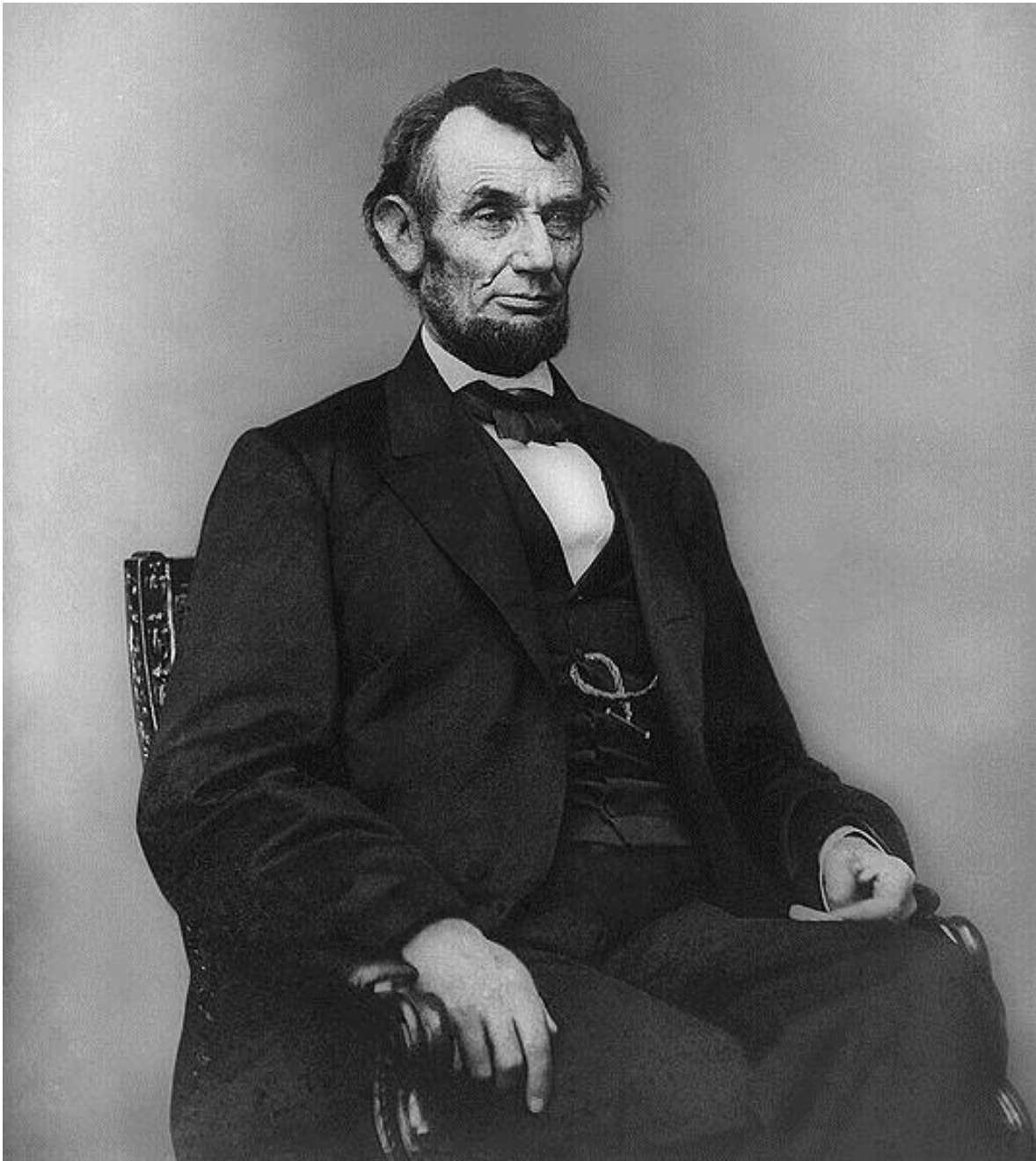


Civil Rights Timeline:

Advanced Text Version



January 31, 1865

The Thirteenth Amendment is passed and slavery is officially abolished from the United States.

