

NATION: JFK and the New Frontier**U.S., Russia Ban Nuclear Testing:
Near Wars in Berlin and Cuba Force Action**

Washington, D.C., 1963

The U.S. and Russia have signed a nuclear test-ban treaty. They promise not to test any more nuclear weapons above the ground.

Both the U.S. and Russia have been building up nuclear weapons since 1961. But both countries fear war with nuclear weapons. And trouble in Berlin and Cuba

almost started two wars. Here's what happened:

IN BERLIN: Berlin Wall, 1961

■ Russia builds a wall between East and West Berlin to keep people in East Berlin from running away to West Berlin.

■ U.S. lets the wall stand instead of fighting Russia to take it down.

IN CUBA, 1961-1962

BAY OF PIGS—U.S. tries to overthrow Cuba's dictator Castro and his Communist government by invading Bay of Pigs, Cuba. Castro wins.

CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS—Castro gets large numbers of missiles and nuclear weapons from Russia. But American U-2 spy planes spot them aimed at the U.S.

■ U.S. blockades Cuba instead of fighting. No Russian ships with war supplies can get to Cuba.

■ A trade is made. Russian Premier Khrushchev will take all missiles and nuclear weapons out of Cuba. President Kennedy will take U.S. missiles out of Turkey.

**John F. Kennedy Asks Americans to Conquer a New Frontier**

Washington, D.C., 1961

President John F. Kennedy [JFK] knows the U.S. has problems—too few jobs, racism, low farm prices, poverty. But he tells Americans to think of these problems as a **New Frontier**. He asks them to use the same energy in solving the problems as pioneers used in settling frontier land.

The government already is working to solve some problems. New laws set aside money to help people without jobs or homes. The money goes to:

- Workers so they can retrain for different jobs.
- Businesses so they can stay open and grow.
- Poorer people for homes.

■ Hospitals and nursing homes to build new places for the sick and old.

JFK also is trying to get Congress to pass a civil rights law. This law will give government power to see that blacks get fair treatment.

Civil Rights Movement Under JFK

WHAT IT IS: Americans working to get for blacks the same rights whites have.

IN CHARGE: Robert Kennedy, Attorney General for his brother JFK.

WHAT HE DID:

- Put more blacks in government jobs.
- Worked to integrate buses, trains, and airplanes.

Peace Corps:

STARTED: 1961 by JFK

WHAT IT IS: A government agency to help people in other lands around the world.

WHAT IT DOES: Sends American volunteers to poor countries.

WHY: To teach them how to grow more crops and how to take care of their health.

Alliance for Progress

STARTED: 1961 by JFK

WHAT IT IS: A 10-year plan to help countries south of the U.S.

WHAT IT DOES: Gives money to Latin American countries.

WHY: To make life better for the many poor people.

