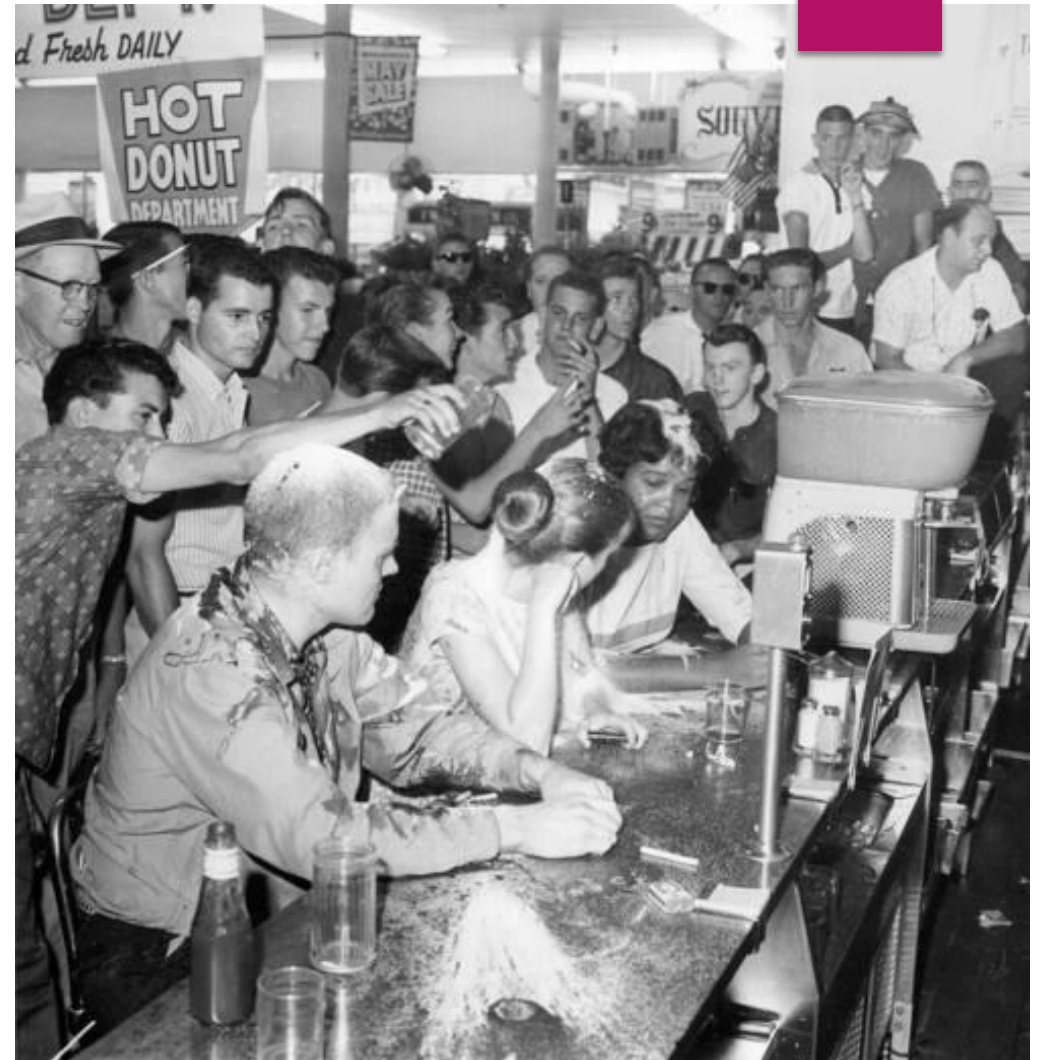




Protests and Violence Erupt

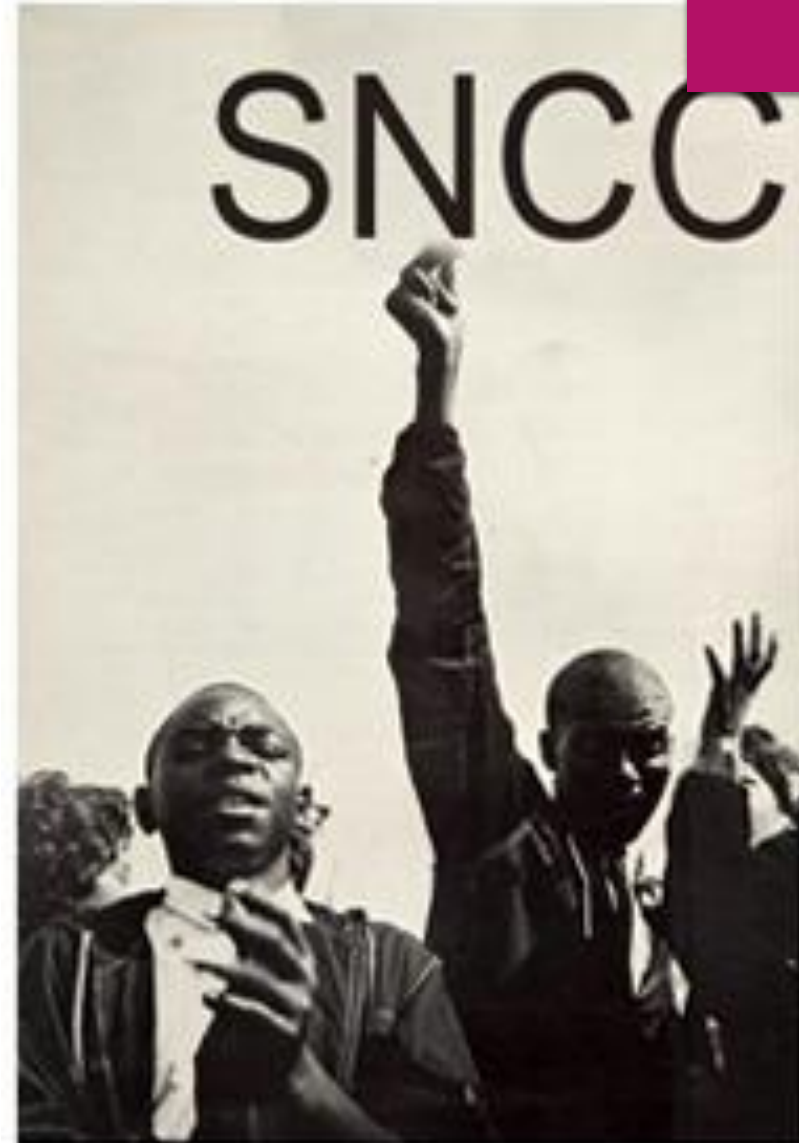
Sit-In Movement

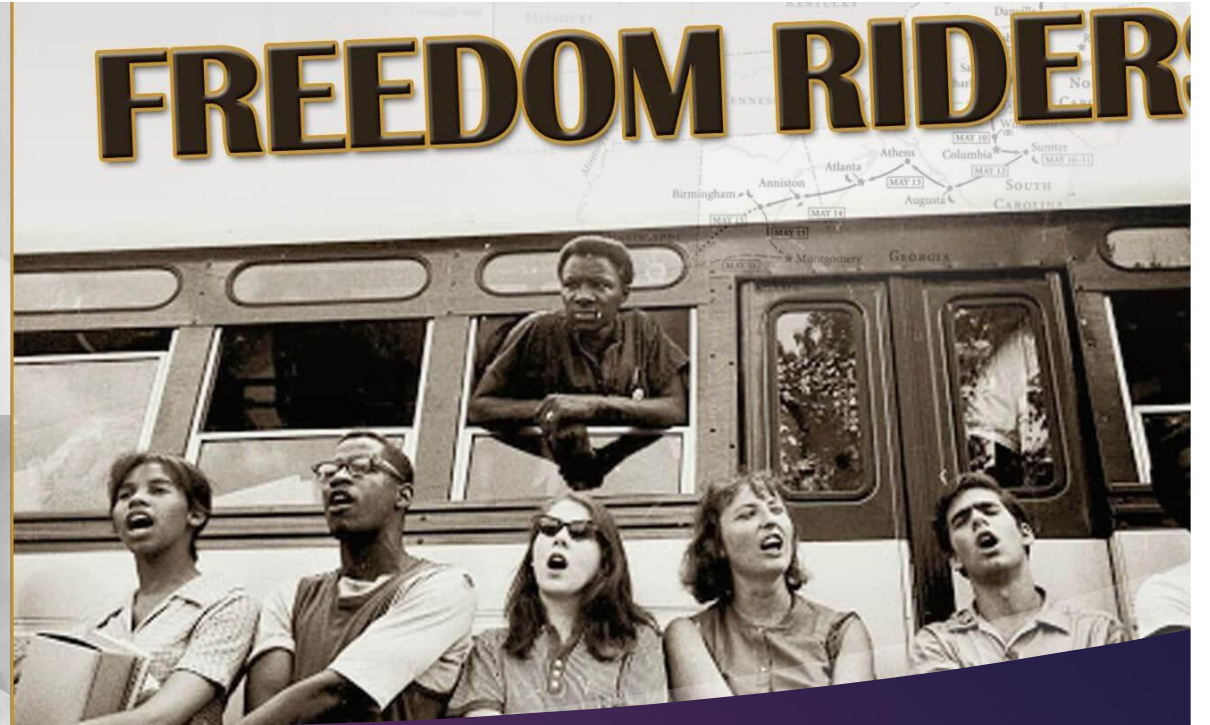
- The Sit-In Movement emerged as a powerful tool in the fight against segregation, exemplified by the actions of four African American students at a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, on February 1, 1960. Joseph McNeil, Ezell Blair Jr., David Richmond, and Franklin McCain's decision to sit-in at the whites-only counter sparked a wave of similar protests across the South.
- The movement quickly gained momentum as news of the Greensboro sit-ins spread, with students in other cities joining in solidarity. Within a week, over 300 students were participating in sit-ins at various establishments.
- Notable figures like Jesse Jackson, a student leader at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College, recognized the power of the sit-ins as a means to enact change and address the slow pace of desegregation.
