Chapter 21, Section 3 Objective:

- The tactics of nonviolent protest, including sit-ins and boycotts, challenged segregation and brought change, but also generated violent confrontations.

- Need to know:
  - Sit-in
  - Freedom Rides
  - Birmingham, AL

Sit-ins

- Started by four students from Agricultural Tech College in North Carolina.

- They were frustrated with the slow pace of integration.

- It was a peaceful demonstration that became a core tactic of civil rights workers.
Sit-ins

- A sit-in is a group of protesters who sat down at a segregated lunch counter or other public place.
- If they were refused service at first, they stayed where they were.
- Sit-ins became a very popular form of protest in the early 1960s.
- The sit-ins often worked because it forced business owners to decide between serving the protesters or risking a disruption and loss of business.

The Freedom Rides

- There was some integration in areas in the south, but many states refused to desegregate the buses.
- Freedom Rides: designed to test whether southern states would obey the Supreme Court ruling and allow African Americans to exercise their rights.
- Thirteen freedom riders, both African Americans and white Americans, boarded two interstate buses heading south.
Freedom Rides

- In Alabama, a bus was firebombed, and the riders were forced off the burning bus into a mob of whites, who brutally beat the riders.
- Bombings and beatings became common before federal troops were sent in to protect the riders, in essence supporting integration.
- Many were arrested but laughed and sang as they served their 15 day jail sentence.
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dICAKAXR-AM

Freedom Rides

- Photos and film of the treatment of the Freedom Riders horrified Americans.
- Kennedy eventually pressured the Interstate Commerce Commission to issue a ruling that prohibited segregation in all interstate transportation including trains, planes, and buses.

Integration of “Ole Miss”

- James Meredith was an Air Force vet and a student at Jackson St. College.
- He wanted to transfer to the Univ. of Mississippi, “Ole Miss,” an all white school.
- He was rejected and filed a lawsuit claiming he was denied on racial grounds.
Integration of “Ole Miss”

- The issue became a stand off between the Governor and the Justice Dept.
- President Kennedy sent federal marshals to escort Meredith to the campus.
- Crowds of angry protesters had gathered and violence erupted in which 2 bystanders were killed, and hundreds hurt.
- Kennedy sent more troops to restore order.

Clash in Birmingham, AL

- MLK Jr. planned a massive demonstration in Birmingham, Alabama.
- Birmingham was chosen because it was known for being very segregated with a stubborn police chief, Eugene “Bull” Connor.
- MLK Jr. hoped Connor would call for attacks on the demonstrators, and that the federal government would have to step in and support civil rights.

Birmingham, AL

- The demonstrations started with sit-ins, and things got heated days later when marchers were arrested.
- MLK Jr. called for more marches and was arrested himself.
- As adults were put into jail, a new group of protesters stepped up, children ages 6-16.
Over 600 children went to jail including elementary children.

The jails became overcrowded so “Bull” Connor ordered the marchers to be sprayed with high powered fire hoses, strong enough to take the bark off of trees from hundreds of feet away.

Children were pushed to the ground and rolled down the street by the force of the hoses.

Americans were shocked when they saw the events on TV.

President Kennedy sent people to negotiate the integration of Birmingham and an agreement was reached.

Violence continued in Birmingham even after the agreement.

The 4 children killed in the church bombing

A bomb was planted in a Baptist church by KKK members that went off just as Sunday school was ending and killed 4 girls.

This sparked other violence in the city, where 2 African Americans were shot and killed.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=shgSLKb-onA (Joan Baez)

Funny: Huh??

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