

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Period full of **discriminations** against African-Americans

Situation improved in the **1960s** ⇒

President L. Johnson signed the **Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act**



- **discrimination** based on race, national background and gender **was banned**
- everyone was given **the right to vote**

Nevertheless many southern states continued to treat African-Americans as second class citizens.

1955

Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat to a white man on a bus

- she is arrested
- Montgomery African Americans refuse to ride the buses.
- the Montgomery Improvement Association forms and elects 26 year-old King as its president.

January 1957

- M. L. King is elected president of the **Southern Christian Leadership Conference**.
- The **Southern Christian Leadership Conference** in the South help boycotting ⇒ the Montgomery bus boycott is a success.
- M. L. King ⇒ president of the SCLC.

August 28, 1963

- M.L.King gives his "**I Have a Dream**" speech.
- March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom ⇒ to try and gain support for the Civil Rights Act.
- M.L. King gives his famous "**I Have a Dream**" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

«There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tell him it is right.»



«I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin, but by the content of their character.»

«Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.»

M.L. King received a letter from a young girl, :

"I read that if you had sneezed, you would've died. I'm simply writing you to say that I'm so happy that you didn't sneeze".

He quoted the words of the little girl multiple times,
He started every sentence with 'if I had sneezed...'

He mention he had fought against

- racism
 - discrimination and
 - segregation
- throughout the past years.

According to Dr. M.L. King's sermon
"The Drum Major Instinct



greatness

is related to service and love.

- greatness is attributed by one's own grace
- anyone can be great
- everybody can serve and love.

Black people have nothing to be ashamed of

His yell with the crowd:

**"YES! I'M BLACK. I'M PROUD OF IT.
I'M BLACK AND BEAUTIFUL!"**

