

**“THE TIME IS
ALWAYS RIGHT
TO DO WHAT IS
RIGHT”**

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING
(1 9 2 9 - 1 9 6 8)**



BEFORE ROSA PARKS THERE WAS CLAUDETTE COLVIN

- **Claudette Colvin Arrest Record in Montgomery, Alabama**
 - http://okra.stanford.edu/transcription/document_images/undecided/550302-001.pdf
 - NAACP Decided to Not Use Claudette as a Test Case for the Montgomery Bus Boycott
- **Rosa Parks Arrest Record in Montgomery, Alabama**
 - http://okra.stanford.edu/transcription/document_images/undecided/551201-000.pdf
 - By December 1955, NAACP Chose Rosa to be the Face for the Montgomery Bus Boycott





ROSA PARKS & MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Rosa Parks, an NAACP activist, challenge Montgomery's busing ordinance.

King was elected president of the Montgomery Improvement Association. King gained national prominence during the year-long bus boycott.



ADDRESS AT FREEDOM RIDERS RALLY AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

MAY 21, 1961

Martin Luther King declined the Invitation to attend the Freedom Riders Rally.

He sent this letter of support and praised the Freedom Riders for their nonviolent demonstrations.

Dr. King expressed that the power of the vote was important to provide change in America.

He advocated for an intensive voter registration drive to fight against the oppression of blacks.



LETTER FROM BIRMINGHAM JAIL

APRIL 16, 1963

Dr. King was arrested for peaceful demonstration.

He was criticized for his “unwise and untimely” demonstration.

Dr. King called out moderate “do nothingism” and Democratic leadership to stop the oppression of blacks.

He said, “justice too long delayed is justice denied.”

His letter states that “oppressed people cannot remain oppressed forever.”