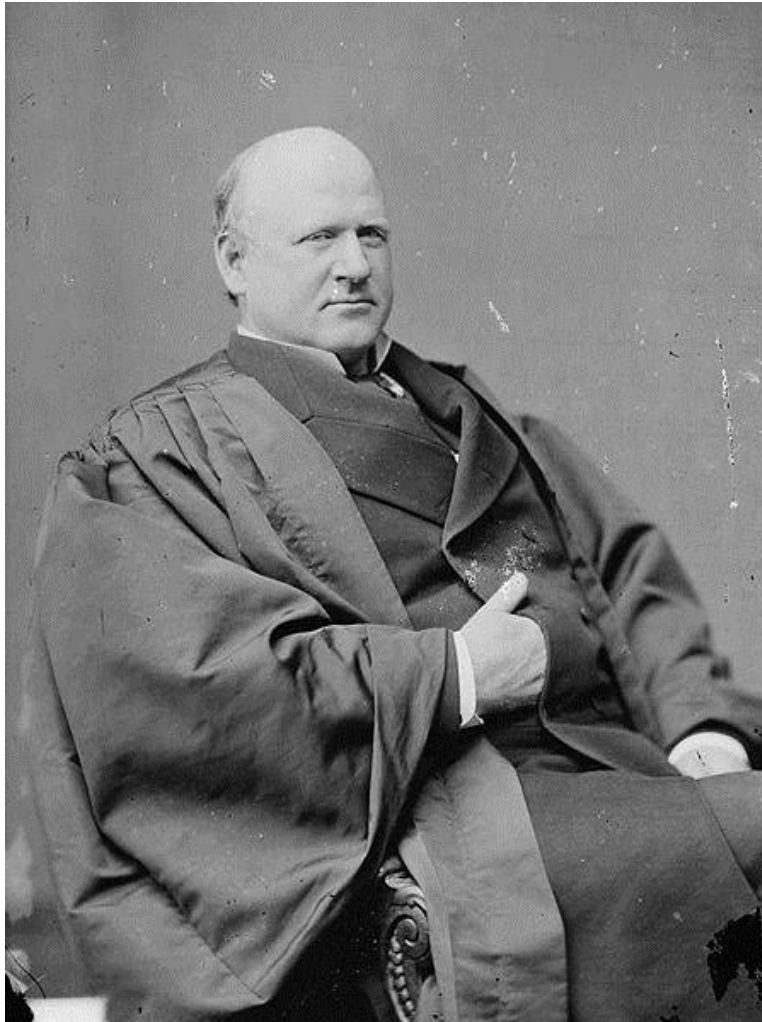
Abraham Lincoln was the President of the United States during the Civil War. His actions were vital in ending slavery.



March 1, 1875

The Civil Rights Act is passed guaranteeing all African American citizens the right to equal treatment in public and on public transportation.

Pictured is John Mercer Langston. He helped draft the act and was one of the early African Americans elected to Congress.



November 26, 1883

The US Supreme Court declares the Civil Rights Act unconstitutional saying the laws should be left up to individual states instead of the federal government. Individual states can now discriminate in any way they want against African Americans.

