

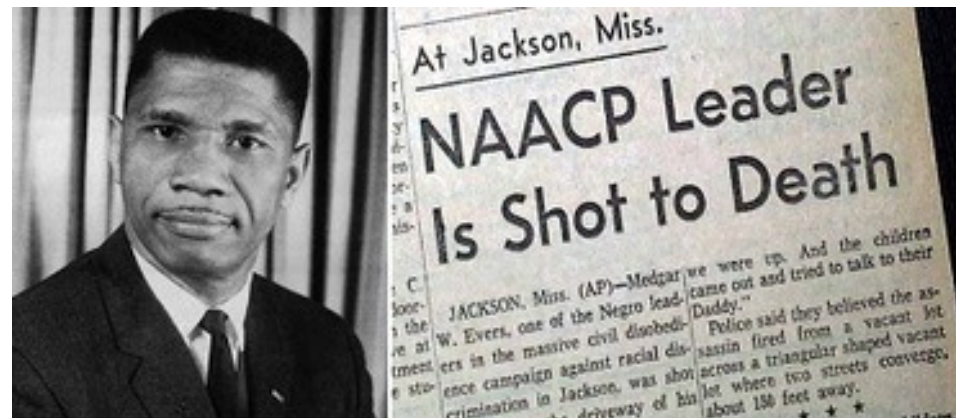
# PPT: The Civil Rights Movement: 1963-65



- The unfolding events in Alabama convinced President Kennedy to act on civil rights issues.
- On June 12, 1963 Kennedy announced that he would ask for legislation to finally end segregation in public accommodations.
- Hours later, **Medgar Evers**, the head of the NAACP in Mississippi, was shot dead in his front yard.
- Ku Klux Klan member Byron De La Beckwith was tried for the crime but all-white juries failed to convict.



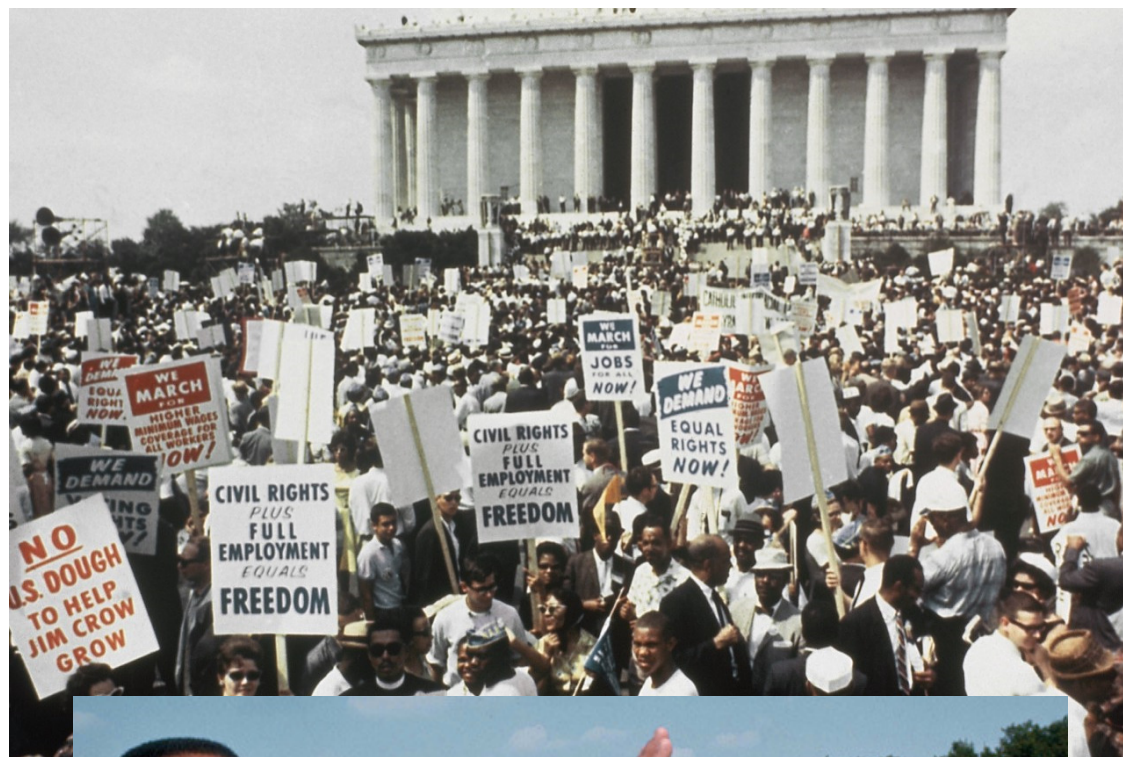
**Today we are committed to a worldwide struggle to promote and protect the rights of all who wish to be free.**