- Despite facing violence and harassment from counter-protestors, the sit-in participants remained committed to nonviolence, garnering national attention and support for their cause.



SNCC Formation

- The formation of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) marked a significant development in the civil rights movement. Ella Baker, a prominent civil rights activist, played a crucial role in convening student leaders from various states for a conference at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, in April 1960.
- At the conference, Baker emphasized the importance of young people organizing and directing their own efforts, leading to the establishment of SNCC as an independent organization separate from established civil rights groups like the NAACP and SCLC.
- SNCC quickly became a driving force in the fight against segregation and voter disenfranchisement, with leaders like Marion Barry and John Lewis mobilizing college students across the South to participate in direct action campaigns.
- The organization's commitment to grassroots organizing and nonviolent resistance made it a formidable presence in the civil rights movement, contributing to significant victories in desegregation efforts and voter registration drives.





Freedom Riders

- The Freedom Riders embarked on a daring journey to challenge segregated interstate bus travel in 1961, inspired by the Supreme Court's rulings outlawing segregation in public transportation.
- Led by CORE leader James Farmer, the first Freedom Riders encountered violent opposition in Anniston, Birmingham, and Montgomery, Alabama, where they faced attacks from white mobs and complicit local authorities.
- Despite the danger, the Freedom Riders remained steadfast in their commitment to nonviolent protest, drawing attention to the persistent defiance of desegregation laws in the South.
- The violence against the Freedom Riders prompted President Kennedy to take action, ultimately leading to federal intervention and the enforcement of desegregation regulations in interstate travel.