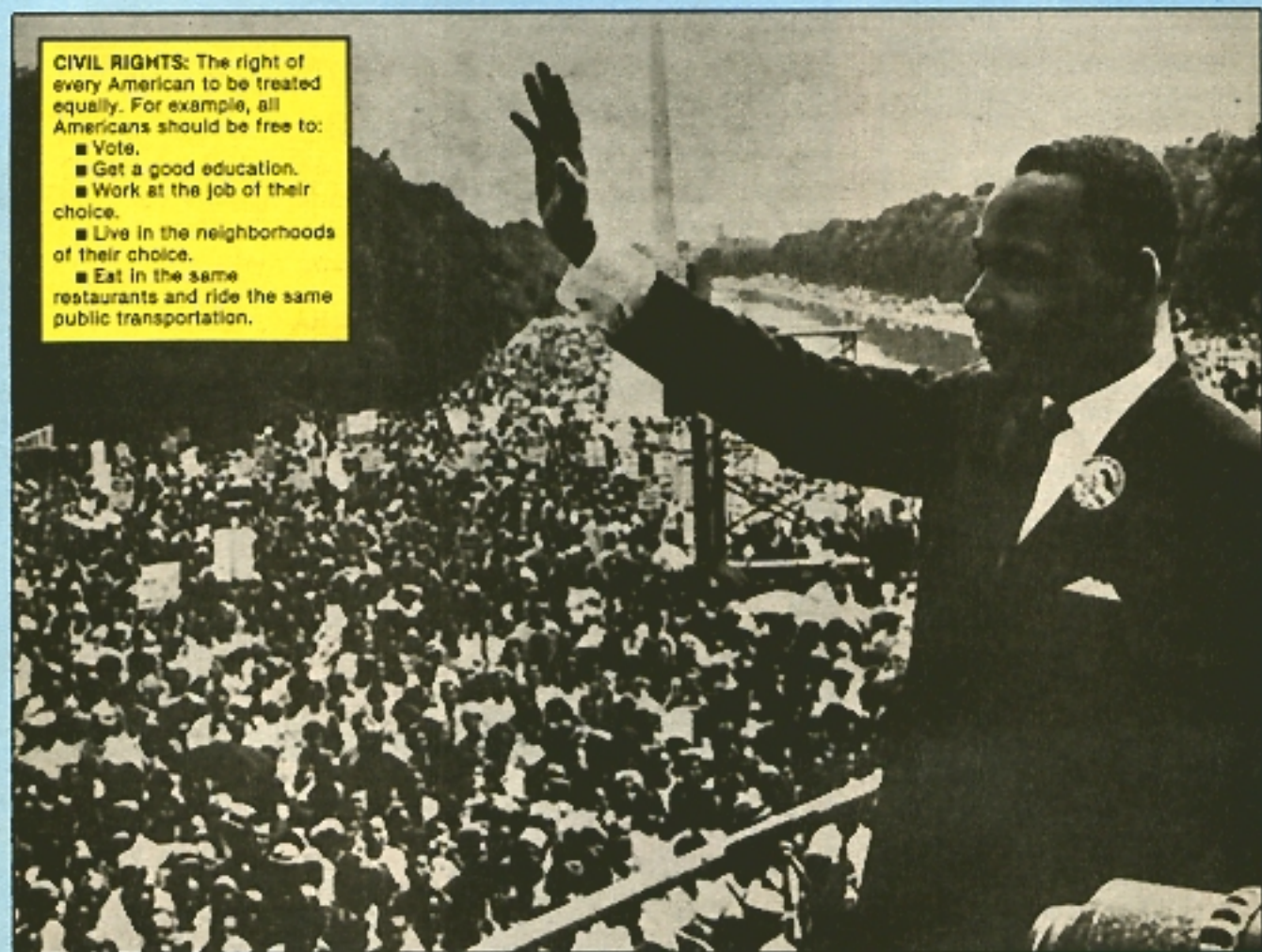
IMPORTANCE: Gives people in Latin American countries less reason to turn to the Communists.

NATION: Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Speaks to Civil Rights Marchers in Washington, D.C.—Thousands Gather to Show Support for Civil Rights

CIVIL RIGHTS: The right of every American to be treated equally. For example, all Americans should be free to:

- Vote.
- Get a good education.
- Work at the job of their choice.
- Live in the neighborhoods of their choice.
- Eat in the same restaurants and ride the same public transportation.



Washington, D.C., August 28, 1963—Rich and poor, Northerners and Southerners, blacks and whites—all marched together to show their support for civil rights and equality for all people. "I have a dream," Martin Luther King Jr. told the crowd.

Civil Rights Supporters March on Washington

QUOTELINE:

"I have a dream... 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..."

M.L.K., 1963

Washington, D.C.,
August 28, 1963

Thousands of people, black and white, came to Washington today. All of these Americans are showing the government they want civil rights for blacks—and they want action soon.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., led the march. In his "I Have a Dream" speech, he gave the marchers the faith and hope to keep working for civil rights.

Dr. King got the march together to wake up lawmakers. He thinks lawmakers will want to pass civil rights laws when they see so many voters asking for these laws.

New laws are needed to give blacks their civil rights, King believes. He has been leading blacks in nonviolent protest marches and boycotts since 1955.

NATION: Civil Rights Movement**1896****PLESSY VS. FERGUSON**

The Supreme Court rules "separate but equal" is OK.

Homer Plessy, a black man, takes a seat in a whites-only railroad car. Police arrest him.

His case goes all the way to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court rules against blacks and for "Jim Crow" laws. "Jim Crow" laws say facilities for blacks and whites should be separate. Many Americans believe the Supreme Court ruling OKs:

- **Discrimination**—treating a group differently (and often worse) because that group is not thought well of.

