Chapter 21, Section 5 Objective:

- Gains in civil rights came so slowly that some African Americans rejected nonviolence and called for more radical action. Increases in social unrest culminated in 1968 with the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy.

- Need to know:
  - *Nation of Islam*
  - *de jure segregation*
  - *black nationalism*
  - *de facto segregation*
  - *black power*

Malcolm X

- Outside the mainstream civil rights movement, more radical, militant political leaders emerged.
- Malcolm was born Malcolm Little in Omaha NE, but grew up in the ghettos of Detroit, Boston and New York.
- He fell into a life of crime and was jailed for 7 yrs. for burglary.
- While in jail he joined the *Nation of Islam*, a group that preached black separatism and self-help.
- Released in 1952 Malcolm Little changed his name to Malcolm X because he said Little had come from slave owners.
- Malcolm became a minister for the Nation of Islam for 12 years and won many followers with his fiery speeches.
- He spread the idea of Black Nationalism, or the separation of the races.
**Nation of Islam**

- The leader of the Nation of Islam was Elijah Muhammad.
- He taught that Allah (the Muslim name for God) would bring a "black nation".
- One of the keys was knowing one’s enemies, according to Muhammad, the enemy to the Nation of Islam was the white society.
- Malcolm X disagreed with the tactics and the goals of the nonviolent protests of the civil rights movement.
- Malcolm X and Elijah Muhammad came to disagree on many things and Malcolm left the Nation of Islam to start his own organization called the Muslim Mosque, Inc.

**Black Nationalism**

- Malcolm made a pilgrimage to Mecca, the holy city of Islam in Saudi Arabia where he saw millions of Muslims of all races worshipping together.
- This changed his views of separatism and hatred of white people.
- When he came back from Mecca, he was ready to work with civil rights leaders and even whites on some issues.
- To some, Malcolm had become a traitor.
- Nine months after returning from Mecca, he was assassinated in New York by 3 members of the Nation of Islam.
The Black Power Movement

- Stokely Carmichael was one person who heard the original message of Malcolm X. He rose to SNCC leadership and the group became more radical.
- He called for SNCC workers to carry guns and wanted the group to be black only and reject white activists.
- There was a split occurring in the movement, that became very obvious in June 1966, at a protest in Mississippi. Followers of MLK were singing “We Shall Overcome”, but they were drowned out by Carmichael’s group shouting “We Shall Overrun.”
- The idea of Black Power appealed to many African Americans. It was a call to unite, to recognize their heritage, to build a sense of community, to define their own goals, and to lead their own organizations.

The Black Panthers

- In the Fall of 1966, a new militant group had formed called The Black Panthers.
- They wanted African Americans to lead their own communities, and demanded that the government should rebuild inner city ghettos to make up for years of neglect.
- The Panthers also wanted to fight police brutality in the ghettos, which often led to violent encounters with the police.
- Black Power gave rise to the slogan “Black is Beautiful” which fostered racial pride, but it also caused a serious split in the Civil Rights Movement.
- Groups like SNCC and the Black Panthers moved away from the NAACP and SCLC.

Riots in the Streets

- The early civil rights movement focused on de jure segregation - racial segregation created by law.
- Laws against segregation were being passed, but that didn't stop de facto segregation - segregation caused by social issues such as poverty.
- Even in the north, discrimination occurred in education, housing, and employment.
- African Americans were kept out of well paying jobs and training programs. Inner city schools were run down and poorly equipped.
- Residents of ghettos viewed the police as dangerous invaders rather than upholders of justice.
“Burn, Baby, Burn”

- Tensions soon boiled over in cities across the U.S., causing race riots and looting. In 1964, riots ravaged Rochester, NY, New York City, and several cities in New Jersey.
- The most violent riot was in the L.A. neighborhood of Watts. A 21-year-old black man was pulled over for drunk driving. He resisted arrest and was beaten with a club.
- This outraged bystanders and set off six days of rioting. When it ended, 34 were dead and more than 1,000 injured.
- Violence spread to other cities in 1966 and 1967. Cries of “Burn, Baby, Burn” replaced the nonviolent slogans of the early Civil Rights Movement.

National Advisory Commission of Civil Disorders

- In 1968, the government set up a committee to look into the causes of the riots across the country.
- In 1968, the committee said that the riots were an explosion of the anger that had been smoldering in the inner city ghettos.
- The committee declared “Our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white—separate and unequal.”

Tragedies in 1968

- On April 4, 1968 Martin Luther King Jr. was shot and killed on the balcony of his motel in Memphis, Tennessee by James Earl Ray.
- The assassination touched off violent reactions across the nation.
- Many started to lose faith in the idea of nonviolent change.
- Robert Kennedy had worked for his brother John Kennedy when he was president, and had been a strong supporter of civil rights.
- In 1968, Robert Kennedy was running for president when he was assassinated by Sirhan Sirhan after giving a speech at a Los Angeles hotel.
Funny
Surprises!
What surprises!

A Test! What Test!

Test on Chapter 21 on 4/15/11!