Leaders and Strategies

Chapter 21, Section 2

Chapter 21, Section 2 Objective:

• The Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s consisted of many groups and leaders.
• While their methods differed, they all had the same goal of working for equal rights for all Americans.

• Need to Know:
  – Interracial
  – CORE
  – SCLC
  – Nonviolent protests
  – SNCC

Laying the Groundwork

• The Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s were the efforts of ordinary people determined to end racial injustice in the United States.
• There was no central organization directing the movement, but several major groups formed to coordinate civil rights activities.
• Each group had their own priorities and ways of operating, but all were committed to working toward civil rights for all Americans.
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

- Group was formed as an *interracial* organization.
- NAACP focused on challenging laws that prevented African-Americans from receiving their civil rights.
- Fought against violence in the South through anti-lynching laws.
- Fought against segregation laws.
- Mainly educated African-Americans and liberal White American.

National Urban League

- League sought to help African-Americans moving to major American cities.
- Helped to find them homes and jobs.
- Helped them learn skills for advancement.

Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)

- Dedicated to bringing about change through peaceful methods.
- Also an *interracial* group.
- After WWII, CORE organized demonstrations against segregation.
- Played a major role in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s.
Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Martin Luther King Jr. soon became the spokesperson for the protest movement.
- At the age of 26 he was elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).
- He was a leader of the Civil Rights Movement and a symbol of nonviolent protests.
- He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)

- SCLC was started in 1957 by Martin Luther King, Jr. and other African-American clergymen.
- They advocated the practice of nonviolent protest.
- Protesters do not resist even when attacked by opponents.
- Moved the struggle from the North to the South.

Philosophy of Nonviolence

- “There comes a time when people get tired...tired of being segregated and humiliated, tired of being kicked about by the brutal feet of oppression. We have no alternative but to protest.”
  – Martin Luther King, Jr.

- “To understand that nonviolence is not a symbol of weakness or cowardice, but as Jesus demonstrated, nonviolent resistance transforms weakness into strength and breeds courage in the face of danger.”
  – SCLC statement
Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)

- Started as a student organization by Ella Baker to give young people a more active role in the Civil Rights Movement.
- 200 students showed up for the first meeting.
- Most were from southern communities.
- SNCC voted to remain a separate group from SCLC and CORE.

Robert Moses
One of SNCC’s most influential leaders

- Helped rural blacks in Mississippi to register to vote.
- Moses was soft-spoken, but loved and trusted as an “ordinary man”.
- SNCC became a strong organization for students to be actively involved in the Civil Rights Movement.

Funny

- Ever feel like this?