

# The Mainstream Civil Rights Movement

# Leadership: The Big Six

- John L. Lewis:
  - SNCC-Student Nonviolent coordinating committee
- Whitney Young:
  - NUL-National Urban League
- A Philip Randolph
  - Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters & Socialist
- Martin Luther King Jr.
  - SCLC-Southern Christian Leadership Conference
- James Farmer:
  - CORE—Congress of Racial Equality
- Roy Wilkins:
  - NAACP-National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

# Leadership: The Big Six



Lewis  
SNCC

Young  
NUL

Randolph  
BSCP

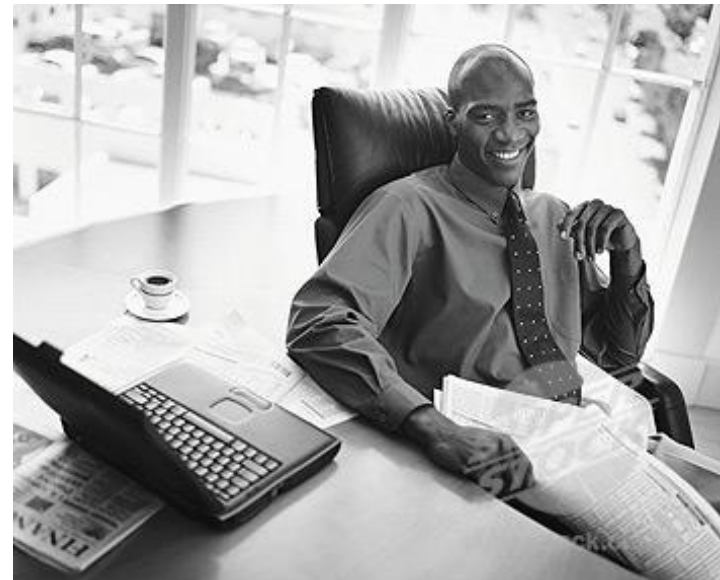
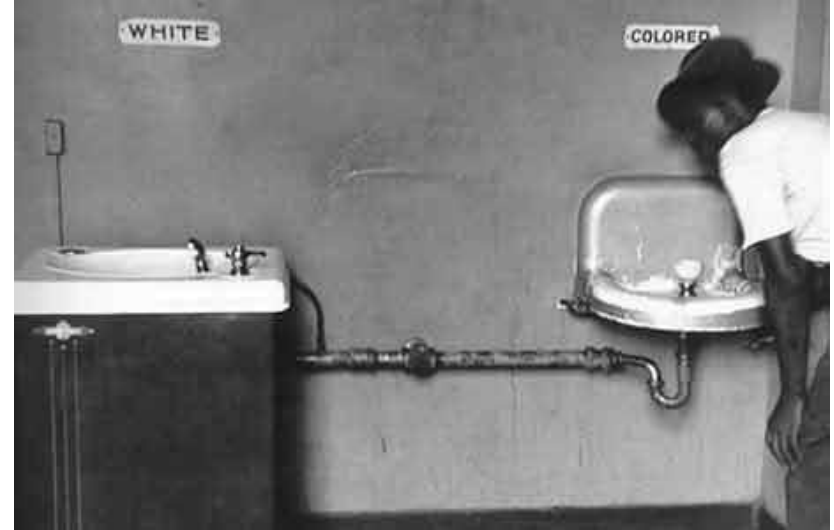
King  
SCLC

Farmer  
CORE

Wilkins  
NAACP

# GOALS

- RACIAL EQUALITY
  - Desegregation
  - Secure Voting Rights
  - Real Economic Opportunity



# Strategy

- Educate & Mobilize African-Americans
  - “Unshackle the Mind”
- Appeal to moderate whites
  - Majority of the population

# Tactics

- Direct Nonviolent Action
  - Direct Action-Challenge Injustice
    - Demonstrations
    - Boycotts
    - Sit-ins
  - Nonviolence-commit no violence
    - Even in self-defense
    - Look like good guys; gain sympathy

# Brown v Board (1954)

- NAACP -- Thurgood Marshall
- Direct challenge to Separate but Equal doctrine
- Unanimous Decision
  - Separate is inherently Unequal in education b/c Separate teaches inequality
- Must desegregate public schools
  - Local determination
  - “With all deliberate speed”

# Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955)

- SCLC -- Martin Luther King, Jr.

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# **Little Rock 9 (1957)**

# Mainstream CRM--1950s



# Greensboro Sit-ins (1960)

- 4 black college students sit at segregated lunch counter
- Refused service, taunted & humiliated by whites
- Led to SNCC



# Freedom Ride (1961)

- Activists rode interstate buses into segregated south
- Protest non-enforcement of desegregation
- CORE & SNCC



# Birmingham Campaign (1963)

- SCLC-- MLK
- Boycotts & Demonstrations
  - Children's March
- Mass arrests
- Fire Hoses & Attack Dogs



# March on Washington (1963)

- A Philip Randolph & Bayard Rustin
- Originally planned during WWII
- Big Six
- Mass demonstration
- MLK -- “I Have a Dream”



# Civil Rights Act (1964)

- Prohibits:
  - discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin
  - racial segregation in schools, employment & public accommodations
  - Unequal application of voter registration requirements



# Voting Rights Act (1965)

- Prohibits racial discrimination in voting
- Enforcement measure--Federal empowerment
- Regulation of elections
  - “General Provisions”--apply everywhere
  - “Special Provisions”--apply to certain voting districts with a history of racial discriminations
    - Federal approval of election procedures



# Mainstream CRM 1960-65

