

PLEASE NOTE

- The following lecture was written, designed, and organized by Dr. Hartnell for educational purposes. It aligns with the state curriculum and was meticulously researched from sources that represent an array of multicultural perspectives, beliefs, affiliations, orientations, and identities.
- All lectures and course materials are the intellectual property of Dr. Hartnell. Such content is copyright protected and may not be shared, uploaded, distributed, or sold.



DR. HARTNELL



The American Overhaul



ONE
B1G
THING

ONE
B1G
THING

ONE
B1G
THING

ONE
B1G
THING



AH
Lesson
5.12



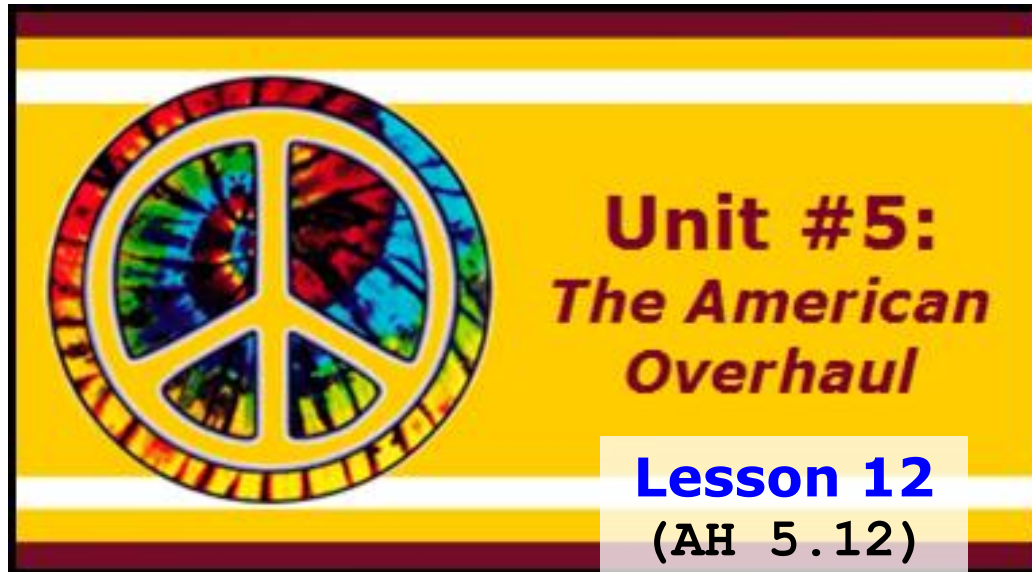
ONE
B1G
THING

ONE
B1G
THING

ONE
B1G
THING

ONE
B1G
THING

Did MLK's death "end" the CRM?



Unit #5:
The American Overhaul

Lesson 12
(AH 5.12)



B1G THING



CRB #21: *Black Power*

- **1966**: Year after X's assassination, **SNCC** chairperson **Stokely Carmichael** called for “**Black Power**”.
- Many black leaders, including MLK, were appalled by slogan.



B1G THING



Stokely Carmichael

B1G THING



Stokely Carmichael

B1G THING



CRB #21: *Black Power*

- **Oct. 1966:** 2 black college students organized **Black Panther Party** in CA to promote community service & armed **self-defense** for blacks.
- BPs became synonymous w/ “**Black Power**”.



B1G THING



Black Power

B1G THING



Black Panthers

B1G THING



Black Panthers

B1G THING



B1G THING



CRB #21: *Black Power*

- **At 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City, 2 black U.S. runners Tommie Smith (gold) & John Carlos (bronze), raised black-gloved fists during U.S. National Anthem to show support/solidarity with black people & racial injustice in world.**

B1G THING



B1G THING



CRB #21: *Black Power*

- **Smith/Carlos took off shoes & wore black socks on podium to highlight black poverty.**
- **Smith also had black scarf to represent black pride, while Carlos had necklace of beads to remember those lynched.**

B1G THING



CRB #21: *Black Power*

- For their gesture (which was widely deemed “BP” salute), Smith & Carlos suspended from Olympic team, told to return medals (never did) & fly home.
- Both received death threats & struggled to find work.

