

Challenges and Changes in the Movement

African Americans Seek Greater Equality

Northern Segregation

- **De facto segregation** exists by practice, custom; problem in North
- **De jure segregation** is segregation required by law
- WW II black migration to Northern cities results in “white flight”
- 1960s, most urban blacks live in slums; landlords ignore ordinances
- Black unemployment twice as high as white
- Many blacks angry at treatment received from white police officers

Urban Violence Erupts

- Mid-1960s, numerous clashes between white authority, black civilians
 - many result in riots
- Many whites baffled by African-American rage
- Blacks want, need equal opportunity in jobs, housing, education
- Money for War on Poverty, Great Society redirected to Vietnam War

New Leaders Voice Discontent

African-American Solidarity

- **Nation of Islam**, Black Muslims, advocate blacks separate from whites
 - believe whites source of black problems
- **Malcolm X**—controversial Muslim leader, speaker; gets much publicity
- Frightens whites, moderate blacks; resented by other Black Muslims

Ballots or Bullets?

- Pilgrimage to Mecca changes Malcolm X's attitude toward whites
- Splits with Black Muslims; is killed in 1965 while giving speech

Black Power

- CORE, SNCC become more militant; SCLC pursues traditional tactics
- **Stokely Carmichael**, head of SNCC, calls for **Black Power**:
 - African Americans control own lives, communities, without whites

Black Panthers

- **Black Panthers** fight police brutality, want black self-sufficiency
- Preach ideas of Mao Zedong; have violent confrontations with police
- Provide social services in ghettos, win popular support

1968—A Turning Point in Civil Rights

King's Death

- King objects to Black Power movement, preaching of violence
- Seems to sense own death in Memphis speech to striking workers
- Is shot, dies the following day, April 4, 1968

Reactions to King's Death

- King's death leads to worst urban rioting in U.S. history
 - over 100 cities affected
- Robert Kennedy assassinated two months later

Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement

Causes of Violence

- **Kerner Commission** names racism as main cause of urban violence

Civil Rights Gains

- **Civil Rights Act of 1968** prohibits discrimination in housing
- More black students finish high school, college; get better jobs
- Greater pride in racial identity leads to Black Studies programs
- More African-American participation in movies, television
- Increased voter registration results in more black elected officials

Unfinished Work

- Forced busing, higher taxes, militancy, riots reduce white support
- White flight reverses much progress toward school integration
- Unemployment, poverty higher than for whites
- **Affirmative action**—extra effort to hire, enroll discriminated groups
- 1960s, colleges, companies doing government business adopt policy
- Late 1970s, some criticize policy as reverse discrimination