- **Racism**—the belief that one race of people is better than another.

- **Prejudice**—liking or disliking something without a good reason.

1954**BROWN VS. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF TOPEKA, KANSAS.**

The Supreme Court strikes down the "separate but equal" rule.

Oliver Brown, a black railroad worker, takes his daughter to a white elementary school. But the school will not take her. Mr. Brown sues the Topeka Board of Education.

The Supreme Court says that **segregation** [keeping people of different races apart] in public schools is unconstitutional. It says that separate is *not* equal.

This ruling opens the way to stop all forms of segregation.

A Quick Look Back at the Civil Rights Movement**1954-1963****(With a step back to Plessy vs. Ferguson in 1896)**

Here it is—a look back at the Civil Rights Movement. When did it start? Who is making it happen? What are the biggest changes?

**1955**

- The Supreme Court orders school integration.

- **School integration** means that schools must let black and white students go to school together.

- **School busing** means that blacks and whites may be carried from one school to another in buses so all schools can have both black and white students.

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, BUS BOYCOTT

Rosa Parks, a black woman, sits in a white-only part of a city bus. Police arrest her.

Hearing about Mrs. Parks' arrest, blacks boycott [will not ride] the city buses.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a church minister, leads the bus boycott. For over a year, blacks walk instead of riding buses. Finally, Montgomery buses are desegregated.



NATION: Civil Rights Movement

1956

The Supreme Court rules that segregated seats on buses are against the law.



Dr. King rides on the first desegregated bus in Montgomery. During the Montgomery boycott, Dr. King becomes known across the U.S. as a strong leader of blacks in their drive for civil rights.

1957

Little Rock, Arkansas, Schools Integrate.

Nine black students go to high school in Little Rock, Arkansas. Arkansas governor Orval Faubus calls out the National Guard [state army] to stop violence at the school.

President Eisenhower then sends U.S. soldiers to Little Rock. The black students stay in the white school.



CONGRESS PASSES THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1957.



This law sets up the **Commission on Civil Rights** to check into claims that blacks are not allowed to vote.

1960

CONGRESS PASSES THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1960.

This law lets the federal government send officers to voting places. These federal officers will make sure blacks are being allowed to vote.

The 15th Amendment gave blacks the right to vote. But many Southern states have laws to keep blacks from voting. For example:

- A law saying everyone must pay a poll tax [money] before voting. Many blacks are too poor to pay the poll tax. They cannot vote.

- A law saying everyone must pass a literacy [reading] test before voting. Many blacks cannot pass this test, so they cannot vote.



GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA, SIT-IN.

Four black college students sit down at a whites-only lunch counter. The waitress will not serve them coffee, but they sit there until the store closes. This kind of protest against segregation is called a sit-in [taking up seats or space in a public place].

The Greensboro sit-in has caught on across the U.S. Blacks and whites are having sit-ins, wade-ins (in segregated swimming pools), and kneel-ins (in churches). Slowly, these protests are working. Public places are opening up to black people.

Dr. King wants blacks to work for civil rights by using this kind of **nonviolent civil disobedience** [peaceful demonstrations]. He asks

blacks to get their point across with marches, boycotts, and sit-ins instead of violence.

1961

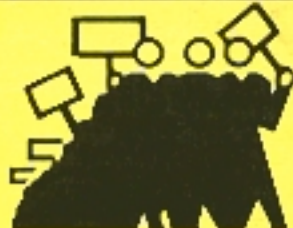
FREEDOM RIDERS

The Congress on Racial Equality (CORE) is a civil rights group made up of blacks and whites. CORE believes in direct action (for example, protest marches and sit-ins). They are taking direct action to prove that buses in the South are still segregated.

CORE organized a freedom ride through Alabama and Mississippi. Hundreds of blacks and whites are riding buses through these states. The blacks and whites are sitting together on the buses. To prove sitting together is against the law in the South, they want to be arrested. And police are arresting the freedom riders. Hundreds have been in jail for a month in Mississippi.

The direct action of the freedom riders has gotten results. The federal government promises to enforce integration laws.

1963



Civil rights supporters join a protest march to Washington, D.C., while millions watch on television.

Speaking to them all, Dr. Martin Luther King gives Americans a goal—blacks and whites living together as brothers.