

The early 1950s: Blacks treated as second class citizens.

Segregation and discrimination were common.

Discrimination and violence in the Southern states: Jim Crow Laws used to segregate black/whites. Government policy: 'separate but equal'. Blacks were inferior and had segregated public facilities/services.

Voting rights: White gangs intimidated blacks from voting. Southern states passed laws that made it harder for blacks to vote – e.g. literacy tests for black people.

NAACP: National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, set up in 1909. Fought for civil rights.

CORE: Congress for Racial Equality, set up in 1942. Members used non-violent direct action as way to get message across.

Opposition to civil rights: the KKK and violence: Racist.

Activities of the KKK: Wanted to stop equality and operated in Southern States, terrorised black people, lynching's were common. Secret society with law enforcement officials sympathetic to KKK aims, this made it hard to prosecute KKK.

The murder of Emmett Till 1955: 14 year old black person murdered. Buried with open casket to raise profile in media. Trial held but accused were acquitted at trial.

No justice of Emmett Till: Black people continued to be murdered and killers were rarely convicted. Media reported incidents + spurred on the Civil Rights Movement on further.

Education

Brown v. Topeka, 1954: NAACP vs government.

Key features of Brown V. Topeka: Brown refused entry into school and took case to Supreme Court and won.

Short-term significance: White backlash and KKK saw membership go up, Black students/teachers saw hostility + Southern States avoided changes to rules.

Long-term significance: Raised awareness of Civil Rights issues in Southern States. Rulings were an inspiration for other desegregation campaigns. White Americans moved out where black American lived to avoid changes in relation to segregation.

Little Rock High School, 1957: Nine black students attended desegregated high school but treated badly by school.

The 'Little Rock Nine': Black students enrol at school but families intimidated. 9 students planned to register.

Governor Orval Faubus: State governor opposed school integration. Closed down all schools but forced to re-open schools after from pressure from parents.

Events at Little Rock, 1957: Black students attempt to enter school but refused. NAACP took up case and involved media.

Presidential intervention: Eisenhower forced to act and sent Federal troops to protect black students in school.

Significance of events at Little Rock: Events shown on TV, Southern States shut schools than desegregate.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1966 – causes of the boycott: Bus company discriminated against black people. Requests to stop the bus from black people were ignored. 1st December, Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat. Parks arrested.

Events of the boycott, 1955-56: Blacks boycott buses, led by MLK, and organised car pools and used taxi's. Boycott continued despite MLK's house being bombed.

Significance of Rosa Parks: Non-violent direct action worked, Parks experienced in campaigns for equality. Parks was secretary of Montgomery NAACP.

Importance of boycott: Important in fight for equality.

Reasons for the boycott's success: Well organised, committed to being successful, well publicised and the bus company hit financial which forced them to change rules.

Supreme Court ruling: NAACP fought case. 5th June, Supreme Court ruled that segregation on buses was illegal. Bus company challenge this but lost. Buses then desegregated.

Martin Luther King (MLK): Believed in non-violence.

Southern Christian Leadership (SCLC): Set up 1957, led by MLK. Used non-violent direct action.

1957 Civil rights Act: x = obstruct voter registration.

Keywords	
Segregation	Separating groups according to their race.
Discrimination	Unfair treatment of an individual based on their gender, race or regions beliefs.
Jim Crow Laws	Unofficial rules discriminating against blacks.
CORE	Congress of Racial Equality – used tactics such as sit-ins to promote issues.
NAACP	National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People.
White Citizens Council	Group of white people who worked to maintain segregation.
Lynching	Black people being hanged by KKK.
Acquitted	Released of charges
KKK	Ku Klux Klan – secret society of white people in the American south who believed in white supremacy.

Radical Action

1946 – Malcolm X is imprisoned Whilst there he joins the Nation of Islam. When he was released he became an NOI minister and then its spokesman.

1964 –Malcolm X leaves the NOI and sets up his own religious organization. The NOI threaten. He became more willing to consider integration and accept white help.

21st Feb 1965– Malcolm X is assassinated by 3 members of the Nation of Islam. Over 15, 000 people attended his funeral the following day.

1965 – Riots in Watts region of LA. This was set off by police violence while arresting a young black man but was also linked to ghetto conditions.

May 1966 – Stokely Carmichael is elected chairman of SNCC. He brought more people who believed in Black Power into SNCC and so it became more radical.

June 1966 – James Meredith led the March Against Fear through Mississippi protesting against violence black Americans in the South faced. Meredith was shot and Martin Luther King replaced him.

October 1966 – Huey P Newton and Bobby Seale set up the Black Panthers. They believed white officials and police were not supporting black communities. They were willing to work with white people who shared their beliefs. They provided them with medical clinics, ran breakfast clubs and ran courses.

1968 - Kerner Report is published. It concluded that the riots were a result of ghetto conditions and the police needed to change the way they reacted to young black men. It was decided money should be given to improve conditions in the ghettos.

4 April 1968 – Martin Luther King is assassinated. At the time he was planning a Poor People’s Campaign on behalf of all the poor, not just poor black people. Widespread riots followed his death.

1968 – Mexico Olympics sees Tommie Smith and John Carlos protest when accepting their medals. They received a negative response.

1969 – SNCC changed the N in its name from ‘non violent’ to ‘national’. The group lost almost all of its original members.

1969 – Richard Nixon becomes President. In his campaign he spoke up for civil rights but also realised he needed to keep the Southern vote. He used affirmative action.

1970 – **Voting Rights Act** was revised to ban state literacy tests.

