Chapter 21, Section 4 Objective:

• Continuous civil rights protests in the 1960s gradually made politicians respond to public opinion and move forward with strong civil rights legislation.

• Need to know:
  * March on Washington
  * Civil Rights Act of 1964
  * Filibuster
  * Voting Rights Act of 1965
  * Cloture
  * 24th Amendment

Setting the Scene

October 1960, Martin Luther King, Jr. was arrested in Georgia and sentenced to 6 months of hard labor. His family feared for his life.

John F. Kennedy called Mrs. King to reassure her and Robert Kennedy persuaded the state of Georgia to release Dr. King on bail.

The Kennedy’s actions were known to the African American community and many switched their vote.

Many African Americans switched their vote from Nixon to Kennedy which helped him win the Presidency.
Kennedy on Civil Rights

- Kennedy was a senator from Massachusetts who had always supported civil rights, but not pushed the issue.
- During his Presidential Kennedy won many African American votes with his strong statements.
- Once he became President he moved slowly on civil rights issues because he didn’t want to anger southern senators whose votes he needed for other issues.
- But as the violence increased he was deeply disturbed by the scenes and could no longer avoid the issue.
- He promised and started on a bill to end discrimination, but moved slowly.

The March on Washington

- Civil Rights groups like SCLC, NAACP, SNCC, and CORE pressured President Kennedy to pass civil rights laws.
- Kennedy did submit bills to congress, but they were stalled by Southern Congressmen.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. and others wanted the march to speed up the process.
- In August, over 250,000 marchers from across the nation called for “jobs and freedom”, the official slogan of the march.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his famous “I Have A Dream” speech.
- http://youtu.be/iEMXaTktHlA

The March on Washington
The Civil Rights Act of 1964

- Three months after the March on Washington, Pres. Kennedy was assassinated.
- Vice president Lyndon Johnson worked to build support for the bill started by Kennedy, and would accept no compromise on civil rights.
- In June of 1964, the bill was passed.
- Title I - Banned the use of different voter registration standards for blacks and whites.
- Title II - Prohibited discrimination in public places such as restaurants, gas stations, theaters and sports arenas.
- Title VI - allowed the withholding of funds to programs that practice discrimination.
- Title VII - Banned discrimination on the basis of race, sex, or religion by employers and unions.

Freedom Summer

- Civil Rights leaders organized a major voter registration drive.
- About a 1000 African Americans and white volunteers, mostly college students, went into Mississippi in the summer of 1964 to try and get African Americans to register to vote.
- The KKK led rallies to try and intimidate the volunteers. Throughout the summer about 80 mob attacks were reported. Volunteers were beaten up, shot at and arrested.
- Three young civil rights workers were reported missing (James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner). The FBI later found the bodies in an earthen dam.
- African American homes were burned or firebombed.
Selma March • MLK and others organized a march from Selma, Alabama to the capital of Montgomery to protest the denial of voting rights to African Americans.
• Many blacks had not even registered due to fear of violence; others were arrested for standing in line to register.
• Marchers were met by armed state troopers on horseback who charged into the march with whips, clubs and tear gas.
• The nation was shocked as they watched on the TV news.
• President Johnson put the Alabama National Guard under federal control and ordered them to protect the marchers.
• When the march took place again, they had supporters from all over the country and numbers reached as many as 25,000.

Selma March Bloody Sunday

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 • In reaction to the Selma march, President Johnson went on national TV and promised a law to protect voting rights.
• Then he raised his arms and said “And we shall... overcome!”
• The act eliminated literacy tests and other barriers.
• The next year over 400,000 African Americans registered to vote in the deep south.

http://youtu.be/ZaRUca7FyAc
• With the Civil Rights Act of '64 and the Voting Rights Act of '65, more African-Americans would be eligible to vote.

• The passage of the 24th Amendment eliminated the poll tax, which was still being used in some southern states.

• The poll tax was used to keep poor African Americans from voting.