I HAVE A DREAM

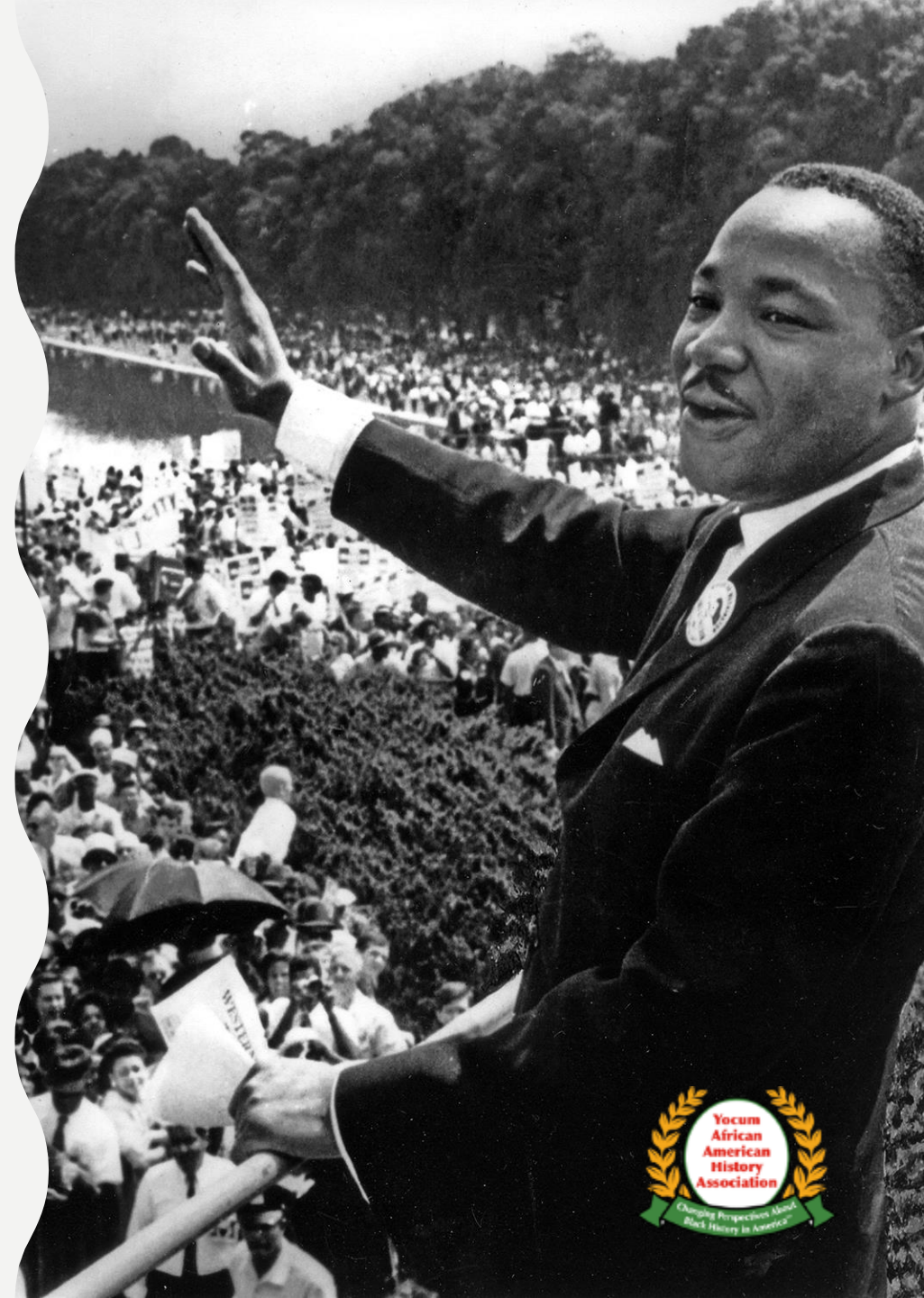
AUGUST 28, 1968

Two hundred thousand people joined MLK on the National Mall.

Dr. King said I have a dream, "that we all rise to the sunlit path of racial justice."

I have a dream that we create a "beautiful symphony of brotherhood."

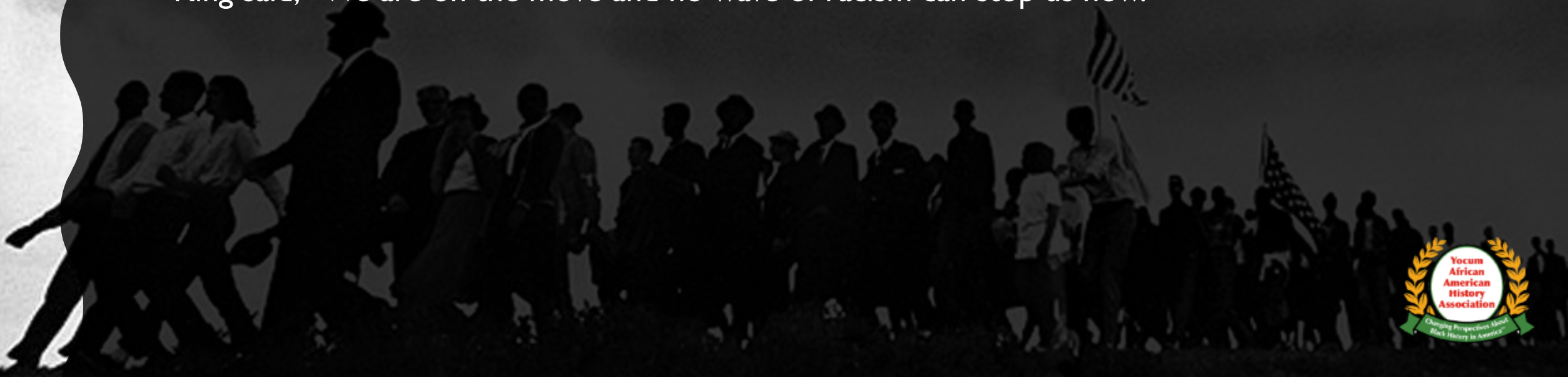
I have a dream that we "will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: Free at Last, Free at Last, Thank God Almighty, We are Free at Last!"



OUR GOD IS MARCHING ON

MARCH 25, 1965

- Dr. King's speech on the completion of the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.
- Two thousand people completed the fifty-four miles to protest their oppressors.
- The Selma to Montgomery March was about the right to vote.
- King said, "We are on the move and no wave of racism can stop us now."





BEYOND VIETNAM

APRIL 4, 1967

Dr. King moved to break his silence on the Vietnam War.

He felt the war had deleterious effect on America's poor.

King argues that the war in Vietnam must end.





THE OTHER AMERICA APRIL 14, 1967

Dr. King's speech, The Other America illustrated the disparity within the black and white communities.

One community offered the sunlight of opportunity.

The other community offered despair.





I'VE BEEN TO THE MOUNTAIN TOP APRIL 3, 1963

Dr. King gave this speech to support sanitation workers who were on strike in Memphis.

The speech was pensive and seemed like a prophecy.

The next day he was assassinated.



SUMMARY

Dr. King wrote 2,500 speeches over ten years, YAAHA chose six:

- **Freedom Riders Rally**, praised them, but felt voting rights most important
- **Letter From Birmingham Jail**, enlightened society about black injustices
- **I have a Dream**, an image where oppression replaces freedom
- **Our God is Marching On**, to keep pressing on for voting rights
- **Beyond Vietnam**, concern for the cost of war and its effect on poverty
- **The Other America**, illustrated the disparity in opportunity for blacks
- **I've Been to the Mountain Top**, a reflective speech that became a prophecy

Martin Luther King as president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), led the non-violent movement and changed minds about the injustices that blacks faced, particularly in the South. His movement was supported by blacks and whites.