B1G THING



CRB #21: *Black Power*

- **1968:** Majority of U.S. saw them as traitors, villains & un-American.
- As decades passed, Smith careful to not refer to gesture as “BP” salute; rather, it was *“for the community and power in Black America.”*



B1G THING



CRB #21: *Black Power*

- **2008:** 40 yrs after medal ceremony, Smith & Carlos were honored w/ Arthur Ashe Award for Courage.
- **2012:** Prez Obama recognized them during White House ceremony. He said:

B1G THING



CRB #21: *Black Power*

- *“Their silent protest in the 1968 Games was controversial, but it woke folks up and created greater opportunity for those that followed.”*

- **2016:** Smith & Carlos selected as U.S. Olympic Committee ambassadors.



B1G THING

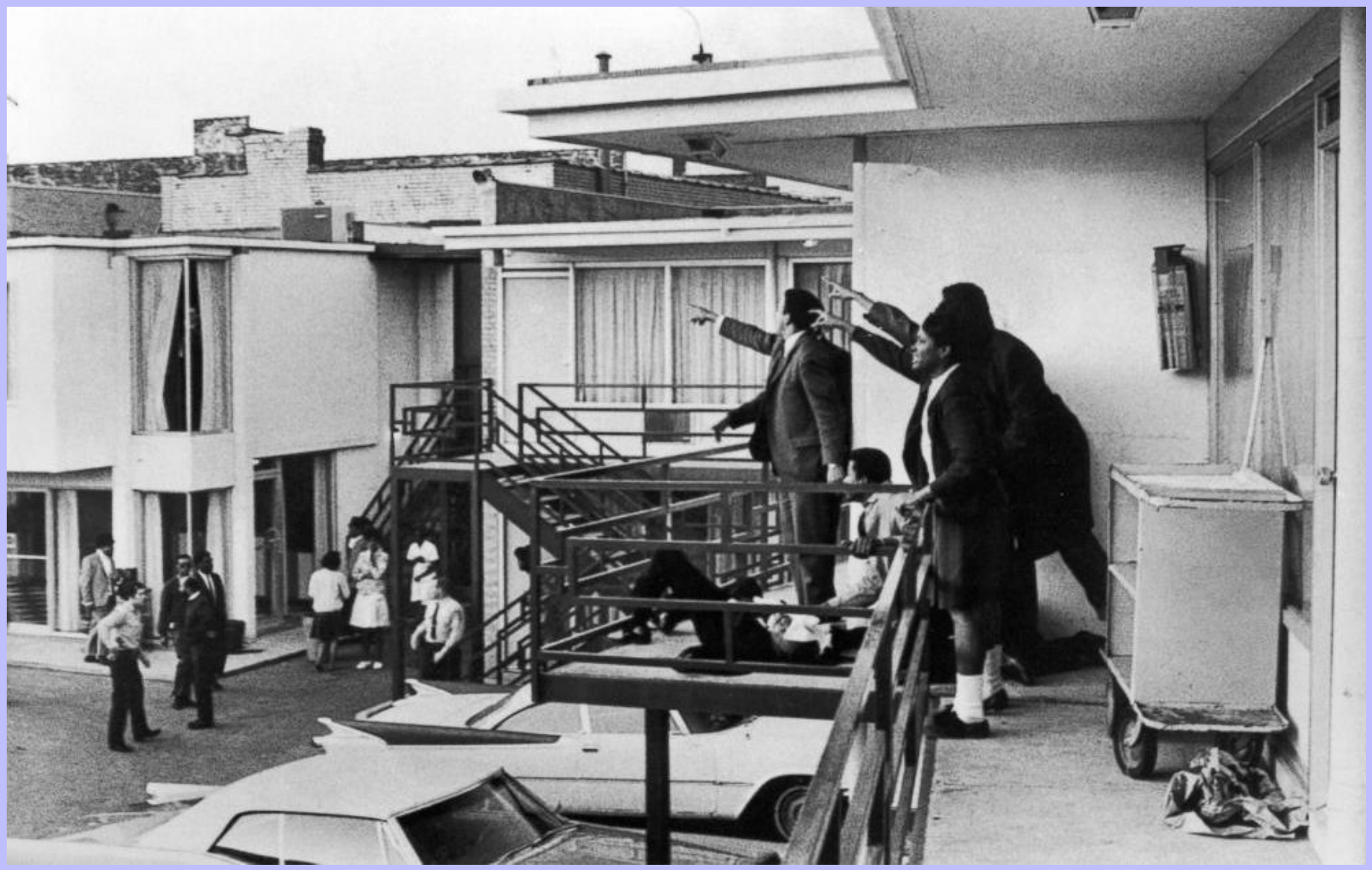


CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*

- **April 4, 1968:** At **6:01pm CST** **MLK shot in throat** on balcony of **Lorraine Motel in Memphis, TN.**
- He **died** at **7:05pm CST.**
- He **was 39.**