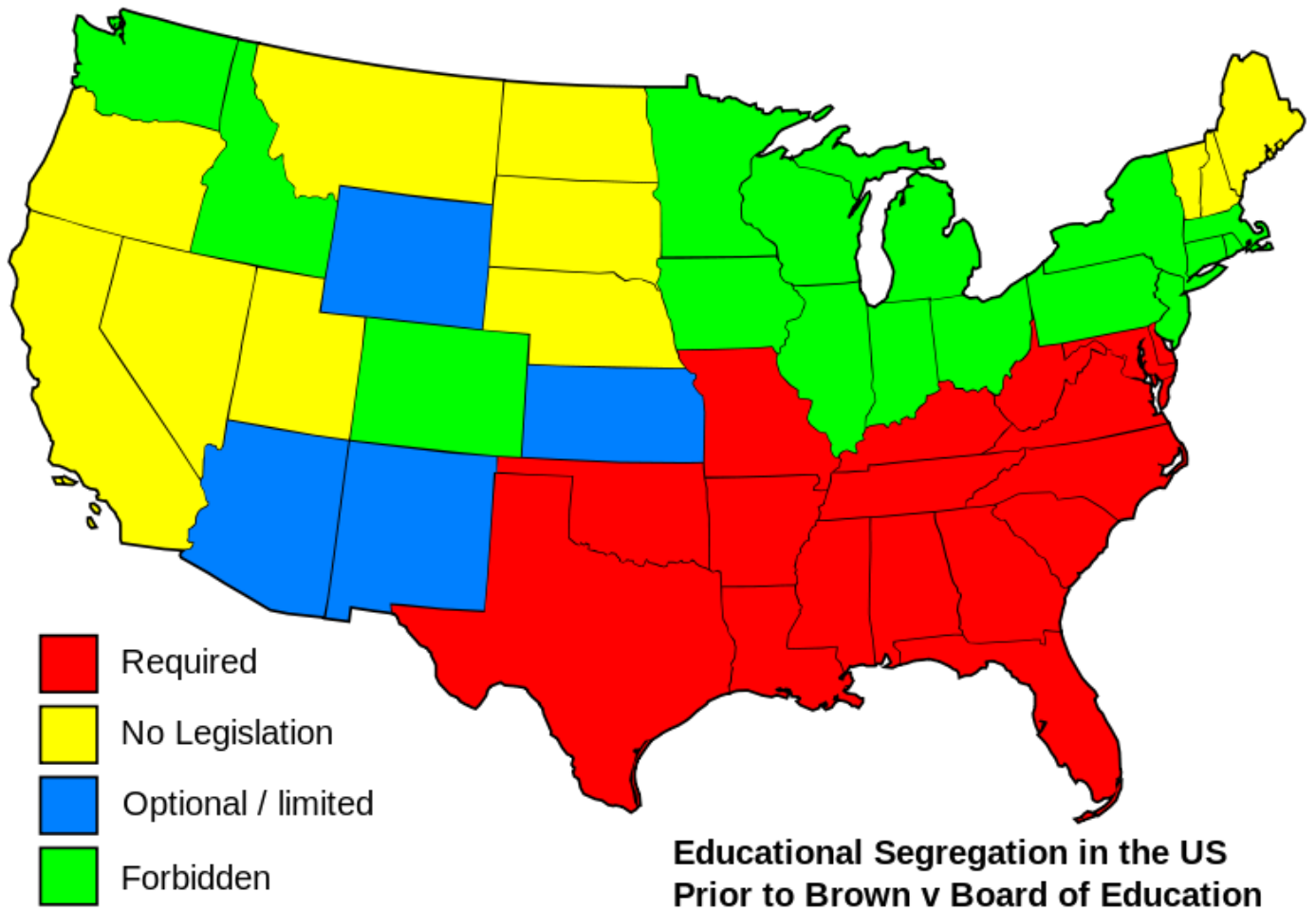
John Marshall Harlan, pictured above, was the only member of the Supreme Court who believed the Civil Rights Act should remain. He was nicknamed “The Dissenter.”



A segregated elementary school in Topeka.