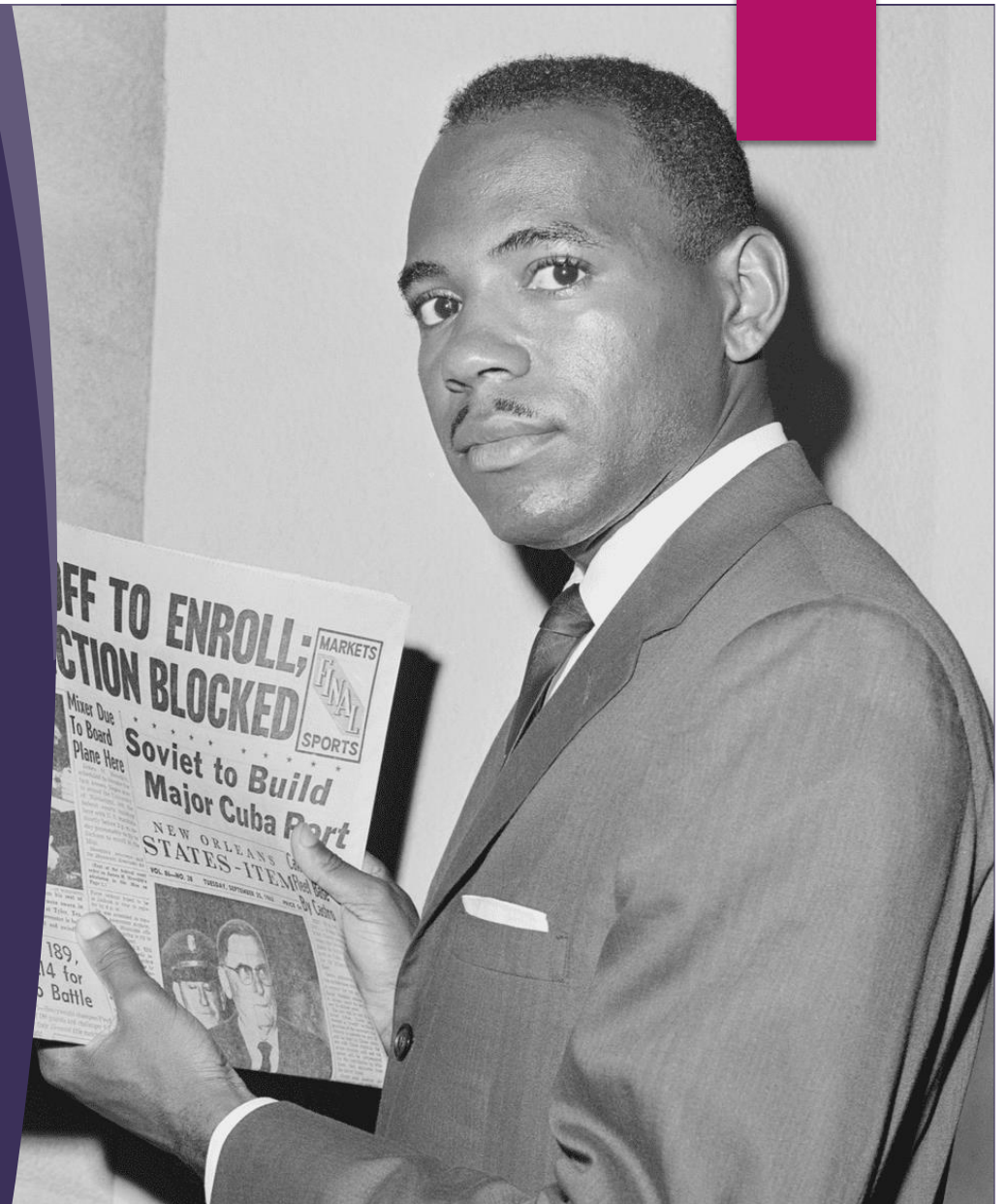


Kennedy and Civil Rights

- President Kennedy's approach to civil rights was initially cautious, reflecting political considerations and concerns about alienating Southern lawmakers crucial to his legislative agenda.
- Despite his campaign promises to support civil rights, Kennedy's response to escalating violence in the South, particularly in Birmingham, was slow and measured.
- However, the events in Birmingham and the persistence of civil rights activists compelled Kennedy to reassess his stance, leading to his public endorsement of a comprehensive civil rights bill.
- Kennedy's assassination in November 1963 shifted the focus to his successor, Lyndon B. Johnson, who would ultimately champion the Civil Rights Act of 1964 through Congress.

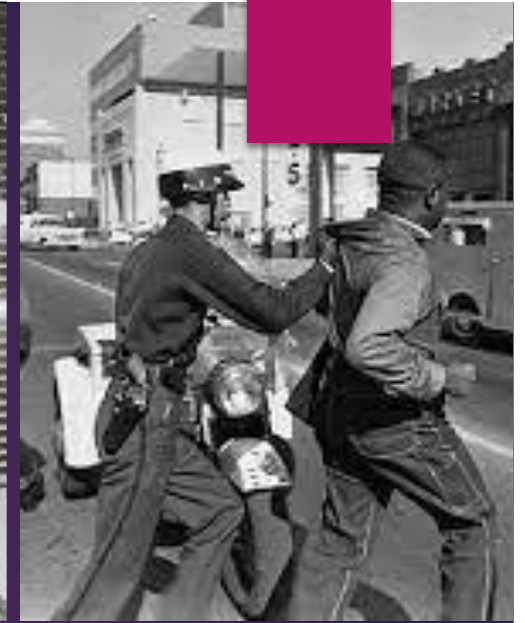
James Meredith

- James Meredith's attempt to integrate the University of Mississippi in 1962 highlighted the deep-seated resistance to desegregation in the South.
- Despite obtaining a court order directing the university to admit him, Meredith faced staunch opposition from Governor Ross Barnett, who famously declared, "Never! We will never surrender to the evil and illegal forces of tyranny."
- President Kennedy's decision to intervene and send federal marshals to escort Meredith to campus sparked violent clashes, including a full-scale riot that left scores injured.
- Meredith's persistence and the federal government's intervention ultimately resulted in his enrollment at the university, albeit under heavy guard.



Violence in Birmingham

- Martin Luther King Jr.'s decision to stage protests in Birmingham in 1963 aimed to provoke a response from local authorities and compel federal action on civil rights.