MLK (April 4, 1968)



MLK (April 4, 1968)



MLK (April 4, 1968)



MLK (April 4, 1968)



MLK (April 4, 1968)



MLK (April 4, 1968)



MLK (April 4, 1968)



MLK (April 4, 1968)

B1G THING

CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*



- MLK was in Memphis supporting black sanitation workers on strike for pay & working conditions.
- Day before, gave *“I’ve Been to the Mountaintop”* speech.
- MLK often stayed at Lorraine when in Memphis.



B1G THING

CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*



- **Was in Room 306** & outside talking w/ Jessie Jackson when shot rang out.



- MLK was struck in face by single **.30-06** bullet fired from Remington Model **760** rifle.



B1G THING



CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*

- Bullet entered MLK's right cheek, broke jaw & multiple vertebrae as traveled down spinal cord, severing jugular vein & major arteries in process; lodged in shoulder.
- Force of shot ripped off MLK's necktie.

B1G THING



CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*

- MLK rushed to hospital where doctors opened chest & attempted cardiopulmonary resuscitation; never regained consciousness.
- MLK's autopsy showed his heart was in condition of **60-**yr-old man (from stress).

B1G THING



CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*

- Shortly after shot fired, **witnesses saw** man, later believed to be **James Earl Ray**, fleeing from rooming house (private house where rooms are rented for living temporarily) **across street from Lorraine.**

B1G THING



B1G THING

CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*



- Police found package dumped close to rooming house site that included rifle & binoculars, both w/ Ray's fingerprints.

- Ray had purchased rifle under alias **6** days earlier.



B1G THING

CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*



- Manhunt **arrested Ray at London's Heathrow Airport 2 months later.**
- **Took guilty plea to avoid jury trial, conviction & death penalty, confessing on March 10, 1969 (but recanted 3 days later).**



The American Paper for Americans

Chicago Tribune

THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

SPORTS FINAL
★★★★

121st YEAR—No. 96 © 1968 Chicago Tribune

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1968

80 PAGES, 4 SECTIONS 10c

MARTIN LUTHER KING SLAIN

*Sniper Fells Him at Memphis Motel
Johnson Delays His Trip to Honolulu*

LBJ APPEALS
FOR CALM AND
NONVIOLENCE

Crucial Speech



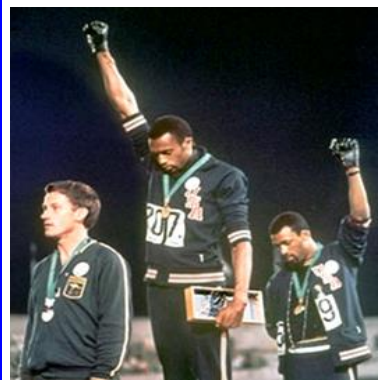
*Hit in Neck by
Bullet; Police
Hunt for Killer*

(From Tribune Wire Services)



MLK Assassination (1968)

B1G THING



WANTED BY THE FBI

**CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY
INTERSTATE FLIGHT - ROBBERY
JAMES EARL RAY**

FBI No. 405,942 G



Photographs taken 1960

Photograph taken 1968
(eyes drawn by artist)

Aliases: Eric Starvo Galt, W. C. Herron, Harvey Lowmyer, James McBride, James O'Connor, James Walton, James Walyon, John Willard, "Jim,"

DESCRIPTION

Age:	40, born March 10, 1928, at Quincy or Alton, Illinois (not supported by birth records)	Eyes:	Blue
Height:	5' 10"	Complexion:	Medium
Weight:	163 to 174 pounds	Race:	White
Build:	Medium	Nationality:	American
Hair:	Brown, possibly cut short		



MLK Assassination (1968)





MLK Assassination (1968)