1951

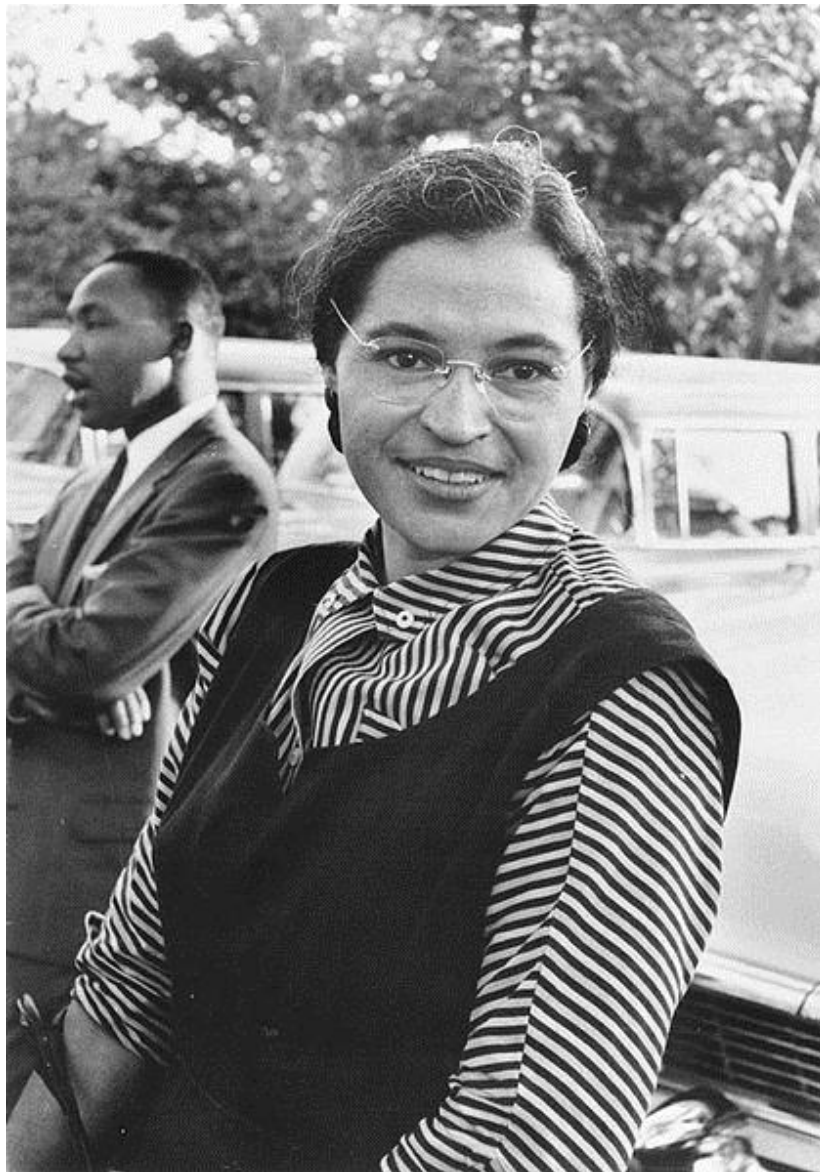
The parents of Linda Brown file a law suit against the Topeka, Kansas Board of Education. Linda lived within walking distance of a school, but she was forced to go on a long bus trip to a school for African Americans only. The case goes all the way to the Supreme Court.



May 17, 1954

The Supreme Court rules on the landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*. They unanimously agree that segregation in public schools is unconstitutional.

Before the case, all states in red required segregation. The states in green had already outlawed segregation.



Rosa Parks with Dr. King in the background.

December 1, 1955

Rosa Parks refuses to give up her bus seat in the front of the "colored section" to a white passenger. She is arrested and the African American community of Montgomery, Alabama starts a bus boycott. The boycott is lead by Martin Luther King, Jr. The boycott lasts over a year before buses are officially desegregated.



*Federal troops escorting students into
the all white high school.*

September, 1957

Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus uses the National Guard to block nine African American students from entering Little Rock High School. President Eisenhower orders federal troops to integrate the school.



A portion of the lunch counter is now on display at the Smithsonian Institute.