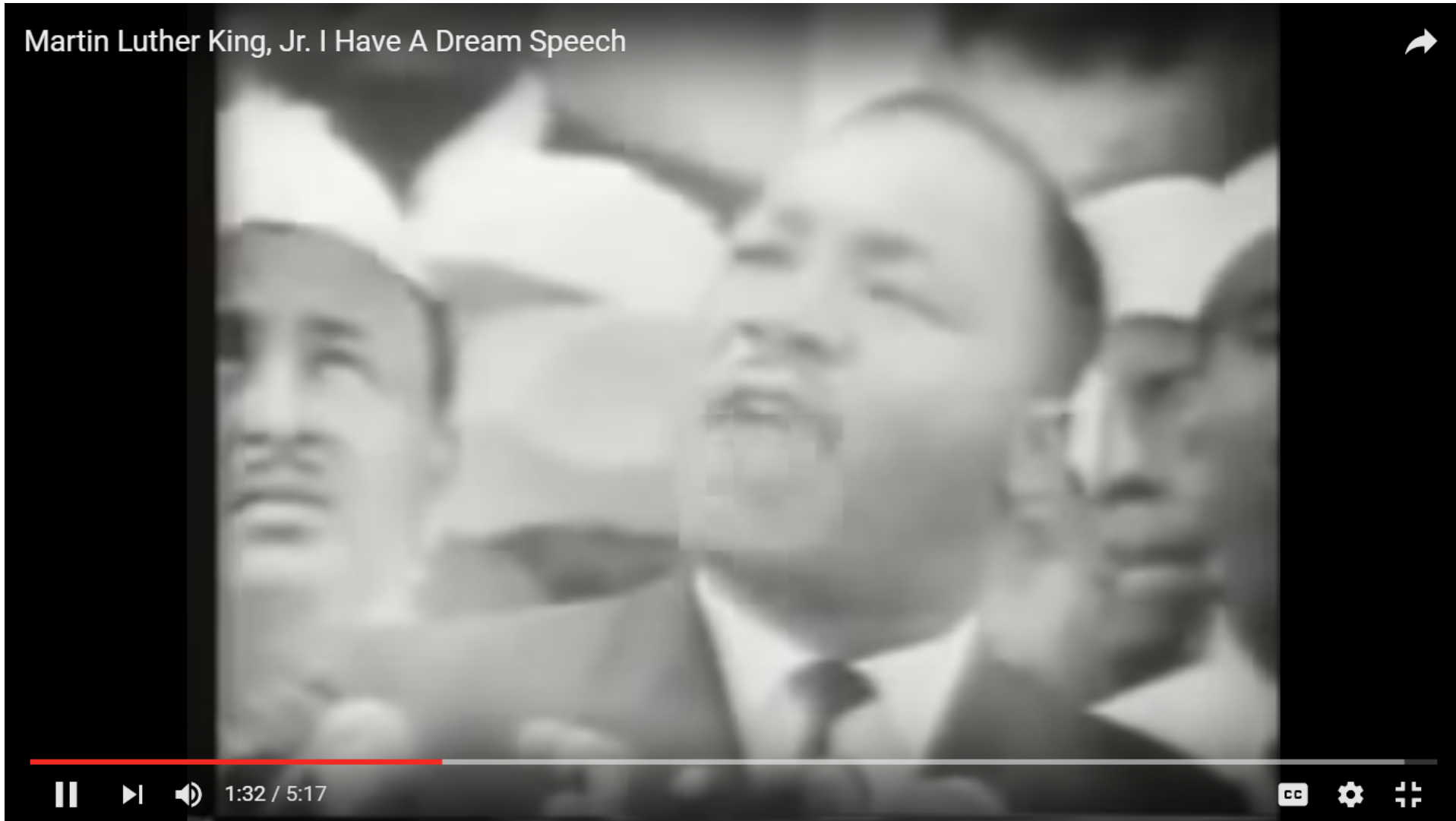
# 1963: March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom

- On August 28, more than 250,000 people march in Washington, D.C.
- It is the largest political gathering ever held in the United States.
- The most notable event of the day is Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I have a dream" speech.
- At the time of the march, a civil rights bill is making its way through Congress.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vDWWy4CMhE>

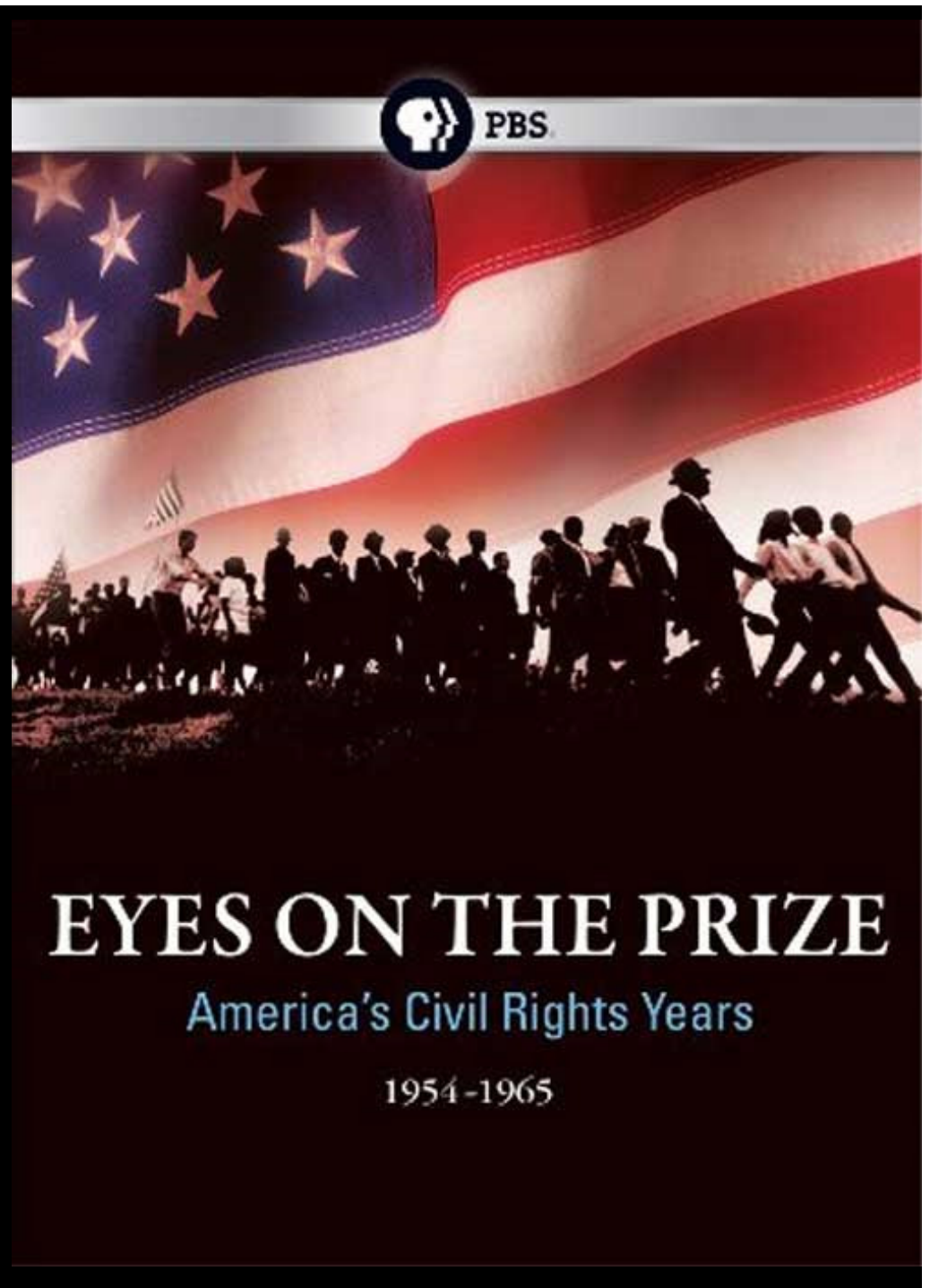
Martin Luther King, Jr. I Have A Dream Speech



1:32 / 5:17

**Watch Eyes on the Prize:  
Episode 4 –**

**1. March on Washington  
@43:00**



## We Shall Overcome

“We Shall Overcome” had served as the unofficial anthem of the civil rights movement.