1 Feb 1960 – Beginning of Greensboro sit in at Woolworth’s lunch counter. Hundreds of young black and white people eventually took part

15 April 1960 – SNCC is set up with the aim of using non violent protest to campaign for civil rights. Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee. It built on the principles of CORE and Martin Luther King. This included demonstrating peacefully and not reacting to violence.

4 May 1961 – ‘Freedom Riders’ left Washington to test if desegregation was happening. In total there were over 60 Freedom Rides

15 May 1961 – One of the buses reaches Anniston, Alabama and is surrounded by KKK members. Passengers were injured and the bus blew up.

1 Nov 1960 – The federal government declared that federal officers would enforce desegregation if the states did not obey.

1st Oct 1962 – James Meredith registers at the University of Mississippi. He has to be guarded for the whole year to graduate.

2nd April 1963 – Campaign C is begun to end segregation in Birmingham, Alabama

2nd May 1963 – 6000 students marched to replace the adults, including Martin Luther King, that had been imprisoned. With more people marching Bull Connor ordered increased violence on the protestors e.g dogs and fire hoses

28 August 1963 – Over 250,000 people attended the March on Washington. At the time this was the largest political gathering in US history. King delivered his ‘I have a dream’ speech.

22 Nov 1963 – Kennedy is assassinated and is replaced by Johnson. Johnson has good relations with the Dixiecrats. He argued the Civil Rights Act was an appropriate way to remember Kennedy.

1964 – Freedom Summer – SNCC and CORE members went to Mississippi to encourage voter registration. The KKK responded with violence and intimidation. Bodies of CORE workers were found, having been shot, whilst part of the Freedom Summer.

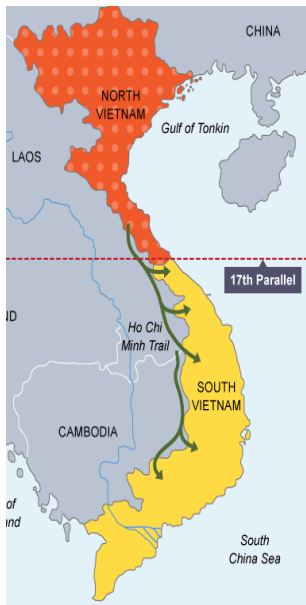
2nd July 1964 – **Civil Rights Act** Made some changes in theory e.g banned job discrimination, but there was still the problem of enforcing laws in Southern states

March 1965 – Protestors march from Selma to Montgomery. They were stopped on a bridge with the police firing tear gas and using cattle prods. Johnson had to send in the national guard to escort them to Montgomery.

6 August 1965 – **Voting Rights Act** Federal officials were to run voter registration where less than 50% of those qualified had registered to vote.

Key Information

The Vietnam War started out as a Civil War after the country was split in half by the 17th parallel. With a strong communist leader in the north, and a weak anti-communist leader in the south, the United States were swept up into the war providing money, artillery, transport and troops. They were determined to contain communism in the north and not lose against their Russian enemies.



KEY DATES

- 1954** – Battle of Dien Bien Phu, Geneva Accord
- 1956** – Diem refuses to hold election to determine decision
- 1959** – Ho Chi Minh trail is used to supply the Vietcong in the south
- 1962** – Strategic Hamlet Programme
- 1963** – Quang Duc Demonstration
- 1964** – Gulf of Tonkin Resolution
- 1965** – Campaign Rolling Thunder
- 1968** – Tet Offensive
- 1969** – Nixon Doctrine, Vietnamisation, peace talks begin
- 1971** – Expansion of war into Laos
- 1972** – Expansion of war into Cambodia
- 1973** – Paris Peace Accord
- 1975** – Fall of Saigon, Vietnam reunited



Events during each Presidency

Eisenhower 1953 - 61	Kennedy 1961 - 63	Johnson 1963 - 69	Nixon 1969 - 74
Eisenhower oversaw the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu and tried to deal with the aftermath of the Geneva Accord in 1954. Knowing the Ngo Dinh Diem was a weak leader for South Vietnam, Eisenhower sent funds and advisors to try bolster Diem's leadership and army (ARVN). Tensions between south and north worsened with the VC threat and increasing use of the Ho Chi Minh trail to arm communist guerillas in the south.	JFK oversaw the increased involvement of the US in Vietnam. Although still contained to a limited war, JFK sent further advisors, funds and transport, as well as herbicides to destroy the Ho Chi Minh Trail. JFK also worked with Diem to contain VC infiltration by introducing the Strategic Hamlet Programme. However with Diem alienating the majority of his people, including the Buddhists, he was assassinated in 1963 leaving a power vacuum in the South.	Johnson inherited the presidency upon the assassination of JFK, 3 weeks after Diem. As Johnson was facing an election the following year, he needed to look tough on communism. The Gulf of Tonkin Incident in 1964 gave the chance for the US to send soldiers to Vietnam. The war raged on for another 4 year with the US believing it will be an easy win. The Tet Offensive in 1968 showed otherwise and Johnson felt that he was unable to stand for Presidency.	Nixon was probably the most known for his hard views on communism, however he realised that peace was urgently needed as anti-war protests and opposition was quickly growing. His speech outlining the Nixon Doctrine, introduced Vietnamisation in hope of strengthening the ARVN whilst pulling out US troops. This was implemented poorly which led to the final defeat of South Vietnam. By 1975, despite the Peace Agreement, the South fell.

1000's

1100's

1200's

1300's

1400's

1500's

1600's

1700's

1800's

1900's