

My Sources for "Why People Think the FBI Killed MLK"

0:35

1:45

"At this point Hoover decided to escalate his campaign. On Nov. 18, 1964 – 50 years ago this week – Hoover denounced King at a Washington news conference, labeling him the "the most notorious liar in the country." A few days later, one of Hoover's deputies, William Sullivan, apparently took it upon himself to write the anonymous letter and sent an agent to Miami, to mail the package to Atlanta."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/16/magazine/what-an-uncensored-letter-to-mlk-reveals.html>

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"According to Enemies, journalist Tim Weiner's history of the FBI, Sullivan "had a package of the King sex tapes prepared by the FBI's lab technicians," and sent it along with this letter to King's home. The package was opened by King's wife.

"You have been on the record – all your adulterous acts, your sexual orgies extending far into the past. This one is but a tiny sample," the letter says. It threatens that the public "will know you for what you are – an evil, abnormal beast." It continues: "Your 'honorary' degrees, your Nobel prize (what a grim farce) and other awards will not save you. King, I repeat you are done.

Though the letter was unsigned and the letter writer appeared to want King to think he was black – "you know you are a complete fraud and a great liability to all of us Negroes," one line states – King and his advisers quickly concluded the letter had been sent by the FBI, Gage writes."

<https://www.vox.com/xpress/2014/11/12/7204453/martin-luther-king-fbi-letter>

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<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/16/magazine/what-an-uncensored-letter-to-mlk-reveals.html>

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2:20

Page 20

https://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/-public-opinion-on-conspiracy-theories_181649218739.pdf?x91208

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2:35

"There is abundant evidence," Coretta King said after the verdict, "of a major, high-level conspiracy in the assassination of my husband." The jury found the mafia and various government agencies "were deeply involved in the assassination. ... Mr. Ray was set up to take the blame."

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/retropolis/wp/2018/03/30/who-killed-martin-luther-king-jr-his-family-believes-james-earl-ray-was-framed/>

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"In 1979, a congressional investigation by the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) arrived at similar conclusions, additionally finding that one or both of James Earl Ray's brothers might have been his accomplices and that two racist St. Louis businessmen, who were dead by the time the HSCA probe began, may have put up a bounty for Dr. King's murder."

<https://www.justice.gov/crt/overview-investigation-allegations-regarding-assassination-dr-martin-luther-king-jr>

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https://youtu.be/pXH_10QeK9A?feature=shared&t=220

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5:23

King was deeply influenced by Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolent resistance. He believed that nonviolence was the most powerful weapon available to oppressed people in their struggle for justice and human dignity. This principle was not just a strategy but a way of life, promoting peace, love, and understanding as foundations for societal change.

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While the Montgomery boycott was going on, India's Gandhi was the guiding light of our technique of non-violent social change. We spoke of him often. So as soon as our victory over bus segregation was won, some of my friends said: "Why don't you go to India and see for yourself what the Mahatma, whom you so admire, has wrought."

<https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/king-papers/documents/my-trip-land-gandhi>

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7:00

"King had been pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, slightly more than a year when the city's small group of civil rights advocates decided to contest racial segregation on that city's public bus system following the incident on December 1, 1955, in which Rosa Parks, an African American woman, had refused to surrender her bus seat to a white passenger and as a consequence was arrested for violating the city's segregation law. Activists formed the Montgomery Improvement Association to boycott the transit system and chose King as their leader. He had the advantage of being a young, well-trained man who was too new in town to have made enemies; he was generally respected, and it was thought that his family connections and professional standing would enable him to find another pastorate should the boycott fail."

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Martin-Luther-King-Jr/The-Montgomery-bus-boycott>

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"African Americans were the majority of people who rode the city bus in Montgomery, Alabama at the time. Approximately 40,000 African Americans boycotted the Montgomery city busses. They not only wanted an end to segregation on buses, but they also wanted courtesy and more opportunities for black people. They wanted a first come first seated policy. The boycott continued until the city met the demands of the NAACP."

<https://sites.wp.odu.edu/civil-rights-movement/sub-topic-2/>

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"Although King's home was dynamited and his family's safety threatened, he continued to lead the boycott until, one year and a few weeks later, the city's buses were desegregated."