Feb. 1, 1960

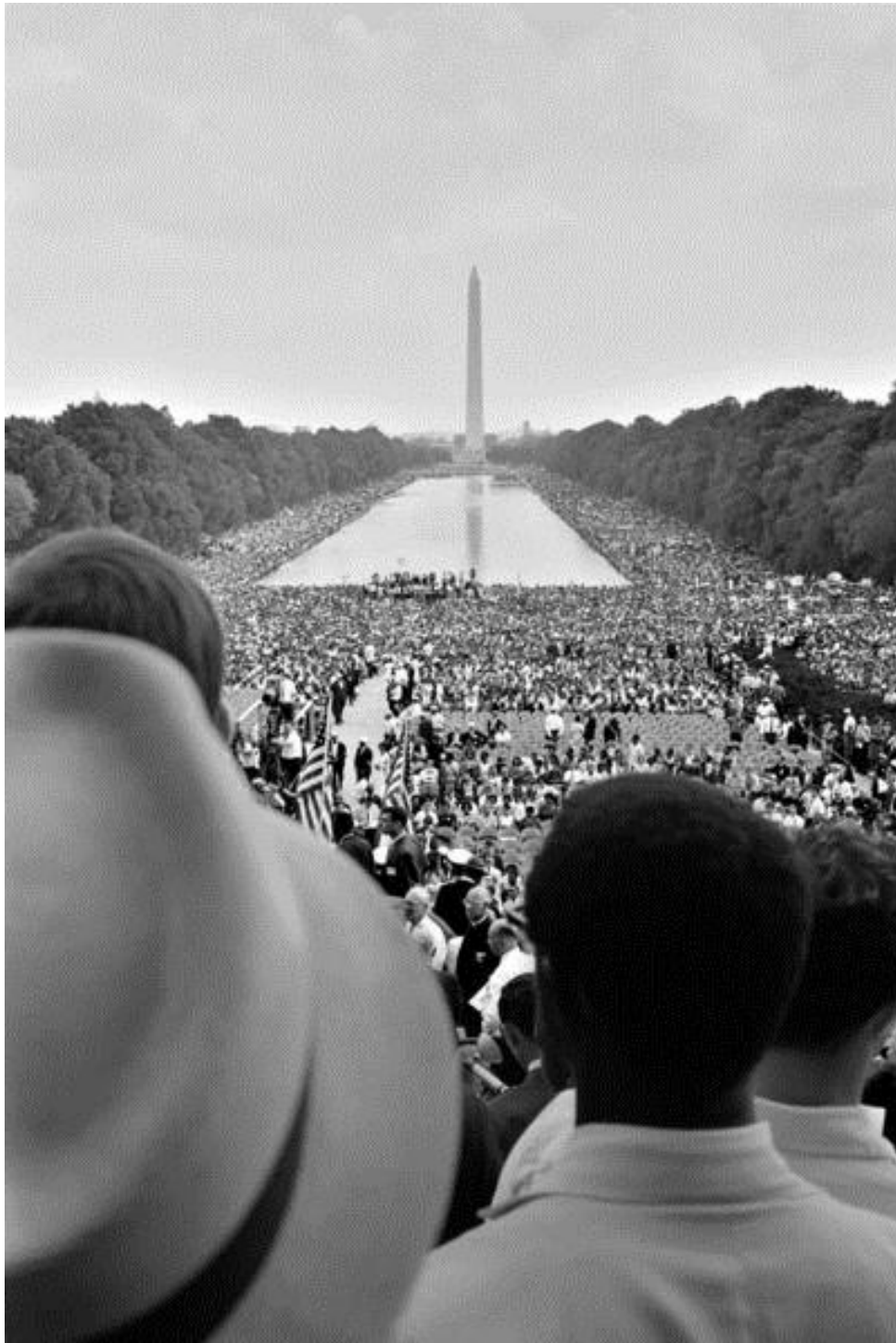
Four African American college students start a sit-in at a segregated Woolworth's counter in Greensboro, North Carolina. This event starts many similar nonviolent protests throughout the South. After 6 months, the protesters, which grew to hundreds, are finally served lunch.



A group of Freedom Riders.

May 4, 1961

Over 1,000 white and African American volunteers spend the spring and summer taking bus trips through the South. Segregation was now illegal, but the volunteers, often college students, still had to face many angry people and mobs. The volunteers were called the “Freedom Riders.”