- Public Safety Commissioner Bull Connor's brutal tactics, including the use of police dogs and high-pressure fire hoses against peaceful demonstrators, shocked the nation and galvanized support for civil rights legislation.
- King's imprisonment and subsequent writing of the "Letter From a Birmingham Jail" underscored the moral imperative behind the civil rights movement and challenged the notion of "waiting" for justice.
- The televised images of police brutality in Birmingham prompted President Kennedy to accelerate efforts to pass a comprehensive civil rights bill, laying the groundwork for the Civil Rights Act of 1964.



The Civil Rights Act of 1964

- ▶ President Kennedy's assassination in November 1963 provided momentum for the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 under his successor, Lyndon B. Johnson.
- ▶ The legislation, signed into law on July 2, 1964, by President Johnson, represented a landmark achievement in the struggle for civil rights by outlawing discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
- ▶ Key provisions of the Civil Rights Act included the desegregation of public accommodations, the prohibition of discrimination in employment practices, and the establishment of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to enforce the law.
- ▶ The passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 marked a significant victory for the civil rights movement and paved the way for further legislative efforts to address racial inequality in the United States.



A photograph showing a group of people, including men, women, and children, marching down a residential street. Many of the participants are holding large American flags. The scene is set in a neighborhood with houses and trees in the background. The image has a dark purple overlay. A solid magenta rectangle is located in the top right corner of the slide.

The End