Protesters sang the song during the 1963 March on Washington, the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer campaign and the demonstrations in Selma.

We shall o - ver - come, \_\_\_ We shall o - ver - come, \_\_\_

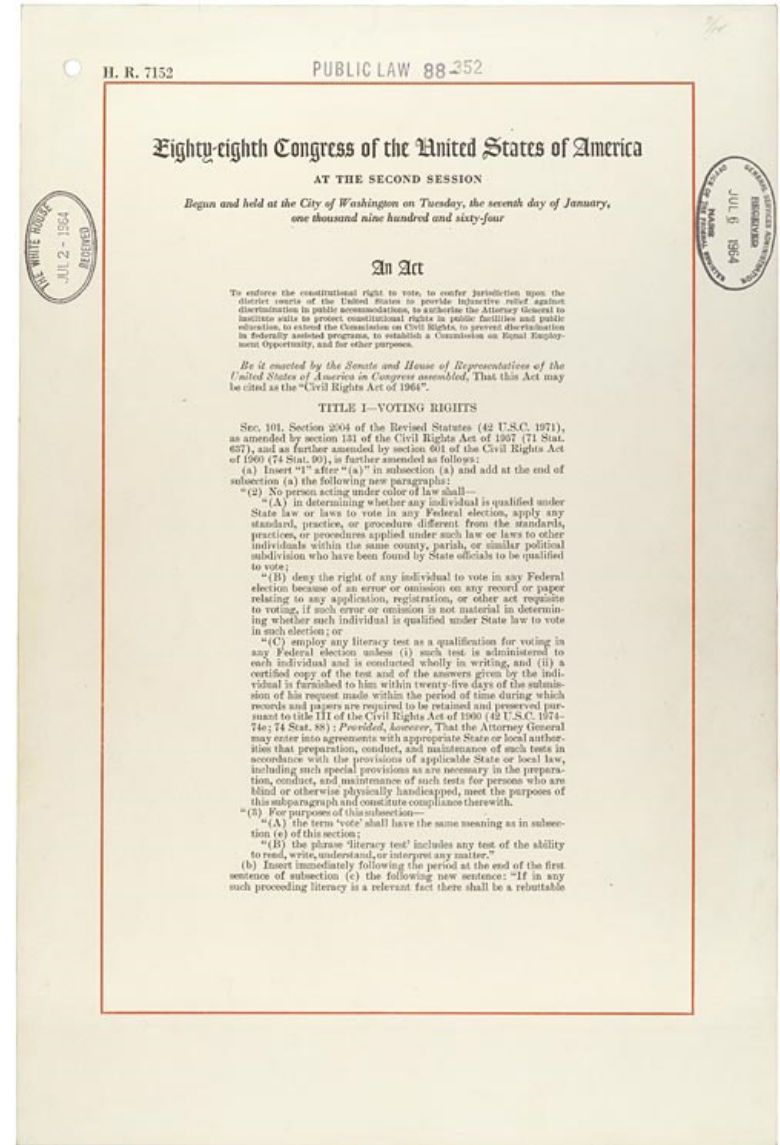
We shall o - ver - come some day. \_\_\_ For deep in my

heart I do be - lieve: We shall o - ver - come some day.

2. We'll walk hand in hand,  
We'll walk hand in hand,  
We'll walk hand in hand some day.  
For deep in my heart  
I do believe:  
We'll walk hand in hand some day.
3. We shall live in peace,  
We shall live in peace,  
We shall live in peace some day.  
For deep in my heart  
I do believe:  
We shall live in peace some day.
4. We are not afraid,  
We are not afraid,  
We are not afraid today.  
For deep in my heart  
I do believe:  
We are not afraid today.
5. We shall rise again ...
6. We shall live with Christ ...