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Martin-Luther-King-Jr/The-Montgomery-bus-boycott>

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7:11

"The campaign was originally scheduled to begin in early March 1963, but was postponed until 2 April when the relatively moderate Albert Boutwell defeated Birmingham's segregationist commissioner of public safety, Eugene "Bull" Connor, in a run-off mayoral election. On 3 April the desegregation campaign was launched with a series of mass meetings, direct actions, lunch counter sit-ins, marches on City Hall, and a boycott of downtown merchants. King spoke to black citizens about the philosophy of nonviolence and its methods, and extended appeals for volunteers at the end of the mass meetings. With the number of volunteers increasing daily, actions soon expanded to kneel-ins at churches, sit-ins at the library, and a march on the county building to register voters. Hundreds were arrested."

<https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/birmingham-campaign>

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Birmingham in the 1950s and 60s was known as the most segregated city in the United States. Jim Crow laws separated black and white people in parks, pools and elevators, at drinking fountains and lunch counters. African Americans were barred from working at the same downtown businesses where many of them shopped.

<https://www.npca.org/articles/1438-reflections-on-birmingham-site-of-america-s-newest-national-monument#:~:text=Birmingham%20in%20the%201950s%20and,where%20many%20of%20them%20shopped.>

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7:58

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<https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/birmingham-campaign>

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8:47

On Good Friday, 12 April, King was arrested in Birmingham after violating the anti-protest injunction and was kept in solitary confinement. During this time King penned the "Letter from Birmingham Jail" on the margins of the Birmingham News, in reaction to a statement published in that newspaper by eight Birmingham clergymen condemning the protests. King's request to call his wife, Coretta Scott King, who was at home in Atlanta recovering from the birth of their fourth child, was denied. After she communicated her concern to the Kennedy administration, Birmingham officials permitted King to call home. Bail money was made available, and he was released on 20 April 1963.

<https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/birmingham-campaign#:~:text=On%20Good%20Friday%2C%2012%20April,was%20kept%20in%20solitary%20confinement.>

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9:15

"The demonstration started on 2 May 1963. School children were placed at the front of the march as television footage of children being arrested for protesting peacefully would embarrass the Birmingham Police.

However, the Police Chief, Eugene 'Bull' Connor ordered the arrest of over 900 children between the ages of 6 and 18.

The next day Connor ordered water cannons and dogs to be used on the marchers.

By the third day, many police and fire service men refused to attack the protesters as they saw how they were being portrayed in the media.

By the fourth day of the protest both sides were having second thoughts. King was worried about the safety of the demonstrators, while local businessmen were concerned about the negative publicity and the drop in trade.

Impact

An agreement was reached - in exchange for stopping the protest it was agreed that lunch counters, rest rooms and drinking fountains would be desegregated within ninety days."

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zdfcwmn/revision/9>

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9:15

During the next few days images of children being blasted by high-pressure fire hoses, clubbed by police officers, and attacked by police dogs appeared on television and in newspapers, triggering international outrage. While leading a group of child marchers, Shuttlesworth himself was hit with the full force of a fire hose and had to

be hospitalized. King offered encouragement to parents of the young protesters: “Don’t worry about your children, they’re going to be alright. Don’t hold them back if they want to go to jail. For they are doing a job for not only themselves, but for all of America and for all mankind” (King, 6 May 1963).

<https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/birmingham-campaign>

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9:45

For a brief period in the 1960's, while Morris was active in the Klan, he also served as an informant to Federal, State and local law enforcement officials.(95) Although Morris readily admitted this activity, he explained that he had never been paid and that he had never provided original information to any law enforcement agency.(96) Rather, Morris contended that he had been merely a conduit between agencies for information which the FBI, the Alabama attorney general and the Birmingham police obtained from their own independent sources. (97) He claimed his underlying objective in acting as an informant was to ascertain the identities of actual informers in the Klan organizations. (98)

<https://www.archives.gov/research/jfk/select-committee-report/part-2c.html#morris>

