

## **Ch 29 Section 2 The Triumphs of a Crusade**

### **Riding for Freedom**

#### **CORE's Freedom Rides**

- 1961, CORE tests Court decision banning interstate bus segregation
- **Freedom riders**—blacks, whites sit, use station facilities together
- Riders brutally beaten by Alabama mobs; one bus firebombed

#### **New Volunteers**

- Bus companies refuse to continue carrying CORE freedom riders
- SNCC volunteers replace CORE riders; are violently stopped
- Robert Kennedy pressures bus company to continue transporting riders

#### **Arrival of Federal Marshals**

- Alabama officials don't give promised protection; mob attacks riders
- Newspapers throughout nation denounce beatings
- JFK sends 400 U.S. marshals to protect riders
- Attorney general, Interstate Commerce Commission act:
  - ban segregation in all interstate travel facilities

#### **Standing Firm**

##### **Integrating Ole Miss**

- 1962, federal court rules **James Meredith** may enroll at U of MS
- Governor Ross Barnett refuses to let Meredith register
- JFK orders federal marshals to escort Meredith to registrar's office
- Barnett makes radio appeal; thousands of white demonstrators riot
- Federal officials accompany Meredith to classes, protect his parents

##### **Heading into Birmingham**

- April 1963, SCLC demonstrate to desegregate Birmingham
- King arrested, writes "Letter from Birmingham Jail"
- TV news show police attacking child marchers—fire hoses, dogs, clubs
- Continued protests, economic boycott, bad press end segregation

##### **Kennedy Takes a Stand**

- June, JFK sends troops to force Gov. Wallace to desegregate U of AL
- NAACP's Medgar Evers murdered; hung juries lead to killer's release

##### **Marching to Washington**

##### **The Dream of Equality**

- August 1963, over 250,000 people converge on Washington
- Speakers demand immediate passage of civil rights bill
- King gives "I Have a Dream" speech

##### **More Violence**

- September, 4 Birmingham girls killed when bomb thrown into church
- LBJ signs **Civil Rights Act of 1964**
  - prohibits discrimination because of race, religion, gender
  - made segregation illegal in public accommodations

##### **Fighting for Voting Rights**

##### **Freedom Summer**

- **Freedom Summer**—CORE, SNCC project to register blacks to vote in MS
- Volunteers beaten, killed; businesses, homes, churches burned

##### **A New Political Party**

- Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party formed to get seat in MS party
- **Fannie Lou Hamer**—voice of MFDP at National Convention—wins support
- LBJ fears losing Southern white vote, pressures leaders to compromise
- MFDP and SNCC supporters feel betrayed

#### **The Selma Campaign**

- 1965, voting rights demonstrator killed in Selma, AL
- King leads 600 protest marchers; TV shows police violently stop them
- Second march, with federal protection, swells to 25,000 people

#### **Voting Rights Act of 1965**

- Congress finally passes **Voting Rights Act of 1965**
- Stops literacy tests, allows federal officials to enroll voters
- Increases black voter enrollment