, King was in Detroit, Michigan, at the request of his ecclesiastical colleague, the Rev. Franklin was part of an alliance that included the influential, local black millionaire, James Del Rio, and other members of the Detroit Council for Human Rights.

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