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9:51

In executive session testimony before the committee, Morris vehemently denied ever engaging in a conversation about a bounty on Dr. King's life with Stoner, Carter, or anyone else.(90) Morris stressed that he was never involved in violence or advocated its use in effectuating the Klan's principles.(91) Nevertheless, in its review of the FBI files concerning Morris, the committee found several FBI intelligence reports, based on informant information, that indicated Morris, at an October 1961 Klan meeting, had said southern racial problems could be eliminated by the murder of Dr. King. (92) Morris then apparently boasted that he had a New Orleans underworld associate who would kill anyone for a price.(93) Under oath, Morris denied making these statements. (94)

<https://www.archives.gov/research/jfk/select-committee-report/part-2c.html#morris>

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10:00

In a 1956 New York speech, King described the WCC as a modern Ku Klux Klan, targeting black and white people supportive of civil rights. “They must be held responsible for all of the terror, the mob rule, and brutal murders that have encompassed the South over the last several years,” King said. “It is an indictment on America and democracy that these ungodly and unethical and un-Christian and un-American councils have been able to exist all of these months without a modicum of criticism from the federal government” (Papers 3:475).

As late as 1966, the White Citizens’ Council teamed up with the virulently anti-Communist John Birch Society to petition the federal government to investigate whether King and over 100,000 other rights activists had Communist connections. Yet King believed that their power was fading: “Two years ago Americans, in a presidential election, overwhelmingly rejected representatives of Birchism and the

White Citizens Council,” he said, referring to Barry Goldwater’s defeat by Lyndon B. Johnson. “It is my honest opinion that this same majority still finds repulsive persons who strive to impose 19th Century standards upon our society” (King, 26 May 1966).

<https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/white-citizens-councils-wcc>

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10:15

Many people celebrate the life and legacy of American civil rights activist, minister, and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for his advocacy of nonviolent social change and leadership during the civil rights movement. However, less commonly known is his significant influence on the passage of the Fair Housing Act.

By the mid-1960s, decades of unjust government policies in lending and real estate had created a system that deliberately excluded many people of color from homeownership. Practices such as redlining and restrictive land use laws effectively made it impossible for Black Americans to purchase a home and build the equity and wealth-building assets that often come with homeownership.

In 1966, Dr. King co-led the Chicago Freedom Movement to call attention to these discriminatory housing practices in Chicago. Through a series of marches in majority-white neighborhoods, demonstrations, and testing to uncover real estate bias, Dr. King brought the demand for open housing to city leaders and eventually negotiated an agreement. The progress made that year laid the foundation for the Fair Housing Act of 1968, which made it illegal to discriminate against anyone looking to rent, buy or access financing for housing nationwide.

<https://ohiohome.org/news/blog/january-2021/mlk-fairhousing.aspx>

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10:22

When conservative Arizona Senator Barry M. Goldwater ran for president in 1964, Martin Luther King, Jr., expressed his opposition, explaining: “I feel that the prospect of Senator Goldwater being president of the United States so threatens the health, morality, and survival of our nation that I can not in good conscience fail to take a stand against what he represents” (King, 16 July 1964). Goldwater lost the election to President Lyndon Johnson in a landslide, winning majorities only in his native Arizona and five states of the Deep South.

<https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/goldwater-barry-m>

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Still, most people who see J. Edgar would never know that when segregationist governors such as Ross Barnett (Mississippi) and George Wallace (Alabama) campaigned against civil rights legislation by smearing Martin Luther King for supposedly being part of a “communist training school” in Tennessee and claiming that King “belonged to more communist organizations than any man in the U.S,” it was Hoover’s bureau that produced information refuting such lies.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2011/11/what-really-happened-between-j-edgar-hoover-and-mlk-jr/248319/>

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Strom Thurmond

Long before “race-baiting” became a popular term, South Carolina senator Strom Thurmond said King “must always have an agitation objective lest he end up in the street one day without a drum to beat or a headline to make”. One of Thurmond’s first acts after leaving the Democratic party to become a Republican was to implore the FBI to investigate King’s activities as a communist. (Years later, Thurmond voted for the MLK holiday.) Even after his death, conservative leaders sought to sully King’s legacy by erasing the prospect of a holiday honoring him. “Rev. King’s motives are misrepresented,” wrote then Ohio senator John Ashbrook. “He sought not to work through the law but around it.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/jan/17/mlk-is-revered-today-but-the-real-king-would-make-white-people-uncomfortable>

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Bull Connor

Along with Birmingham’s two other city commissioners, Connor filed a legal challenge to the change in city government and remained in office until May 1963. During this time, Martin Luther King Jr., in cooperation with local civil rights leaders, led demonstrations in Birmingham against racial segregation. Connor ordered Birmingham police officers and firemen to use dogs and high-pressure water hoses against demonstrators. Images of the resulting mayhem appeared on television and in newspapers throughout the country and helped to shift public opinion in favor of national civil-rights legislation. Images of the demonstrations are still regularly broadcast and published and have helped cement Connor and Birmingham as symbols of racial intolerance.