B1G THING



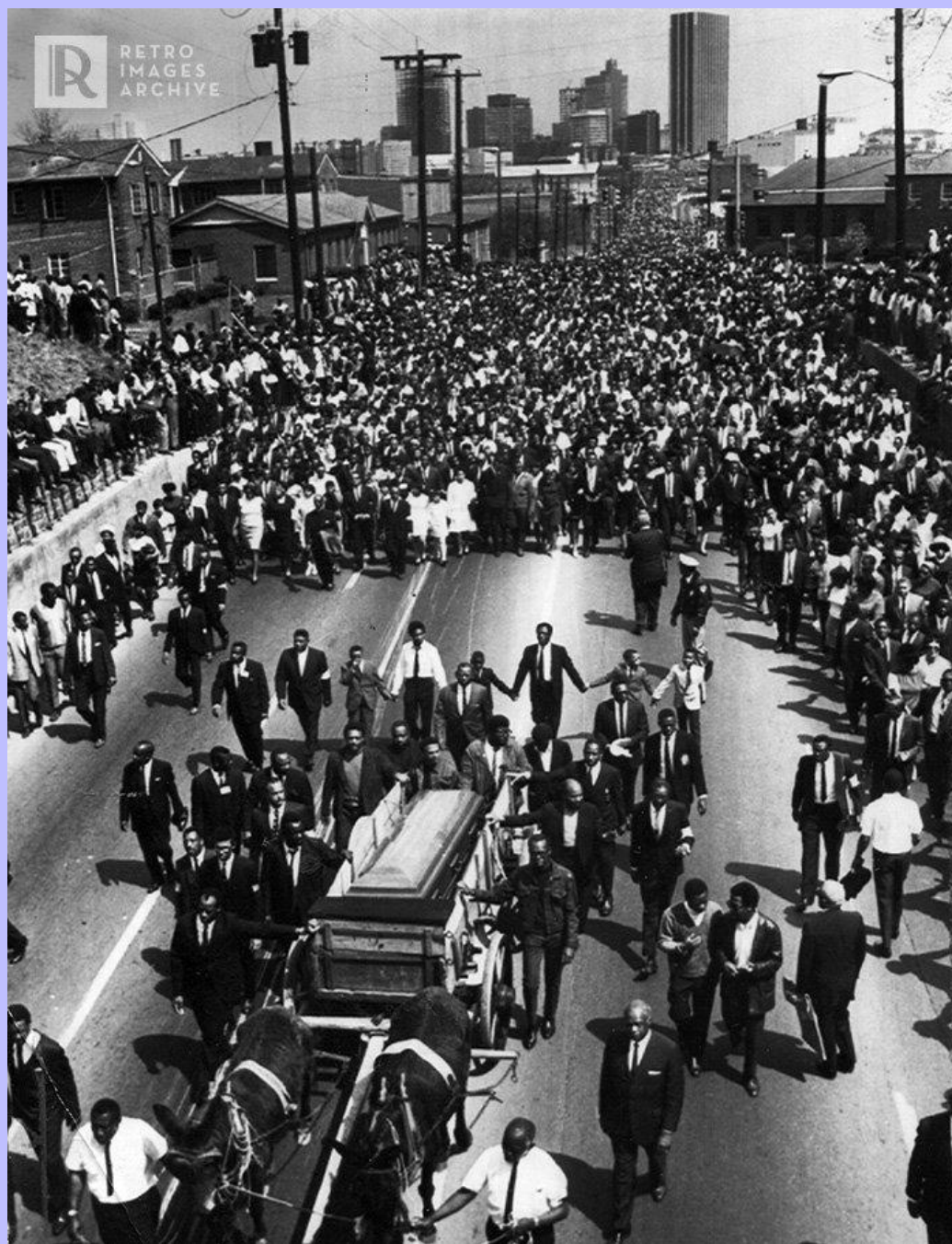
B1G THING



CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*

- **MLK's death led to wave of riots in 125+ cities.**
- **5** days after MLK's death, Prez LBJ declared national day of mourning.
- **300,000+** attended MLK's funeral (**1,500** attended X's).

B1G THING



B1G THING



MLK funeral

B1G THING



B1G THING

CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*

- *Who was James Earl Ray?*
- Ray committed variety of crimes prior to murder of MLK; **1st** conviction came in **1949** (burglary in CA) after discharge from U.S. Army for *“ineptitude & lack of adaptability”* in 1948.



B1G THING

CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*



- Ray's rap sheet (Part 1):
- **1952**: Convicted of armed robbery of taxi driver in Illinois (did **2** yrs).
- **1955**: Convicted of mail fraud after stealing **\$\$\$** orders in Missouri (did **4** yrs).

B1G THING

CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*



- Ray's rap sheet (Part 2):
- **1959**: Convicted of stealing **\$120** (**\$1,400** today) in an armed robbery of Kroger grocery store in St. Louis (sentenced to **20** yrs for repeated offenses).

