

1963 – The war to end segregation
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January 14 – George C. Wallace, the new governor of Alabama, proclaims in his inaugural address “Segregation now, segregation tomorrow, and segregation forever!”

March-April - Sit-in demonstrations are held in Birmingham, Alabama to protest segregation of eating facilities.

April 12 – King, Ralph Abernathy, Fred Shuttlesworth and others are arrested in Birmingham for “parading without a permit,” and released on April 19.

April 12-16 - King writes the *Letter from Birmingham Jail* in response to an open letter from white clergy in Birmingham.

April 13 - the Birmingham campaign is launched to integrate schools, stores and restaurants.

April 16 – MLK issues the *Letter from Birmingham Jail*.

May 7– Thousands of African-Americans, including many children, are arrested in Birmingham. As demonstrations continue, Police Commissioner “Bull” Connor turns dogs and fire hoses on them.

May 10 - the Birmingham agreement is announced. Stores, restaurants, and schools will be desegregated, hiring of blacks implemented, and charges against demonstrators dropped.

May 20 - The Supreme Court of the United States rules Birmingham, Alabama’s segregation ordinances unconstitutional.

June - Dr. King’s book, *Strength To Love*, a collection of sermons, is published by Harper & Row.

June 11 - Governor George C. Wallace stands in the door of the University of Alabama to protest against integration, before stepping aside and allowing African Americans James Hood and Vivian Malone to enroll.

June 11 - President John F. Kennedy makes an historic civil rights speech, in which he promises a Civil Rights Bill, and asks for "the kind of equality of treatment that we would want for ourselves."

June 12 - Medgar Evers, NAACP leader, is murdered in Jackson, Mississippi (his killer is convicted in 1994)

June 23 - MLK leads 125,000 people on a Freedom Walk in Detroit.

August 18 - American civil rights movement: James Meredith becomes the first black person to graduate from the University of Mississippi.

August 28 King delivers his "I Have A Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to an audience of at least 250,000 during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

September 2-10 - Governor Wallace orders the Alabama state troopers to stop the court ordered integration of Alabama's elementary and high schools until he is enjoined by court injunction from doing so. By September 10 specific schools are actually integrated by court order.

September 15 – the 16th St. Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham kills 4 young girls and injures 22.

October 10 – Attorney-General Robert Kennedy authorizes the wiretapping of King's home telephone.

November 22 - In Dallas, Texas, United States President John F. Kennedy is assassinated,