

*A Chronology of the Civil Rights Movement  
in the Deep South, 1955-68*

**THE MONTGOMERY  
BUS BOYCOTT**

December 1, 1955—Mrs. Rosa L. Parks is arrested for violating the bus-segregation ordinance in Montgomery, Alabama.

December 5, 1955—The Montgomery Bus Boycott begins, and Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., 26, is elected president of the Montgomery Improvement Association.

December 21, 1956—Montgomery's buses are integrated, and the Montgomery Improvement Association calls off its boycott after 381 days.

January 10-11, 1957—The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) is founded, with Dr. King as president.

**THE STUDENT  
SIT-INS**

February 1, 1960—Four black students sit in at the Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C., starting a wave of student protest that sweeps the Deep South.

April 15, 1960—The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) is founded at Shaw University in Raleigh, N.C.

October 19-27, 1960—Dr. King is jailed during a sit-in at Rich's Department Store in Atlanta and subsequently transferred to a maximum security prison. Democratic presidential nominee John F. Kennedy

telephones Mrs. King to express his concern.

**THE FREEDOM  
RIDES**

May 4, 1961—The Freedom Riders, led by James Farmer of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), leave Washington, D.C., by bus.

May 14, 1961—A white mob burns a Freedom Rider bus outside Anniston, Ala. Riders aboard a second bus are beaten by Klansmen in Birmingham.

May 20, 1961—Freedom Riders are beaten at the Montgomery terminal. Whites riot outside a church where Dr. King, Farmer, and the Riders are meeting.

May 21, 1961—The Freedom Riders leave Montgomery under National Guard protection and are imprisoned immediately upon arriving in Jackson, Mississippi.

October 1, 1962—James Meredith becomes the first black man to attend class at the University of Mississippi.

**THE BIRMINGHAM  
DEMONSTRATIONS**

April 3, 1963—SCLC launches Project "C" (for confrontation) to protest segregation of lunch counters and rest rooms in downtown Birmingham.

April 12, 1963—Dr. King arrested on Good Friday for defying a state court's injunction against protest marches. While confined over Easter weekend, he writes the "Letter from Birmingham Jail."

May 2-7, 1963—SCLC organizes the "children's crusade," recruiting elementary and high school students for its marches. Police Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor retaliates with police

dogs, fire hoses, and mass arrests that fill the jails.

May 10, 1963—Dr. King and Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth announce that Birmingham's white leaders have agreed to a desegregation plan. That night King's motel is bombed, and blacks riot until dawn.

June 11, 1963—Alabama Gov. George Wallace stages his "Stand in the Schoolhouse Door" in an unsuccessful effort to block integration of the University of Alabama.

June 12, 1963—NAACP leader Medgar Evers is shot to death at his home in Jackson, Mississippi.

September 15, 1963—Four black children die in the bombing of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham.

**FREEDOM  
SUMMER**

June, 1964—Freedom Summer begins as hundreds of volunteers arrive in Mississippi to work in the Mississippi Summer Project organized by SNCC, CORE, SCLC, and NAACP.

July 2, 1964—President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the 1964 Civil Rights Act outlawing segregation in public accommodations.

August 4, 1964—After a six-week search, the bodies of three missing Summer Project workers are found buried under an earthen dam near Philadelphia, Mississippi.

December 10, 1964—Dr. King receives the Nobel Peace Prize.

**THE SELMA  
MARCH** March 7, 1965—"Bloody Sunday." Alabama troopers and Dallas County deputies beat and gas voting-rights marchers in Selma.

March 15, 1965—In his "We Shall Overcome" speech, President Johnson responds to the events in Selma by announcing that he is submitting a Voting Rights Bill to Congress.

March 21-25, 1965—Dr. King leads marchers from Selma to Montgomery. After the march, Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, a marcher from Detroit, is shot to death by nightriders.

August 6, 1965—President Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act.

April 4, 1968—Dr. King is shot to death in Memphis, Tennessee.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### INTRODUCTION

#### PRELUDE

*James Farmer /27*

### BOOK ONE

#### I THE BEGINNING

*Montgomery, 1955*

E. D. Nixon/37 Rosa L. Parks/40 E. D. Nixon/43

Bayard Rustin/52 Yancey Martin/58 T. M. Alexander, Sr./62

Joseph E. Lowery/66

#### INTERLUDE

*John Lewis/71*

#### II BLACK SURPRISE

*The Student Sit-Ins and the Birth of SNCC*

Franklin McCain/75 Julian Bond and Lonnie King/83 John Calhoun/94

John Lewis/97 Julian Bond/101 Connie Curry/103

### III FREEDOM RIDERS

James Farmer/109 Hank Thomas/113 John Lewis/117

James Farmer/122

#### INTERLUDE

Ruby Hurley/131

### IV ALABAMA

#### *The Battleground State*

##### *Part One: Birmingham*

Ed Gardner/139 Andrew Marrisett/146 Abraham Wood/150

Fred L. Shuttlesworth/154 Sid Smyer/162

Ben Allen and Glen V. Evans/167

Chuck Morgan/179 Chris McNair/184

##### *Part Two: Selma*

Albert Turner/187 Willie Bolden/190 Albert Turner/194

Wilson Baker/197 Sheyann Webb/204 John Lewis/206

Willie Bolden/209 Sheyann Webb/211

John Lewis/212 Julian Bond/213 Wilson Baker/215

Memories of the March/216 Joseph E. Lowery/222

Andrew Durgan/225

#### INTERLUDE

Timothy Jenkins and Lonnie King/227

### V MISSISSIPPI

#### *SNCC and the Home-Grown Heroes*

Amzie Moore/233 Lawrence Guyot/ 238 Charles Cobb/244

Fannie Lou Hamer/249 Ivanhoe Donaldson/256 Hartman Turnbow/260

Julian Bond/267 Lawrence Guyot/268 Ruby Hurley/271

Dave Dennis/273 Mary Dora Jones/279 Harry Bowie/282

Marion Barry/284 Lawrence Guyot/286

#### INTERLUDE

Dick Gregory/291

### BOOK TWO

#### I THE DOWN-HOME RESISTANCE

Robert Patterson/297 John Patterson/304 Sol Tepper/312

Bobby Shelton/316 J. B. Stoner/321

#### II HIGHER EDUCATION

Atherine Lucy Foster/325 Ben Allen/328 Vivian Malone Jones/332

Hamilton Holmes/334

#### III LAWYERS AND LAWYERS

Nicholas Katzenbach/337 Elbert Tuttle/343 Arthur Shores/348

Herbert Jenkins/352 Everette Little/355 Laurie Pritchett/361

*IV REPORTERS*

Eugene Patterson/367 Richard Valeriani/371 Tony Hefferman/373

Wendell Hoffman/377 Claude Sitton/378 Neil Maxwell/382

Nelson Benton/385 William Bradford Huie/387

*INTERLUDE*

*Roy Harris and Myles Horton/395*

*V ASSORTED REBELS*

Nannie Washburn/401 Helen Bullard/410 Charles R. Sims/416

*VI BLACK CAMELOT*

Andrew Young/425 Dorothy Cotton/432 Hosea Williams/435

Randolph Blackwell/446 Willie Bolden/451 Leon Hall/453

J. T. Johnson/455

*INTERLUDE*

*Benjamin Mays and Martin Luther King, Sr./459*

*RECESSIONAL*

*Ralph David Abernathy/463*

MY SOUL IS RESTED