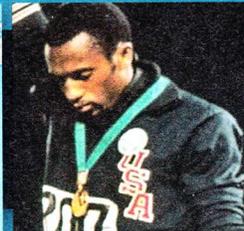


There's More Online!

- ✓ BIOGRAPHY Stokely Carmichael
- ✓ BIOGRAPHY Bobby Seale
- ✓ BIOGRAPHY Malcolm X
- ✓ IMAGE Black Power
- ✓ PRIMARY SOURCE Watts Riot
- ✓ VIDEO New Civil Rights Issues
- ✓ INTERACTIVE SELF-CHECK QUIZ



LESSON 3

New Civil Rights Issues

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS • Why do you think the civil rights movement made gains in postwar America? • What motivates a society to make changes?

Reading HELPDESK



Academic Vocabulary

- enforcement

Content Vocabulary

- racism
- black power

TAKING NOTES:

Key Ideas and Details

Organizing As you read, use the following graphic organizer to list major violent events in the civil rights movement and their results.

Event	Result

IT MATTERS BECAUSE

By the mid-1960s, much progress had been made in the area of civil rights. However, leaders of the movement began to understand that merely winning political rights for African Americans would not completely solve their economic problems. African American leaders would continue to try to end economic inequality.

Urban Problems

GUIDING QUESTION Why did riots break out in dozens of U.S. cities in the late 1960s?

Despite the passage of civil rights laws in the 1950s and 1960s, **racism** was still common in American society. Changing the law could not change people's attitudes, nor did it end urban poverty.

In 1965 approximately 70 percent of African Americans lived in large cities. Even if African Americans had been allowed to move into white neighborhoods, many were stuck in low-paying jobs with little chance of advancement. In 1960 only 15 percent of African Americans held professional, managerial, or clerical jobs, compared to 44 percent of whites. The average income of African American families was only 55 percent of that of the average income for white families. Almost half of African Americans lived in poverty, with an unemployment rate typically twice that of whites.

Poor neighborhoods in the nation's major cities were overcrowded and dirty, leading to higher rates of illness and infant mortality. Juvenile delinquency rates rose, as did the rate of young people dropping out of school. Complicating matters even more was a rise in the number of single-parent households.

The Watts Riot

Just five days after President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act, a riot erupted in Watts, an African American neighborhood in Los Angeles. Allegations of police brutality served as the catalyst for this uprising. It lasted for six days and required more than 14,000 members of the National Guard and 1,500 law officers to restore

order. Riots broke out in dozens of other American cities between 1964 and 1968. In Detroit, burning, looting, and conflicts with police and the National Guard resulted in 43 deaths and more than 1,000 wounded in 1967. Property loss was estimated at almost \$200 million.

racism prejudice or discrimination against a person because of his or her race

The Kerner Commission

In the same year, President Johnson appointed the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders—headed by Governor Otto Kerner of Illinois—to study the causes of the urban riots and to make recommendations. The Kerner Commission, as it became known, blamed racism for most inner-city problems. “Our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white—separate and unequal,” it concluded. The commission recommended the creation of inner-city jobs and the construction of new public housing, but with the spending for the Vietnam War, Johnson never endorsed the recommendations of the commission.

