

Chronology

March 21-25: Over three thousand protest marchers leave Selma for a march to Montgomery, protected by federal troops. They are joined along the way by a total of twenty-five thousand marchers. Upon reaching the capitol they hear on address by Dr. King. **March 25:** Viola Liuzzo is shot and killed while driving a marcher from Montgomery to Selma. **August 6:** The 1965 Voting Rights Act is signed by President Johnson. **August 11-16:** Thirty-five people die in riots in the Watts area of Los Angeles, California.

1966: Dr. King rents an apartment in a Chicago ghetto. **February 23:** In Chicago, Dr. King meets with Elijah Muhammad, leader of the Nation of Islam. **March:** Dr. King takes over a Chicago slum building and is sued by its owner. **March 25:** The Supreme Court of the United States rules that any poll tax is unconstitutional. **May 16:** Dr. King agrees to serve as cochairman of Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam. An antiwar statement by Dr. King is read at a large Washington, D.C., rally to protest the war in Vietnam. **June:** Stokely Carmichael and Willie Ricks, both of SNCC, use the slogan "Black Power." **June 6:** James Meredith is shot soon after beginning his 220-mile "March Against Fear" from Memphis, Tennessee, to Jackson, Mississippi. **July 10:** Dr. King launches a drive to make Chicago an "open city" in regard to housing.

1967 January: Dr. King writes his book "Where Do We Go from Here?" while in Jamaica, West Indies. **March 12:** Alabama is ordered to desegregate all public schools. **March 25:** Dr. King attacks the government's Vietnam policy in a speech at the Chicago Coliseum. **April 4:** Dr. King makes a statement about the war in Vietnam at the

Riverside Church in New York City. **July 12-17:** Twenty-three people die and 725 are injured in the riots in Newark, New Jersey. **July 23-30:** Forty-three die and 324 are injured in the Detroit riots. **July 26:** Dr. King, A. Philip Randolph, Roy Wilkins, and Whitney Young, Jr. (executive director of the National Urban League) appeal for an end to the riots. **November 27:** Dr. King announces the formation by SCLC



of a Poor People's Campaign, with the aim of representing the problems of poor blacks and whites.

1968 February 12: Sanitation workers strike in Memphis, Tennessee. **March 28:** Dr. King leads six thousand protestors on a march through downtown Memphis in support of striking sanitation workers. Disorders break out during which black youths loot stores. One person is killed, fifty people are injured. **April 3:** Dr. King delivers



"I've Been to the Mountaintop" at the Memphis Masonic Temple. **April 4:** Dr. King is shot at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. He dies in St. Joseph's Hospital. **April 4-11:** Riots erupt in 125 cities around the country, including the nation's capital. **April 7-9:** Dr. King lies in state at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. Mourners file by at the rate of twelve hundred per hour. **April 8:** Coretta King, Yolanda King, Martin King III, Dexter King, and Ralph Abernathy lead a memorial march for Dr. King in Memphis. **April 9:** The funeral of Dr. King is held at the Ebenezer Baptist Church. He is laid to rest at the South View Cemetery.



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Martin Luther King, Jr.



1929-1968

Dedication

Martin Luther King, Jr., dedicated his life to the crusade for racial equality. To millions of black Americans, he was the country's foremost civil rights leader. He urged his people to be proud of their race. He asked them to stand up for their rights. He led them in nonviolent demonstrations against the evils of hatred and segregation. He was a prophet of peace. Dr. King believed in the basic goodness of man and in the philosophy of nonviolence. It was his hope and dream that nonviolent protest action would create an America where all men might truly be equal. His efforts brought him worldwide fame, and death at an early age.

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