Topic 8: Civil Rights and Reform in the 1960s

- I The Civil Rights Movement Strengthens
  - A. In 1948 President Truman desegregates the military by executive order.
  - B. In the Supreme court decision Sweatt v. Painter it showed that "separate but equal" was unconstitutional in "higher education"
  - C. The integration of Central High School in Litter Rock Arkansas, was made possible by the Supreme Court decision of Brown vs. Board of Education.
  - D. President Eisenhower sent federal troops to Little Rock to enforce federal law laid down by the Supreme Court.
  - E. Rosa Parks act of not giving up her seat, is a good example of non violent protest.
  - F. Resistance should not mimic the action it is protesting, was MLK's way of explaining non violent protest.
  - G. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference outlined 5 requirements to eliminate poverty. This is part of the Poor People's Campaign.
- II The Movement Surges Forward
  - A. Lunch counter sit-ins drew attention to segregation and helped to challenge the laws.
  - B. James Lawson's speech "From a Lunch Counter Stool" ignites the formation of a new protest organizetion, known as the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
  - C. The violence committed against the Freedom Riders forced the desegregation of interstate transport.
  - D. The largest number of arrest during the Freedom Riders campaign is 306 arrest, this ride began on May 17, 1961.
  - E. Civil Rights leader John Lewis explains that the federal government cannot be counted on to promote justice.
  - F. MLK rights a letter from a Birmingham jail. In his letter he demands that segregation must end immediately.
  - G. Alabama Governor George Wallace believes that the races should be separated in all aspects of public life.
  - H. The "March on Washington" was an effective event because it turned the majority of the public in favor of the Civil Rights legislation that Congress was about to vote on.
  - I. In an attempt to keep the Civil Rights act from passing, Senate Democrats begin to filibuster against the legislation.
- III Success and Setbacks
  - A. Terri Shaw recalls how politicians used voter literacy test to disqualify African American voter registration.
  - B. Violent confrontation against the civil rights movement at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma AL. showed the determination of the protestors.
  - C. The Twenty-fourth Amendment was passed to increase participation in the political process.
  - D. After the passage of the Voting Rights Act there was a huge increase in registered African Americans.
  - E. The Kerner Commission report showed that the majority of Americans were unfamiliar with Urban poverty.
  - F. Malcolm X. disagreed with the non violent protest methods of Martin Luther King.
  - G. Stokely Carmichael argued that African Americans needed economic advancement and better schools.
  - H. The Black Panther Party did not advocate non violent methods of protest.
  - I. Lester Maddox eventual governor of Georgia, protested against the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

- J. An indicator of the success of the Civil Rights movement was the appointment of African American Thurgood Marshall to the Supreme Court.
- IV Kennedy's Reforms
  - A. The importance of Television in the 1960 election showed that voters could be swayed more by appearances than by issues.
  - B. Kennedy won key states with large populations to beat Nixon in the 1960 election.
  - C. Kennedy "Frontier" speech speaks of hopes and threats in the modern age.
  - D. Women were the beneficiary of the Equal Pay Act.
  - E. Mississippi Governor Ross Barnett protested that the federal government was exercising too much authority over the states.
  - F. The rivalry between the US and USSR centered on the ability to be the first to send a man to the moon.
  - G. Alan B. Shepard was the first American in space, and symbolized a cold war victory for the US.
- V Reform Under Johnson
  - A. The civil rights movement begins to shift its priorities to economic issues.
  - B. The Job Corps is created as part of the Economic Opportunity Act.
  - C. In President Johnson's speech at the University of Michigan, he lays out in detail his domestic program.
  - D. Election data showed that most voters did not care of either party as the decade of the 60's ended.
  - E. In 1964 it was still too early to determine if Johnson's "War on Poverty" had made significant improvement.
  - F. In Tinker v. Des Moines (1969) the Supreme Court further defined free speech as it pertains to the First Amendment to the Constitution.