<https://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/eugene-bull-connor/>

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George Wallace

In June 1963 Wallace fulfilled a campaign promise to stand in the schoolhouse door rather than accede to federal orders to integrate Alabama schools. Wallace blocked black students Vivian Malone and James Hood from entering the University of Alabama, but yielded when President John F. Kennedy federalized the Alabama National Guard to ensure their entrance. Three months later violence in the city erupted, concluding in the murder of four young black girls in a bombing at Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham. King, who had been in Birmingham to desegregate public facilities, felt that Wallace’s actions contributed to the violence in the city. Writing to President Kennedy in September 1963, King lamented: “A reign of terror continues in Birmingham. The atmosphere of violence and lawlessness has been fomented and created by the irresponsible actions of Governor George Wallace who persists in violating federal fiat in arrogant and blatant defiance.” King warned Kennedy that if he did

not “use the influence of [his] high office,” Birmingham would “see the worst race riot in our [nation’s] history” (King, 5 September 1963). Similar confrontations, repeated in other cities, bolstered Wallace’s reputation. His first term was also marked by the violent responses of Alabama authorities to voting rights demonstrations in Selma, Alabama.

<https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/wallace-george-corley-jr>

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Orval Faubus

On 4 September 1957, the first day of school at Central High, a white mob gathered in front of the school, and Governor Orval Faubus deployed the Arkansas National Guard to prevent the black students from entering. In response to Faubus’ action, a team of NAACP lawyers, including Thurgood Marshall, won a federal district court injunction to prevent the governor from blocking the students’ entry. With the help of police escorts, the students successfully entered the school through a side entrance on 23 September 1957. Fearing escalating mob violence, however, the students were rushed home soon afterward.

<https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/little-rock-school-desegregation>

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James Eastland

On January 21, 1948, Senator James Eastland of Mississippi led a successful campaign to block an anti-lynching bill, which would have held members of lynch mobs and local law enforcement officers accountable for their role in racial terror lynchings. Before the Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearing, Senator Eastland—an ardent segregationist and supporter of white supremacy—proclaimed that “time has cured” lynchings and refused to acknowledge the role that law enforcement had played for decades in the lynchings of thousands of Black Americans.

<https://calendar.eji.org/racial-injustice/jan/21>

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John Stennis

If South Carolina Senator Strom Thurman and Alabama Governor George Wallace were the face and voice of the Southern Dixiecrats, then Mississippi Senator John C. Stennis was the heart, soul, and brains of the white supremacist caucus in the 1948 Congress. The Dixiecrats were the faction of the 1940s Democratic Party that consisted of malcontented southern delegates who protested the civil rights plank in the party platform, and President Harry S. Truman’s advocacy of that plank. The blinding of Army Sergeant Isaac Woodard Jr. by a South Carolina policeman in 1946 strengthened Truman’s resolve.

<https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2020/june/case-renaming-uss-john-c-stennis>

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Thodore Bilbo

Theodore G. Bilbo, (born Oct. 13, 1877, near Poplarville, Miss., U.S.—died Aug. 21, 1947, New Orleans, La.), American politician and Democratic senator from Mississippi (1935–47), best known for his racist and demagogic rhetoric.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Theodore-G-Bilbo>

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Harry F Byrd Sr

RICHMOND, Va. (WRIC) — The bronze statue of Virginia Gov. and U.S. Sen. Harry Flood Byrd, Sr. which stands on Capitol Square will be removed by the state Wednesday.

Byrd was a known segregationist who called for Massive Resistance. The policy was aimed at blocking racial integration in Virginia schools following the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling that established racial segregation in schools was unconstitutional.