# Civil Rights Act of 1964



- **July 2, 1964**
- The law bans discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, or national origin.
- The law is a landmark act and the most important civil rights legislation passed since Reconstruction.

# Citizens Council

- Established in 1954 to preserve white political power by passing laws that kept blacks from voting.
- Punished anyone who supported integration.



**DO YOU WANT NEGROES  
IN OUR SCHOOLS?**

IF YOU DO NOT THEN GO TO THE POLLS THIS COMING MON-  
DAY AND **VOTE** AGAINST REMOVAL  
FOR REMOVAL

LAMB MATSON TUCKER	McKINLEY ROWLAND LASTER
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THIS IS THE SIMPLE TRUTH. IF THE INTEGRATIONISTS WIN THIS  
SCHOOL BOARD FIGHT, THE SCHOOLS WILL BE INTEGRATED THIS  
FALL. THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING YOU OR WE CAN DO  
TO STOP IT.

**PLEASE VOTE RIGHT!!!**  
Join hands with us in this fight—  
send your contributions to  
**THE MOTHERS' LEAGUE**  
P. O. BOX 3321 \* LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS  
All Paid for by Margaret S. Jackson, President, Mary Thompson, Secretary

FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 1956 THE SELMA TIMES-JOURNAL 13834

## ASK YOURSELF THIS IMPORTANT QUESTION: What have I personally done to Maintain Segregation?

If the answer disturbs you, probe deeper and decide what you are willing to do to preserve racial harmony in Selma and Dallas County. Is it worth four dollars to prevent a "Birmingham" here? That's what it costs to be a member of your Citizens Council, whose efforts are not thwarted by courts which give sit-in demonstrators legal immunity, prevent school boards from expelling students who participate in mob activities and would place federal referees at the board of voter registrars.

Law enforcement can be called only after these things occur, but your Citizens Council prevents them from happening.

Why else did only 350 Negroes attend a so-called mass voter registration meeting that outside agitators worked 60 days to organize in Selma?

Gov. Wallace told a state meeting of the council three weeks ago: "You are doing a wonderful job, but you should speak with the united voice of 100,000 persons. Go back home and get more members."

Gov. Wallace stands in the University doorway next Tuesday facing possible ten years imprisonment for violating a federal injunction. Is it worth four dollars to you to prevent sit-ins, mob marches and wholesale Negro voter registration efforts in Selma?

If so, prove your dedication by joining and supporting the work of the Dallas County Citizens Council today. Six dollars will make both you and your wife members of an organization which has already given Selma nine years of Racial Harmony since "Black Monday."

Send Your Check To  
THE DALLAS COUNTY  
Citizens Council

SELMA, ALABAMA  
YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS GOOD FOR 12 MONTHS



# Freedom Summer, 1964

- ▶ SNCC and hundreds of white and black college students volunteered to spend the summer registering African Americans to vote and teaching summer school.
- ▶ James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner went to investigate the burning of the church in Neshoba.
- ▶ While attempting to drive back to Meridian, they were stopped and thrown in jail, allegedly under suspicion for church arson.
- ▶ After they were “released”, Sheriff Cecil Price and other Klansmen found them.
- ▶ They were shot to death and their bodies buried in an earthen dam



# FREEDOM SUMMER

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORvSohOpp9Q>

Freedom Summer - Trailer



# The Results of Project Freedom Summer

- The Freedom Schools taught 3,000 students.
- More than 17,000 African Americans in Mississippi applied to vote.
- State elections officials accepted only about 1,600 of the 17,000 applications.
- This helped show that a federal law was needed to secure voting rights for African Americans.