B1G THING

CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*



- **1967:** Ray escaped from Missouri State Penitentiary by hiding in truck transporting bread from prison bakery.



- Stayed on move throughout U.S., Canada & Mexico; while in Mexico he filmed & photographed prostitutes.



B1G THING

CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*



- Spurned by prostitutes, he left Mexico & moved to Los Angeles where he attended bartending school.



- Was big supporter of AL Gov Wallace & Wallace's **1968** Presidential Campaign.



B1G THING

CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*



- Was drawn to Wallace's segregationist platform.
- Spent time in Los Angeles volunteering at Wallace Campaign Headquarters in North Hollywood.



B1G THING

CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*



- Considered moving to Rhodesia (Zimbabwe today), where white minority regime had assumed independence from England in **1965**.

- Rhodesia was Ray's destination after killing MLK when arrested in London.



B1G THING



CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*

- **March 18, 1968:** Ray left LA & drove to Atlanta, GA (arrived **March 24th**).
- Checked into rooming house & bought map of city (& circled churches/residences of MLK); FBI found this map when they searched his room.

B1G THING

CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*



- **March 30th**: Drove to Birmingham, AL where he bought Remington Model **760** rifle, **20** cartridges, scope (mounted to rifle).
- Told shopkeeper was going on hunting trip w/ brother – used alias of “Harvey Lowmeyer”.

B1G THING

CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*

- After buying rifle, drove back to Atlanta where read in local paper that MLK was heading to Memphis.



- Drove to Memphis & checked into rooming house near Lorraine Motel (under name “John Willard”).



B1G THING



CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*

- **April 4th**: After killing MLK, drove back to Atlanta, packed belongings & fled to Toronto (hid for **1** month under name “Ramon George Sneyd”).
- **Late May**: Flew to London, went to Portugal, then back to London.

B1G THING

CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*



- **June 8, 1968:** Arrested at Heathrow Airport attempting to leave for Rhodesia.
- As it turned out, his fake name “Sneyd” was on Canadian watch list; was extradited to Tennessee & charged with MLK’s murder.

B1G THING



CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*

- **March 10th**: Ray confessed & sentenced to **99** yrs in prison.
 - **3** days later, recanted his confession; pled guilty on advice of lawyer (Ray also thought Wallace would become Prez & let him out.)

B1G THING

CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*



- **June 10, 1977:** Ray & **6** others escaped TN prison but were recaptured **3** days later.



- **1** yr added to Ray's sentence, increasing it to **100** yrs; spent rest of his life trying to secure jury trial (died in **1998** at age **70**).



B1G THING

CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*



- **Dec. 1993: Loyd Jowers** – who owned Jim’s Grill (coffee shop on ground floor of rooming house where Ray stayed) – appeared on ABC News & **discussed** alleged **conspiracy involving Mafia & U.S. Gov to kill MLK.**



B1G THING



Loyd Jowers

B1G THING

CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*



- Jowers explained he was paid **\$100,000** (**\$1M** today) by Memphis mobster Frank Liberto (who had died prior to ABC interview) to help organize assassination of **MLK.**



B1G THING

CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*



- **Jowers said Ray was scapegoat & not responsible for killing MLK.**



- **Said he (Jowers) hired Memphis police Lieutenant Earl Clark to fire fatal shot.**



B1G THING

CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*



- **Conspirators' motive was to silence MLK due to his denuncements of Vietnam.**



- **MLK had threatened to march on D.C. w/ massive anti-war protest.**



B1G THING

CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*



- In order to further war efforts, U.S. Gov orchestrated murder & framed serial-convict Ray as assassin.
- There was truth to idea that MLK had enemies in FBI.



B1G THING

CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*



- FBI's Director J. Edgar Hoover called MLK *"the most notorious liar in the country"*.



- MLK had been under FBI surveillance since Montgomery Bus Boycott.



B1G THING

CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*



- FBI stalked MLK & those closest to him in effort to “smear” CRM; started wire-tapping his phones in **1963**.



- Ugly reach of that campaign by FBI has become clearer over yrs.



B1G THING

CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*

- MLK was married & had **4** children:
 - Yolanda (passed **2007**)
 - MLK III
 - Dexter (passed **2024**)
 - Bernice



B1G THING

CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*



- **1997: MLK's son Dexter met w/ Ray to support efforts for Ray to obtain jury trial.**



- **When efforts failed, King Family filed case against Jowers.**



B1G THING



Dexter King meets Ray

B1G THING



Dexter King meets Ray

B1G THING



CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*

- **1999**: King Family filed civil suit that Jowers & others had conspired to kill MLK.
- Wrongful-death lawsuit was for **\$10M** (**\$20M** today) but asked jury for damages of only **\$100** (**\$200** today) since was *“not about the money”*.