<https://www.wric.com/news/local-news/richmond/statue-of-virginia-gov-and-u-s-sen-harry-byrd-a-known-segregationist-to-be-removed-wednesday/>

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Ross Barnett

Former Gov. Ross Robert Barnett, whose advocacy of segregation helped make Mississippi a civil rights battlefield 25 years ago, died today, his son said. He was 89 years old.

Governor Barnett catapulted into the national spotlight in 1962 when he sought to bar a black man from entering the University of Mississippi in defiance of a Federal court order. The resulting confrontation was the sharpest clash between a state and the Federal Government since the Civil War.

<https://www.nytimes.com/1987/11/07/obituaries/ross-barnett-segregationist-dies-governor-of-mississippi-in-1960-s.html>

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Barry Goldwater

When conservative Arizona Senator Barry M. Goldwater ran for president in 1964, Martin Luther King, Jr., expressed his opposition, explaining: “I feel that the prospect of Senator Goldwater being president of the United States so threatens the health, morality, and survival of our nation that I can not in good conscience fail to take a stand against what he represents” (King, 16 July 1964). Goldwater lost the election to President Lyndon Johnson in a landslide, winning majorities only in his native Arizona and five states of the Deep South.

<https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/goldwater-barry-m>

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11:39

Before the

March on Washington, Hoover had requested from the FBI's Domestic Intelligence Division, a report on communist attempts to infiltrate the civil rights movement. On 23rd August the report was delivered to Hoover. It basically dismissed any notions of

communist involvement in the movement.

http://www.kooriweb.org/foley/essays/pdf_essays/fbi%20and%20the%20us%20civil%20rights%20movement.pdf

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13:25

"Officially called the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, the historic gathering took place on August 28, 1963. Some 250,000 people gathered at the Lincoln Memorial, and more than 3,000 members of the press covered the event."

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/march-on-washington>

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22:00

The secret letter was tucked inside the pages of an old book. It had been written by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover to a top lieutenant, condemning civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

It was Nov. 19, 1964, and Hoover the previous day had assailed King at a news conference as "the most notorious liar in the country." Now he was writing a colleague privately to say he hoped King was getting his "just deserts."

"I certainly hope so," Hoover wrote.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/retropolis/wp/2017/12/13/an-old-letter-sheds-light-on-fbis-malice-toward-martin-luther-king-jr/>

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22:05

The blackmail letter from the FBI was sent to the King family on November 21, 1964.

<https://www.manhattantimesnews.com/what-martin-luther-king-jr-knew-but-never-said-lo-que-martin-luther-king-jr-sabia-pero-nunca-dijo/>

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23:17

The Nobel Prize was endowed in 1895 by Alfred Nobel, a Swedish industrialist and the inventor of dynamite. Annual awards in physics, chemistry, medicine, literature, and peace began in 1901. The winner of the Peace Prize is selected by a committee appointed by the Norwegian Parliament from nominations submitted by past winners and other select persons. King was nominated by the American Friends Service Committee, which had received the prize in 1947.

King departed for Oslo on 4 December 1964, stopping in London for three days to preach at St. Paul's Cathedral and meet with leaders of the peace community. He was accompanied on his trip by a group of Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) staff and members of his family. King accepted the prize on 10 December, in the name of the thousands of people in the civil rights movement who constituted what he termed a "mighty army of love" (King, "Mighty Army of Love"). He called the award, "a profound recognition that nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral questions of our time: the need for man to overcome oppression and violence

without resorting to violence and oppression,” and discussed ways to overcome the evils of racial injustice, poverty, and war (King, Acceptance Address for the Nobel Peace Prize, 106).

<https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/nobel-peace-prize>

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Following Kennedy’s assassination in November 1963, King continued to press for the bill as did newly inaugurated President Lyndon B. Johnson. In his 4 January 1964 column in the New York Amsterdam News, King maintained that the legislation was “the order of the day at the great March on Washington last summer. The Negro and his compatriots for self-respect and human dignity will not be denied” (King, “A Look to 1964”).