THE GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES, THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.  
PHOTO BY KEN THOMPSON



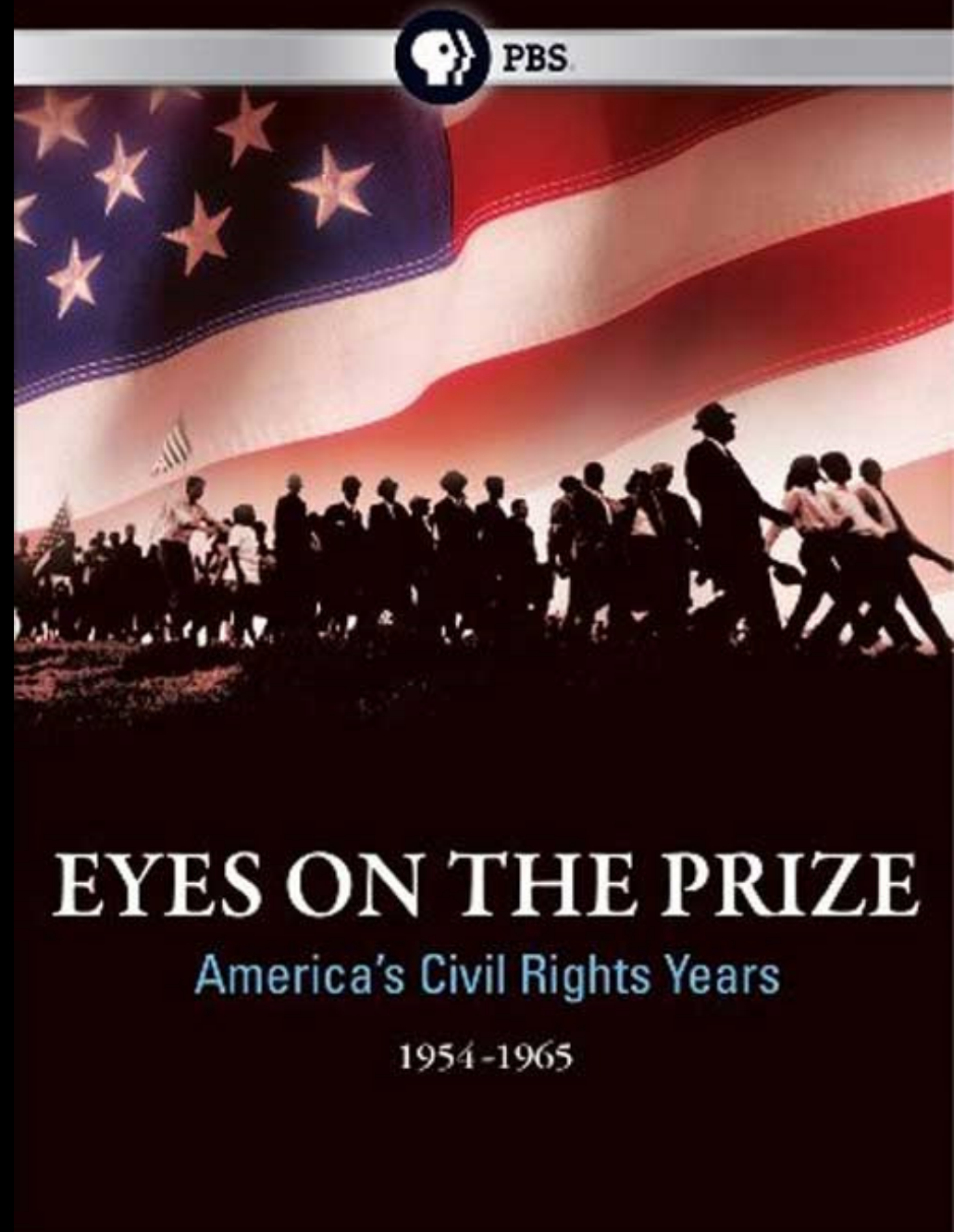


# Selma Campaign, 1965

- Alabama Governor George Wallace was a notorious opponent of desegregation, and the local county sheriff in Dallas County had led a steadfast opposition to black voter registration drives.
- only 2 percent of Selma's eligible black voters (300 out of 15,000) had managed to register.
- On Feb 18, white segregationists attacked a group of peaceful demonstrators in Marion, AL.
- Jimmie Lee Jackson, a young African-American demonstrator was shot and killed.
- In response, King and the SCLC planned a massive protest march from Selma to the state capitol of Montgomery, 54 miles away.