B1G THING



CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*

- During **4-week** trial, **70+** witnesses called & **thousands** of documents came forward.
- **Jury** took **1** hr of deliberation & reached unanimous **verdict** that **MLK was assassinated as result of conspiracy involving U.S. Gov.**

B1G THING



CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*

- Jury found Jowers responsible & concluded “governmental agencies” were among conspirators.
- Jowers had lung cancer & did not testify during trial.
- **May 20, 2000**: Jowers died of heart attack at age **73**.

B1G THING

CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*



- King Family awarded **\$100** & saw it as vindication.



- Dexter said:



B1G THING

CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*



- *“This is the period at the end of the sentence. So please, after today, we don’t want questions like, ‘Do you believe James Earl Ray killed your father? I’ve been hearing it all my life. No, I don’t, and this is the end of it.’”*



B1G THING



CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*

- MLK's wife, **Coretta Scott King** (passed in **2006**) said:
 - *“There is abundant evidence of a major, high-level conspiracy in the assassination of my husband. The jury found that the Mafia and various governmental agencies were deeply involved in the assassination. Mr. Ray was set up to take the blame.”*

B1G THING

CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*



- Later, **1** of Jowers' sisters said Jowers had fabricated story to make **\$\$\$**.
- Claimed news offered him **\$300,000** (**\$655,000** today) for story & he embellish it to please them; she admitted to corroborating his story for **\$**.

B1G THING



CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*

- **2000**: AG Janet Reno & U.S. DOJ (Department of Justice) reopened case.
- They concluded no evidence of conspiracy could be found.
- **King Family still does NOT believe Ray murdered father.**

B1G THING



CRB #22: *MLK Assassination*

- Many Americans don't trust Gov's conclusion on MLK.
- % of Americans who said they *"trust the Government to do the right thing"* went from high of 77% in 1964... to 36% by 1979... to 18% today.



What did we

LEARN

TODAY?



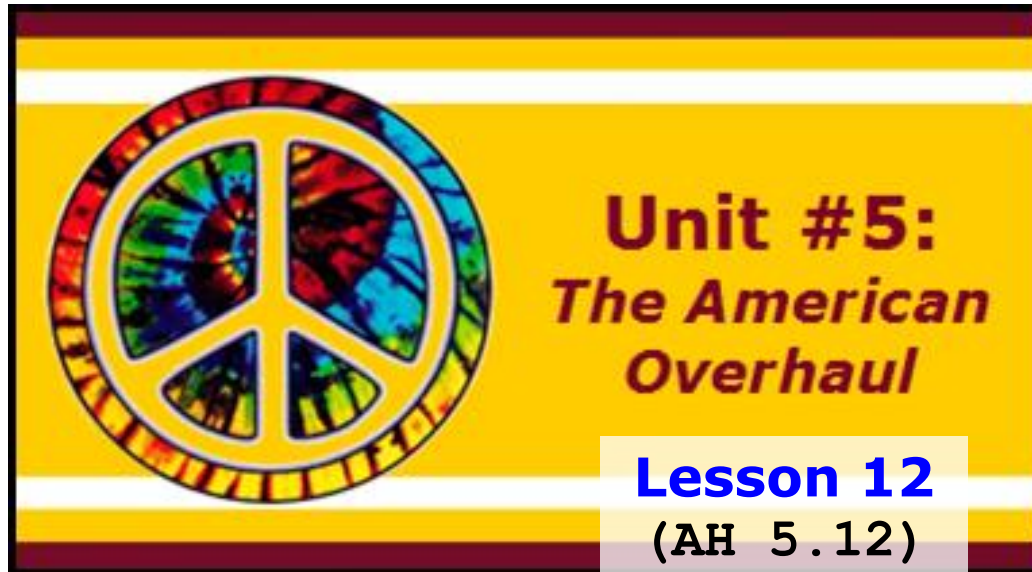
ONE
B1G
THING

ONE
B1G
THING

ONE
B1G
THING

ONE
B1G
THING

Did MLK's death "end" the CRM?



Unit #5:
The American Overhaul

Lesson 12
(AH 5.12)