The bill passed the House of Representatives in mid-February 1964, but became mired in the Senate due to a filibuster by southern senators that lasted 75 days. When the bill finally passed the Senate, King hailed it as one that would “bring practical relief to the Negro in the South, and will give the Negro in the North a psychological boost that he sorely needs” (King, 19 June 1964). On 2 July 1964, Johnson signed the new Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law with King and other civil rights leaders present. The law’s provisions created the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to address race and sex discrimination in employment and a Community Relations Service to help local communities solve racial disputes; authorized federal intervention to ensure the desegregation of schools, parks, swimming pools, and other public facilities; and restricted the use of literacy tests as a requirement for voter registration.

<https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/civil-rights-act-1964#:~:text=The%20law's%20provisions%20created%20the,swimming%20pools%2C%20and%20other%20public>

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23:25

On 4 April 1967 Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his seminal speech at Riverside Church condemning the Vietnam War. Declaring “my conscience leaves me no other choice,” King described the war’s deleterious effects on both America’s poor and Vietnamese peasants and insisted that it was morally imperative for the United States to take radical steps to halt the war through nonviolent means (King, “Beyond Vietnam,” 139).

King’s anti-war sentiments emerged publicly for the first time in March 1965, when King declared that “millions of dollars can be spent every day to hold troops in South Viet Nam and our country cannot protect the rights of Negroes in Selma” (King, 9 March 1965). King told reporters on Face the Nation that as a minister he had “a prophetic function” and as “one greatly concerned about the need for peace in our world and the survival of mankind, I must continue to take a stand on this issue” (King, 29 August 1965). In a version of the “Transformed Nonconformist” sermon given in January 1966 at Ebenezer Baptist Church, King voiced his own opposition to the Vietnam War, describing American aggression as a violation of the 1954 Geneva Accord that promised self-determination.

In early 1967 King stepped up his anti-war proclamations, giving similar speeches in Los Angeles and Chicago. The Los Angeles speech, called "The Casualties of the War in Vietnam," stressed the history of the conflict and argued that American power should be "harnessed to the service of peace and human beings, not an inhumane power [unleashed] against defenseless people" (King, 25 February 1967).

<https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/encyclopedia/beyond-vietnam>

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24:18

The plan for the march was that protestors—consisting of poor African Americans, whites, Native Americans, and Hispanic Americans from different urban and rural areas—would come together in Washington, D.C., and demonstrate daily from May 14 to June 24, 1968. It was hoped that this would persuade Congress and the federal executive branch to take serious and adequate actions on jobs and incomes. The campaign would culminate in a massive march on Washington, where demonstrators would demand a \$12 billion Economic Bill of Rights guaranteeing employment to those able to work, income to those unable to work, and an end to discrimination in housing.

The Poor People's Campaign was still in the planning stages when King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, in April 1968. Nevertheless, the Poor People's March took place on June 19, 1968, led by Ralph Abernathy, a longtime friend of King who had been promoted to president of the SCLC from his post of vice president.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Poor-Peoples-March>

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"King had arrived in Tennessee on Wednesday, 3 April, to prepare for a march the following Monday on behalf of striking Memphis sanitation workers."

<https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/assassination-martin-luther-king-jr#:~:text=An%20assassin%20fired%20a%20single,shot%20seemed%20to%20have%20originated.>

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"The tragedy was a culmination of slow-burning indignities for Black sanitation workers in Memphis. They earned low wages to lug heavy, open tubs of refuse to their trucks. Rotting garbage seeped onto their skin and clothes. Their white colleagues, who were often drivers, showered at the depot at the end of their shifts. But the Black collectors were forced to ride the bus or walk home in their dank clothes covered in flecks of trash and maggots.

Fed up, they called a strike. Roughly 1,300 sanitation workers began marching through the streets of Memphis. They carried signs that read "I Am a Man," with the "Am" underlined. The strike stretched on for weeks. Even as trash began to accumulate on city streets, Memphis's mayor wouldn't entertain the strikers' demands, instead sending in police officers with clubs and mace to break up marches."

<https://nytimes.com/2023/11/23/business/memphis-sanitation-strike-labor.html>

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25:25

King and his entourage stayed at Room 306 so often that it was known as the "King-Abernathy suite.

<https://www.mlk50.nl/50-statues/national-civil-rights-museum/>

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"At 6:05 P.M. on Thursday, April 4, 1968, King was shot while standing on a balcony outside his second-floor room at the Lorraine Motel. One shot was heard coming from another location. King was rushed to a hospital and died an hour later."