August 28, 1963

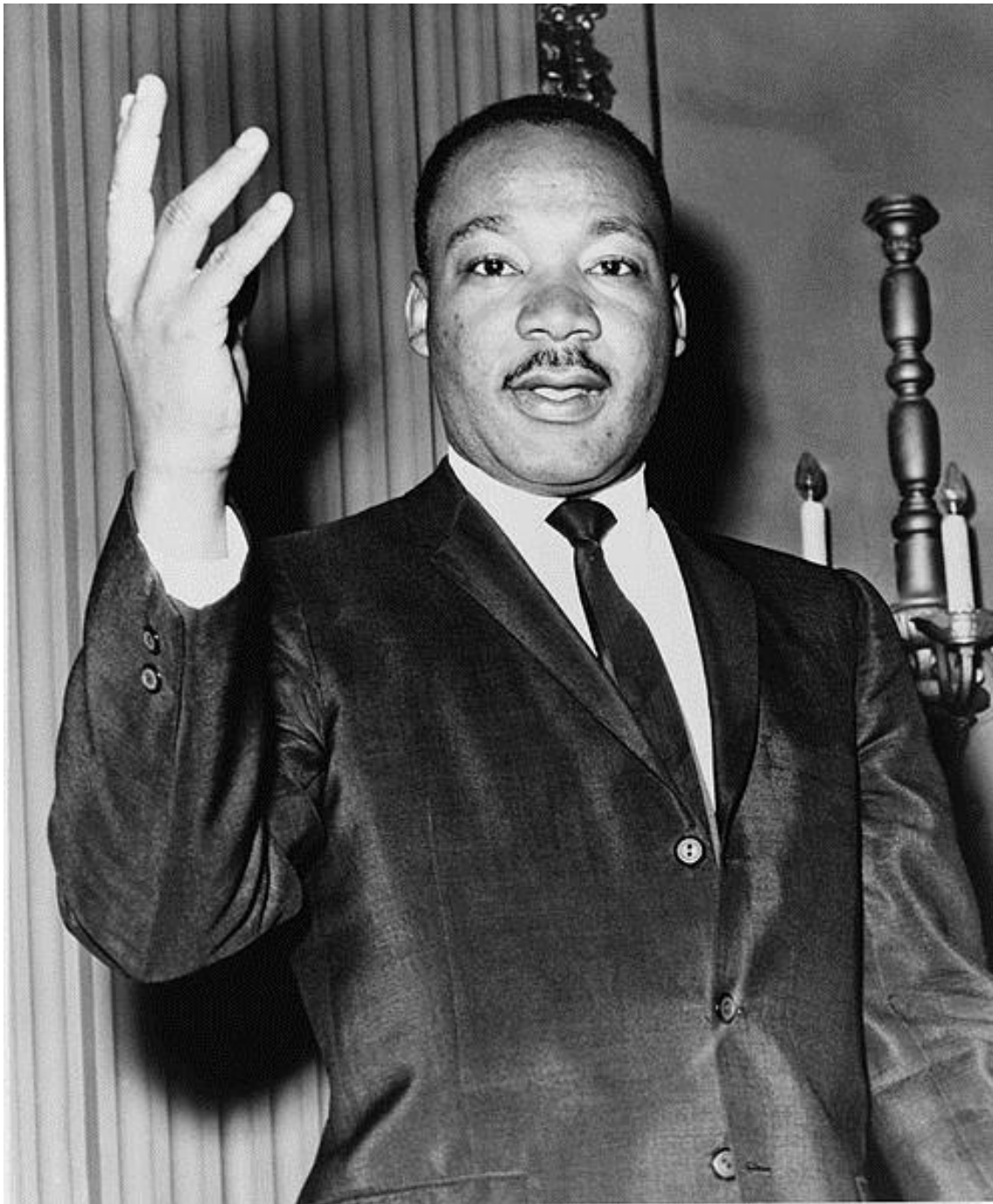
More than 250,000 African Americans and whites march in Washington, DC for equal civil and economic rights for African Americans. Martin Luther King Jr. gives his famous "I Have A Dream" speech.



Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act. Martin Luther King, Jr. looks on behind him.

July 2, 1964

Congress passes the Civil Rights Act which declares discrimination based on race, gender, or religion illegal. The act also ends unfair voting requirements.



April 4, 1968

Dr. Martin Luther King is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.

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