

# We have an agenda



Mass meetings to promulgate the philosophy of nonviolence became a hallmark of the Movement. Above, Dr. King, Dr. Ralph Abernathy, Rosa Parks.

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"From the beginning a basic philosophy guided the movement. This guiding principle has since been referred to variously as nonviolent resistance, noncooperation, and passive resistance. But in the first days of the protest none of these expressions was mentioned; the phrase most often heard was 'Christian love' . . ."

"What we were really doing was withdrawing our cooperation from an evil system rather than merely withdrawing our economic support from the bus company. The bus company, being an external expression of the system, would naturally suffer, but the basic aim was to refuse to cooperate with evil."

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The Montgomery bus boycott ended 13 months later when the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed that Alabama's bus segregation laws were unconstitutional.



"We were taking the black young men who had been crippled by our society and sending them eight thousand miles away to guarantee liberties in Southeast Asia which they had not found in Southwest Georgia and East Harlem. And we have repeatedly been faced with the cruel irony of watching Negro and white boys on T.V. screens as they kill and die together for a nation that has been unable to seat them together in the same schools. We watch them in brutal solidarity burning the huts of a poor village, but we realize that they could not live on the same block in Detroit. I could not be silent in the face of such cruel manipulation of the poor."

— 1968



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