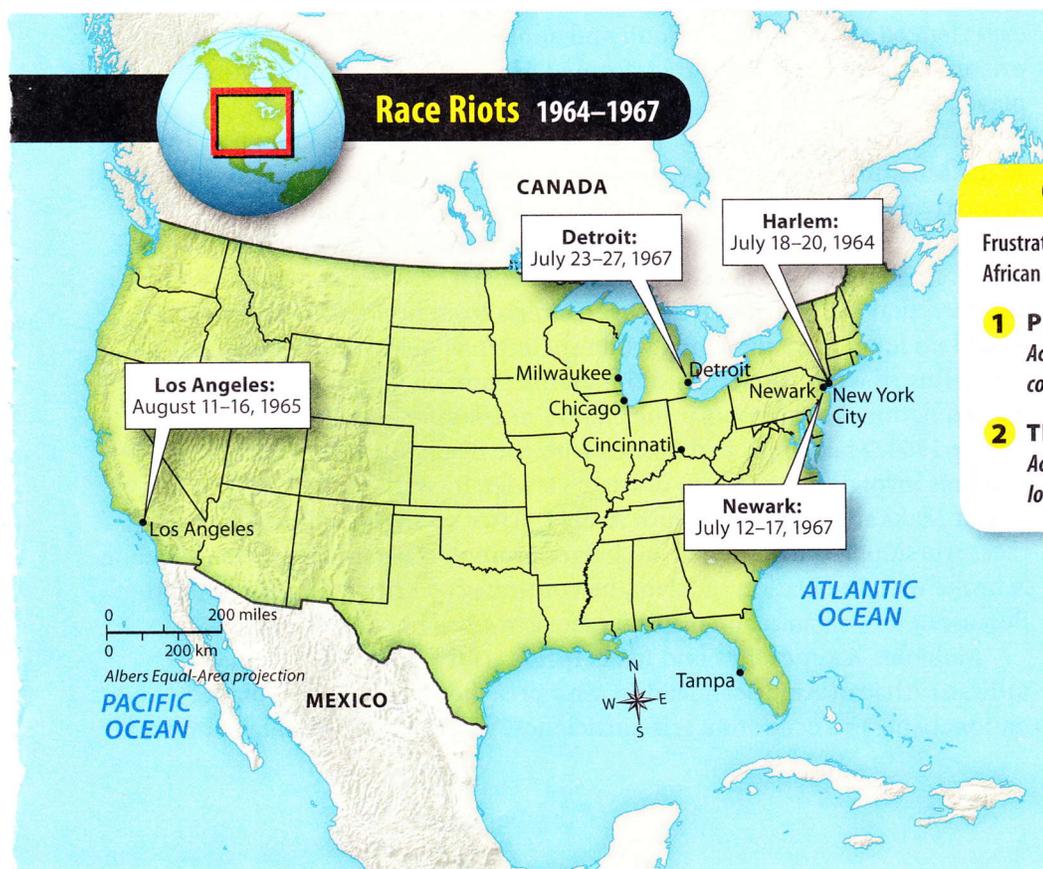
The Shift to Economic Rights

In the mid-1960s, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., decided to focus on the economic problems that African Americans faced. To call attention to deplorable housing conditions, Dr. King and his wife Coretta moved into a slum apartment in an African American neighborhood in Chicago. He and the SCLC hoped to improve the economic status of African Americans in poor neighborhoods.

The Chicago Movement, however, made little headway. When Dr. King led a march through the all-white suburb of Marquette Park to demonstrate the need for open housing, he was met by angry white mobs more hostile than those in Birmingham and Selma. Mayor Richard J. Daley met with Dr. King and discussed a new program to clean up the slums. Associations of realtors and bankers also agreed to promote open housing. In theory, mortgages and rental property would be available to everyone, regardless of race. In practice, little changed.

READING PROGRESS CHECK

Identifying In what way did poverty contribute to the racial divide?



GEOGRAPHY CONNECTION

Frustration and anger led to rioting in several African American communities during the 1960s.

- PLACES AND REGIONS**
According to the map, riots were most common in which part of the country?
- THE WORLD IN SPATIAL TERMS**
According to the map, where was the location of the first riot?

Black Power

GUIDING QUESTION *Why did many young African Americans join the black power movement?*

black power the mobilization of the political and economic power of African Americans, especially to compel respect for their rights and to improve their condition

Dr. King's lack of progress in Chicago seemed to show that nonviolent protests could do little to solve economic problems. After 1965, many African Americans, especially urban young people, began to turn away from King. Some leaders called for more aggressive forms of protest. Some organizations, including CORE and SNCC, believed that African Americans alone should lead their struggle. Many young African Americans called for **black power**, a term that had many meanings. A few, including Robert F. Williams and H. Rap Brown, interpreted black power to mean that physical self-defense was acceptable.

To most, including Stokely Carmichael, the leader of SNCC in 1966, the term meant that African Americans should control the social, political, and economic direction of their struggle:

PRIMARY SOURCE

“This is the significance of black power as a slogan. For once, black people are going to use the words they want to use—not just the words whites want to hear. . . . The need for psychological equality is the reason why SNCC today believes that blacks must organize in the black community. Only black people can . . . create in the community an aroused and continuing black consciousness.”

—from “What We Want,” the *New York Review of Books*, September 1966

Black power stressed pride in the African American cultural group. It emphasized racial distinctiveness rather than adapting to the dominant culture. African Americans showed pride in their racial heritage by adopting new “Afro” hairstyles and African-style clothing. Many also took African names. Dr. King and some other leaders criticized black power as a philosophy of hopelessness and despair.

