

We are determined to gain our rightful place

"We are going to start a march on the ballot boxes by the thousands. We must be willing to go to jail by the thousands. We are not asking, we are demanding the ballot."

Selma 1965

January 18th - King was the first black to register in Selma's 100 year old hotel and the first to eat in a white restaurant.

January 18 - February 2 - Quiet protests center around voter registration at Dallas County Courthouse.

February 2nd - King leads a large group of marchers to the courthouse and all are arrested.

February 3rd - Malcolm X speaks in Selma.

February 10th - 165 children hold a march and are surrounded by trucks and herded out of town.

February 18th - Jimmie Lee Jackson, 18, is shot by troopers in Marion, Ala.

February 21st - Malcolm X is assassinated in New York City

March 1st - King proposes a march to Montgomery

March 6th - Governor Wallace issues orders prohibiting a march and tells troopers to take "whatever steps are necessary".

March 7th - 520 marchers are gassed and beaten by state troopers. More than 60 are injured and 17 hospitalized. Within hours the beatings were publicized around the world. King calls another march.

March 8th - The U.S. Federal Court issues a temporary restraining order on the march. Over 400 priests rabbis and nuns go to Selma to participate.

March 9th - King leads 1500 demonstrators to the bridge, then by previously arranged compromise, returns them to Selma. That evening Unitarian Minister James Reeb is murdered.



Mounted sheriffs dispersed supporters who met the march in Montgomery.

March 10th - Four assassins are arrested. King withdraws because of friction between SCLC and SNCC.

March 15th - Federal Court overturns Selma's ban on protests. President Johnson addressed Congress and describes his voting rights bill.

March 16th - James Forman of SNCC leads protest in Montgomery and demonstrators are attacked by mounted sheriffs.

March 17th - King and Foreman lead 1600 marchers to Selma courthouse.

March 18th - 80 SNCC demonstrators are arrested for sit-in in Montgomery.

March 19th - 380 clergymen are arrested for picketing Selma mayor's home. President Johnson federalizes the Alabama National Guard.

March 21st - Five-day march to Montgomery begins.

May 25th - The march arrives at the Capitol Building in Montgomery.

"Like an idea whose time has come, not even the marching of mighty armies can halt us. We're moving to the land of freedom."



Mourners join in memorial procession for Rev. James Reeb, Unitarian minister who was killed by Klan members after his arrival in Selma to aid in the demonstrations.



We in the West

"We in the West must bear in mind that the poor countries are poor primarily because we have exploited them through political or economic colonialism. Americans in particular must help their nation repent of her modern imperialism." Martin Luther King, 1968



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"But if physical death is the price that a man must pay to free his children and his white brethren from a permanent death of the spirit, then nothing could be more redemptive."

—Martin Luther King, Jr.



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