

US History

An Age of Civil Disobedience

Learning Target:

I can examine the events leading up to the passage of the civil rights act of 1964 and analyze its impact on American society.

8. Civil Rights – March on Washington / Civil Rights Act of 1964

March on Washington –

Background –

- August 28, 1963
- Held to build support for the Civil Rights Movement
- Around 250,000 people present (60,000 white)
- Arranged by A. Philip Randolph

“I Have A Dream” Speech –

- Spoke of his desire for a future when blacks and whites would be equal
- Considered by many to be the #1 speech of the 20th century
- Legend says he improvised parts of it but parts had been delivered in previous speeches earlier in his career

What makes it a great speech?

- Resembles the style of a black Baptist sermon
- Uses allusion referring to the Gettysburg Address, the Bible, and the Emancipation Proclamation
- Uses anaphora or repetition – Ex. Repeating I Have A Dream

Civil Rights Act of 1964 –

John F. Kennedy –

- Summer of 1963 JFK asked Congress “to enact legislation giving all Americans the right to be served in facilities which are open to the public”.
- November 1963 JFK assassinated
- Civil Rights legislation’s future unclear

Lyndon B. Johnson –

- LBJ strongly supported the civil rights bill also
- Several southern senators tried to have it blocked
- Signed into law by LBJ on July 2, 1964

Civil Rights Act of 1964 –

- Banned discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
- Also outlawed discrimination in public accommodations and school segregation
- Removed voting registration restrictions to allow for equal voting