

Martin Luther King Jr. Marches in 1963

Younge, Gary. "1963: The Defining Year of the Civil Rights Movement." *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 7 May 2013, www.theguardian.com/world/2013/may/07/1963-defining-year-civil-rights.

Summary:

In this article the main focus was about the Martin Luther King Jr. march and how it created an up sore in our nation. The march really started when the governor of Alabama stated "Segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever." When those words were said Dr. King was appalled and wanted to protest in a nonviolent way while Malcolm X of course was different. It also didn't help that John F. Kennedy was forced on foreign affairs he didn't really approve of. Though these marches for freedom news articles and T.V. stations documented everything they possibly could. The New York Times even documented more data in these two weeks than they had in two years. These marches started to catch people's attention and before we all knew it there were 758 demonstrations in 186 cities across the U.S. People realized that the fight for justice and equality was more important than any other problem there could possibly be. Black men, women, and children were being hosed down like animals and tear gassed all for the fight to have jobs, to vote, and even just to use a proper bathroom. What Dr. King said in his speech he gave people hope and that speech is still said years later and still gives black young children that same hope and gives black grandparents that same hope that they had done all those years ago.

Reaction:

Reading this article was more like a refresher for me because my family taught me this as a young child because they knew I would never learn it on school grounds. This article did give me more deeper insight on the data that I didn't know before. For example I had no clue just how much media attention this movement was getting. I knew people knew about it but I had no clue just how much people wrote about these marches. One thing that still shocks me today is that a governor would say "segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever" but then I have to remember that this was in Alabama in 1963 where they did not see blacks as equals. It still disappoints me that we have to fight so much for equal rights just being the color of our skin is different and I will never fully understand that. I would like to say things have changed in the past 60 something years but we are still fighting the same fight.

Why JFK Stood up for Civil Rights

Updegrave, Mark. "Why JFK Decided to Embrace Civil Rights as a 'Moral Issue' in 1963." *ABC News*, ABC News Network, 11 June 2020, abcnews.go.com/Politics/jfk-decided-embrace-civil-rights-moral-issue-1963/story?id=71172778.

Summary:

In the article I was reading it mostly touched on how John F. Kennedy finally spoke up for the civil rights movement and basically agreed that segregation is not the American way. Dr. King in the past actually has stated to the president before how he was disappointed in the fact of him not taking greater action. They also started to talk about Bobby Kennedy who is the president's brother and how he didn't really care about blacks and how he doesn't worry if they are equal or not. He soon changed his view and had more talks with a fellow American of a different race and realized his privilege and how that is not right. He realized equality is needed and worked to make a difference.

Reaction:

This was actually an important reading that more people in the black community need to know about. People are so focused on Dr. King and what he did and even though that is important we need to learn what was going on in the oval office. I got more insight on how the Kennedy family acted and their thoughts on the civil rights movement. I knew John F. Kennedy had a good heart and wanted equality but I never knew about his brother so it was amazing for me to dive deeper into the history of his family. I found it so funny how you had one brother that was the president that was all for the civil rights movement and equality than you had another brother (Bobby) that didn't even care if they lived or died. One thing I wanted people to really pay attention to is when Bobby actually had talked with an African American and realized that what was going on in the world at that time was wrong. He was able to open up his mind and his heart to change. I feel like if more white people do that then racism has a stronger chance of ending.