Malcolm X

By the early 1960s, a young man named Malcolm X had become a symbol of the black power movement. Born Malcolm Little in Omaha, Nebraska, he experienced a difficult childhood and adolescence. In 1946 he was sent to prison for burglary. Prison transformed Malcolm. He educated himself and played an active role in the prison debate society.

Eventually, he joined the Nation of Islam, commonly known as the Black Muslims. Despite the name, the Nation of Islam is very different from mainstream Islam. The Nation of Islam preached black nationalism. After joining the Nation of Islam, Malcolm Little changed his name to Malcolm X. The X symbolized the family name of his enslaved African ancestors. He declared that his true name had been stolen from him by slavery, and he would no longer use the name white society had given him. Malcolm X's criticisms of white society and the mainstream civil rights movement gained national attention for the Nation of Islam.

By 1964, Malcolm X had broken with the Black Muslims. Discouraged by scandals involving the Nation of Islam's leader, he went to the Muslim holy city of Makkah (Mecca) in Saudi Arabia. After seeing Muslims from many races worshipping together, he no longer promoted separatism. After Malcolm X broke with the Nation of Islam, he continued to criticize the organization. Because of this, organization members shot and killed him in February 1965.

Malcolm X's speeches and ideas influenced a new generation of militant African American leaders who preached black power, black nationalism, and economic self-sufficiency. In 1966 in Oakland, California,

Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale organized the Black Panthers. Black Panther leaders called for an end to racial oppression and for control of major institutions in the African American community, such as schools, law **enforcement**, housing, and hospitals.

✓ READING PROGRESS CHECK

Summarizing How did the black power movement lead African Americans away from Dr. King's message of nonviolent disobedience and the goal of integration?

Dr. King Is Assassinated

GUIDING QUESTION How did Martin Luther King, Jr.'s death affect the civil rights movement?

In March 1968, Dr. King went to Memphis, Tennessee, to support a strike of African American sanitation workers. At the time, the SCLC had been planning a national "Poor People's Campaign" to promote economic advancement for impoverished Americans. The purpose of this campaign was to lobby the federal government to commit billions of dollars to end poverty and unemployment in the United States. People of all races and nationalities were to converge on Washington, D.C., where they would camp out until both Congress and President Johnson agreed to pass the requested legislation to fund the proposal.

On April 4, 1968, as he stood on his hotel balcony in Memphis, Dr. King was assassinated by a sniper. In a speech the previous night, he had told a gathering at a local church, "I've been to the mountaintop. . . I've looked over. And I've seen the promised land. 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."

Dr. King's death touched off both national mourning and riots in more than 100 cities, including Washington, D.C. The Reverend Ralph Abernathy, who had served as a trusted assistant to Dr. King for many years, led the Poor People's Campaign in King's absence. However, the demonstration did not achieve any of the major objectives that either King or the SCLC had hoped it would.

In the wake of Dr. King's death, Congress did pass the Civil Rights Act of 1968. The act contained a fair-housing provision outlawing discrimination in housing sales and rentals. Although the civil rights movement generated enormous change and helped transform society, after King's death it lacked the unity of purpose and vision that he had given it.

✓ READING PROGRESS CHECK

Explaining In what way was Dr. King's "mountaintop" speech prophetic?



The assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., shocked the nation. On April 9, 1968, the country joined in sorrow to mourn his death.

► CRITICAL THINKING

Predicting Consequences How do you think the violence that erupted after Dr. King's death affected the civil rights movement?

enforcement the act of urging or carrying out by force

LESSON 3 REVIEW



Reviewing Vocabulary

1. Explaining Explain how the findings and recommendations of the Kerner Commission related to racism.

Using Your Notes

2. Assessing Use your notes on violent events during the civil rights movement to write a paragraph assessing the result of each event.

Answering the Guiding Questions

3. Identifying Why did riots break out in dozens of American cities in the late 1960s?

4. Analyzing Why did many young African Americans join the black power movement?

5. Making Connections How did Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s death affect the civil rights movement?

Writing Activity

6. INFORMATIVE/EXPLANATORY Assume the role of a reporter in the late 1960s. Suppose that you have interviewed both a follower of Dr. King and a member of the Black Panthers. Write a transcript of each interview.