**Watch**  
**Eyes on the Prize:**  
**Episode – Bridge**  
**to Freedom (1965)**  
**Selma March**

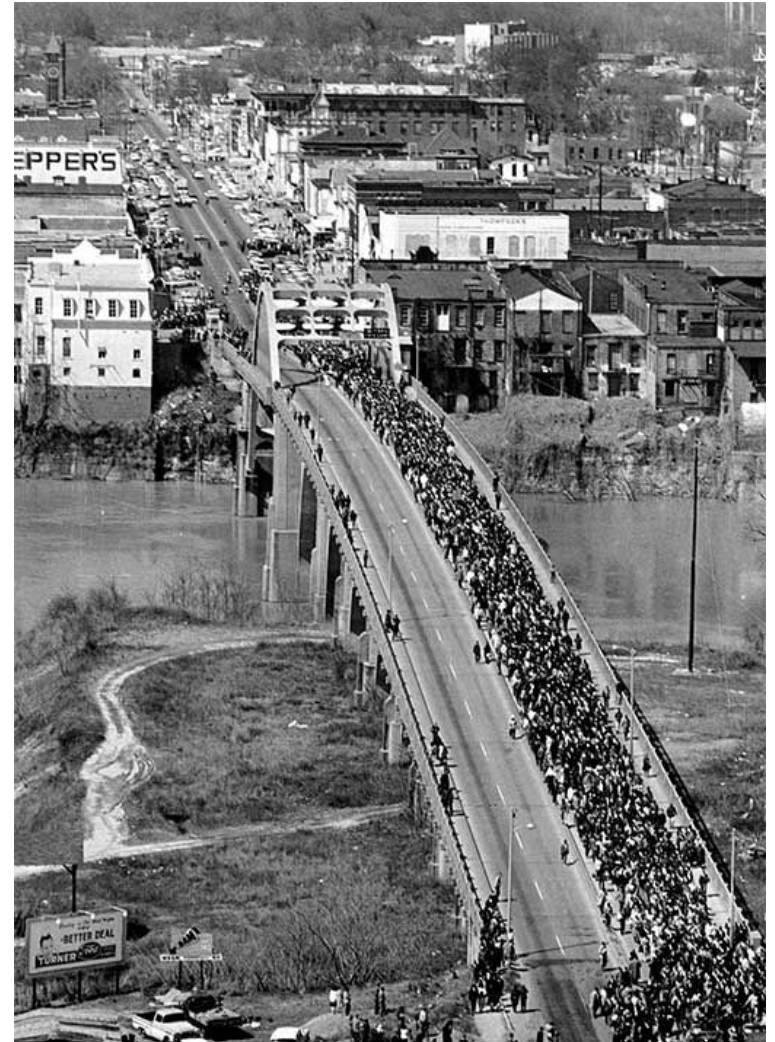


# **EYES ON THE PRIZE**

**America's Civil Rights Years**

1954-1965

- On March 7, 600 people began the march but were met by Alabama state troopers wielding whips, nightsticks and tear gas at Edmund Pettis Bridge.
- The brutal scene was broadcast across the nation.
- King himself led another attempt on March 9, but turned the marchers around when state troopers again blocked the road.
- Alabama state officials (led by Wallace) tried to prevent the march from going forward, but a U.S. district court judge ordered them to permit it.





- Some 2,000 people set out from Selma on March 21, protected by U.S. Army troops and Alabama National Guard forces that Johnson had ordered under federal control.
- After walking some 12 hours a day and sleeping in fields along the way, they reached Montgomery on March 25.





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxEauRq1WxQ>

- After several months of violence in Selma, on March 15, 1965, President Johnson announced plans to submit a new voting rights bill.
- proclaimed racial discrimination not a “Negro problem” but “an American problem.” It is not, he said, “just Negroes, but really it is all of us, who must overcome the crippling legacy of bigotry and injustice.” Then, after a pause, he added, “And we shall overcome.”

# Voting Rights Act of 1965



**August 6, 1965**

- The act outlaws literacy tests and other tactics used to deny blacks the right to vote.
- Mandated federal oversight of voter registration in areas where tests had previously been used
- Between 1964 and 1968, the number of blacks in Mississippi registered to vote rises from 7% to 59%.
- Overall across the South, African American voter registration grows by more than 2 million.



# Quick Write

**Up to 1965, was the Civil Rights Movement effective in securing equal rights for African Americans? Why or why not?**