<https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/the-day-that-dr-martin-luther-king-jr-died#:~:text=At%206%3A05%20P.M.%20on,and%20died%20an%20hour%20later.>

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"6:01pm

Martin Luther King is shot and wounded badly.

James Earl Ray departs Bessie Brewer's Rooming House, abandoning his suitcase and rifle wrapped in a green blanket in the doorway of a nearby building, Canipe's Amusement Company. He is spotted by two patrons of Canipe's and by Charles Stephens and William Anchutz, residents of Bessie Brewer's Rooming House."

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/memphis-hunt/>

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26:33

James Earl Ray was doing 20 years for a robbery when he escaped in a bread truck. It wasn't even big news at the time, but it sure became big news a year later when Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. was killed in Memphis on April 4, 1968.

Investigators found fingerprints on a rifle in a flophouse across the street from the Lorraine Motel. The prints were later matched to a set taken from a small-time thief who had escaped from the Missouri State Pen - James Earl Ray.

<https://missourilife.com/missouri-history-today-april-23-1967-james-earl-ray-escapes-from-the-missouri-state-penitentiary/>

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26:45

The shot that killed Dr. King was fired from the bathroom window at the rear of a roominghouse at 422 1/2 South Main Street, Memphis, Tenn.

<https://www.archives.gov/research/jfk/select-committee-report/part-2a.html#:~:text=The%20shot%20that%20killed%20Dr.,Main%20Street%2C%20Memphis%2C%20Tenn.&text=James%20Earl%20Ray%20knowingly%2C%20intelligently,Martin%20Luther%20King%2C%20Jr.>

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26:55

27:16

Ray fled to Toronto, secured a Canadian passport through a travel agency, flew to London (May 5), then to Lisbon (May 7?), where he secured a second Canadian passport (May 16), and back to London (May 17?). On June 8 he was apprehended by London police at Heathrow Airport as he was about to embark for Brussels; the FBI had established him as the prime suspect almost immediately after the assassination. Back in Memphis,

Ray pleaded guilty, forfeiting a trial, and was sentenced to 99 years in prison. Months later, he recanted his confession, without effect.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/James-Earl-Ray>

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Ray was arrested at London's Heathrow Airport on June 8, 1968, a few weeks after the crime. He was believed to have been en route to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), which was at the time a haven for white supremacists.

<https://time.com/5218982/james-earl-ray-martin-luther-king/>

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"On June 8, Scotland Yard investigators arrested Ray at a London airport. He was trying to fly to Belgium, with the eventual goal, he later admitted, of reaching Rhodesia. Rhodesia, now called Zimbabwe, was at the time ruled by an oppressive and internationally condemned white minority government. Extradited to the United States, Ray stood before a Memphis judge in March 1969 and pleaded guilty to King's murder in order to avoid the electric chair. He was sentenced to 99 years in prison."

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/dr-king-is-assassinated>

Ray's fingerprints, matched to his file in an FBI database, were found on a rifle stashed near the boarding house across from the Lorraine. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 99 years in prison.

Within days, he attempted to renege, swearing he didn't act alone. Eventually, he claimed innocence. But he went to jail anyway, where he spent the rest of his life.

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27:50

"There is abundant evidence," Coretta King said after the verdict, "of a major, high-level conspiracy in the assassination of my husband." The jury found the mafia and various government agencies "were deeply involved in the assassination. ... Mr. Ray was set up to take the blame."

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/retropolis/wp/2018/03/30/who-killed-martin-luther-king-jr-his-family-believes-james-earl-ray-was-framed/>

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https://youtu.be/pXH_10QeK9A?feature=shared&t=220

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For nearly 50 years, FBI director J. Edgar Hoover amassed secret files on America's most prominent figures, files he used to smear and control presidents and politicians

In my book "The Secrets of the FBI," I quote William Sullivan, who became the No. 3 FBI official under Hoover, as saying: "The moment [Hoover] would get something on a senator, he'd send one of the errand boys up and advise the senator that 'we're in the course of an investigation, and we by chance happened to come up with this data on your daughter. But we wanted you to know this. We realize you'd want to know it.'"

Well, Jesus, what does that tell the senator? From that time on, the senator's right in his pocket."