

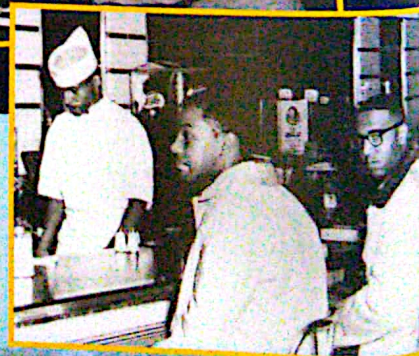
PROTESTS OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

When people talk about the American civil rights movement, they are usually talking about protests in the United States in the 1950s and 1960s. The goal of these protests was to get equal civil rights for black people (African-Americans), and stop segregation. This was when black and white people had to do things separately. The civil rights movement became famous for different types of non-violent protests.

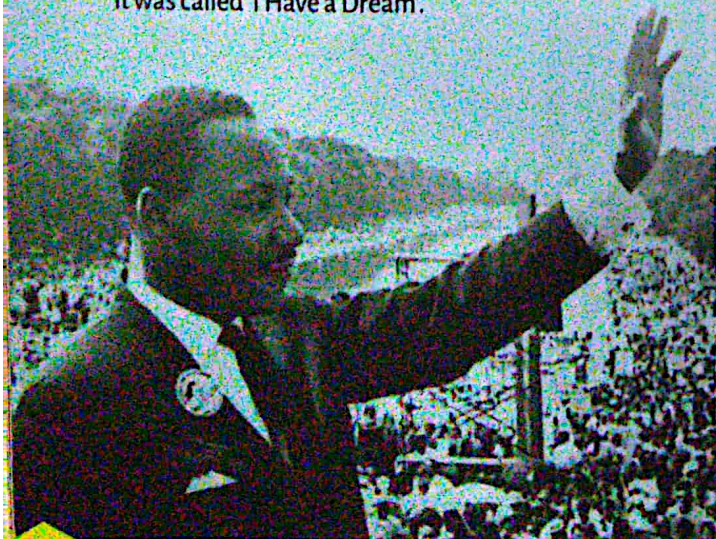
One protest was the bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama. In many places in the south of the United States, black people had to give up their seats to white people if a bus was full. In 1955, a black woman called Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat. Other black people then stopped using the buses in Montgomery, and their protest lasted 381 days. It ended in victory, and changes were made to the bus rules in the town.

Another type of protest was the 'sit-in', when people sat in a particular place and refused to move. One famous sit-in was in 1961 in Greensboro, North Carolina. Four black students sat at a lunch counter for white people. The students were refused lunch, but they stayed at the counter. They returned with more students, and the protest was shown on TV. Soon, students were doing sit-ins in other places with segregation like libraries, hotels and beaches.

In 1961, a group of black and white people went on long bus journeys across the south of the United States. These protests were called 'freedom rides'. The people wanted to see if there was segregation on buses and at bus stations. In a number of places, the buses that they travelled on were attacked.



One of the most important protests of the civil rights movement was the March on Washington in 1963. About 250,000 people went to Washington DC, and protested in the city centre. They sang protest songs and listened to the civil rights leader Martin Luther King. He gave one of the most famous speeches in American history – it was called 'I Have a Dream'.



In the end, these protests had an important effect. In 1964, the US government introduced a new law. It outlawed segregation in all public places including theatres, restaurants and libraries, as well as schools and universities.

Glossary

civil rights *diritti civili*
protest *protesta*
equal *pari*
segregation *segregazione*
boycott *boicottaggio*
give up *lasciare*
arrest (v) *arrestare*
lunch counter *bancone*
speech *discorso*
law *legge*
outlaw (v) *vietare, bandire*