On September 2, 1957, Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus went on statewide television to announce that he was sending the National Guard to Central High School in Little Rock “to maintain law and order if feasible integration is carried out.” Governor Faubus, despite a Supreme Court edict and a Presidential proclamation, opposed the integration of the school and used the Arkansas National Guard to prevent it. On September 24th President Eisenhower federalized the state militia and ordered 1000 paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division to Little Rock to supervise the integration of Central High School and insure the admittance of nine Negro teenagers. The above picture shows Jefferson Thomas, a student at the school, being harassed by a white crowd as he waits for transportation to his home.
In 1966 the Black Panther Party was organized in Oakland, California. The Panthers called themselves "the children of Malcolm" because many of their ideas originated with Malcolm X, the Black Muslim leader. Their goals include occupation of all Black men from military service, full employment for Negroes, the retrial of all Negroes in jail by all-black juries, and a separate black state in the United States. This photograph shows Black Panthers marching to a scheduled news conference at United Nations Plaza, N.Y., to protest the murder trial of Panther Huey P. Newton, July 22, 1968.
In 1896 the Supreme Court heard the case of Plessy v. Ferguson (Homer Plessy had been forced from a "white" railroad coach in Louisiana) and upheld constitutional the state laws providing "separate but equal" facilities for Negroes. In questioning this legal sanction of school segregation, Chief Justice Earl Warren said the following in Brown v. Board of Education: "We come then to the question presented. Does segregation of children in public schools solely on the basis of race, even though the physical facilities and other "tangible" factors may be equal, deprive the children of the minority group of equal educational opportunities? We believe that it does . . . ."
545 DPA SERIES: THE NEGRO EXPERIENCE IN AMERICA — The days of non-violent civil rights demonstrations seemed to end as riots took place in Harlem (1964); Watts (1965); Chicago and Cleveland (1966); Newark, Detroit, Tampa, Cincinnati and Atlanta (1967); Washington, D.C. and Cleveland (1968). The cities listed represent only a small number of the disturbances recorded. During the summer of 1967, 164 disturbances of varying intensity took place in 128 cities. President Johnson appointed his Commission on Civil Disorders (July 27, 1967) to investigate the causes of the riots. The “Kerner Report” (Named after Governor Otto Kerner of Illinois who headed the Commission) placed the blame on “white racism.” The above picture shows Ohio National Guardsmen called into the east district of Cleveland, July 24, 1968.
DPA SERIES: THE NEGRO EXPERIENCE IN AMERICA — President Eisenhower poses in his White House office with four Negro leaders on June 23, 1958, following their conference concerning school integration and other significant matters affecting Negroes. L to R: L. B. Granger, Executive Secretary of the National Urban League; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Pres. of the Southern Leadership Conference; B. Fredric Morrow, Administrative Officer, White House; President Eisenhower; A. Philip Randolph, Vice-President, AFL-CIO; Wm. F. Riger, Rocco Siciliano, Special Assistant to the President; Roy Willims, Executive Secretary of the NAACP.
Greenville city police leading Negro protest marchers into a police bus after they were arrested when they attempted to march through the city. The non-violent marchers were on their way to the State Capitol at Raleigh to protest school segregation. Greenville, N.C., February 12, 1969.
522 DRA SERIES: THE NEGRO EXPERIENCE IN AMERICA — The Ku Klux Klan, claimed by its founders to be a social club, began "riding" in 1866. Organized at Pulaski, Tennessee, in 1865 by a former slave trader and Confederate general, Nathan B. Forrest, the KKK was so successful in using acts of terror and intimidation to keep Negroes subservient that Congress enacted a series of "Force Laws" against it. These laws were struck down in 1876 when the Supreme Court ruled in the case of the U.S. v. Cruikshank that the Fourteenth Amendment protected Negroes only from state action, not from the persecution of private groups or individuals. The picture above shows the KKK parading down Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. 1926.
Ten years after the Supreme Court unanimously outlawed racial segregation in the public schools (Oliver Brown et al. v. Board of Education of Topeka), only one per cent of all Negro students in the South (31,000) were attending desegregated schools. Despite the unanimous verdict that education was a political right and that segregation is inherently unequal, many Southern politicians regarded the Supreme Court's decision as a "clear abuse of judicial power," and an encroachment "on rights reserved to the states." Resistance to school desegregation in America ranged from compliance on the part of many states to inaction, token integration, official defiance, and violence against Black students in other states. The above picture was taken at a school in Fort Myer, Va., after the school was desegregated, September 8, 1954.
In December, 1955, a Negro protest movement started in Montgomery, Alabama, when Rosa Parks, a Negro seamstress, was arrested on a bus for refusing to allow a white man to have the front seat she was occupying. The non-violent Negro protest that developed in Montgomery and desegregated the bus system was based on ideas found in Thoreau's Essay on Civil Disobedience. Martin Luther King, Jr., said that the Negro people would "refuse to cooperate with evil." The above picture shows National Guardsmen blocking famed Beale Street in Memphis, Tennessee, during a Negro protest march. March 29, 1968.
DPA SERIES: THE NEGRO EXPERIENCE IN AMERICA — In 1960 more than a hundred students from Alabama State College for Negroes were expelled (at the insistence of the governor) for sitting at a segregated lunch counter in the Montgomery courthouse. Thus began student sit-ins to desegregate public libraries, municipal swimming pools, movie theaters, churches, and lunch counters in dozens of cities. Boycotts, picketing, and selective buying (patronizing only those stores that did not practice segregation) combined with the sit-ins helped end segregation in public facilities in cities in the North and the South. The above picture shows Negro college students doing homework during a sit-in at a Woolworth's lunch counter in Little Rock, Ark. November, 1962.
"White Labor must smash the Color Line in its Own Interest"

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

As late as the 1960s, over 70% of Negro men and women held unskilled or semi-skilled jobs. Most unions excluded Negroes or segregated them into Jim Crow locals. It was not until the New Deal years that they were able to become a part of organized labor in large numbers. The United Mine Workers, led by John L. Lewis, withdrew from the American Federation of Labor to form the CIO (Congress of Industrial Organizations). Between 1933 and 1945, Negro membership in unions increased from 160,000 to 1,250,000. The bulk of this membership was in the CIO and the Cigar Makers' International Union. Discriminatory practices can still be observed in some unions. Despite racial discrimination, there has been a sharp increase in white collar positions for Negroes. The picture above shows a float designed to resemble a Klansman. Detroit, 1944.
In 1954 the Supreme Court of the United States in a unanimous decision set aside the 1896 "separate but equal" doctrine of Plessy v. Ferguson, which attached the sanction of the law to segregation and outlawed racial segregation in the public schools. The case known as Oliver Brown et al., v. Board of Education of Topeka et al., was one of five cases brought before the Supreme Court by the NAACP after it attacked school segregation in 17 states, the District of Columbia, and where it existed as a legal option in Arizona, Kansas, New Mexico and Wyoming. One week after the decision, ten Southern Senators and twenty-seven Representatives condemned the Supreme Court decision as a "clear abuse of judicial power," and an encroachment "on rights reserved to the states." On March 5, 1956, the Supreme Court announced that segregation in tax-supported colleges and universities was also outlawed.
"The worst crime the white man has committed," Malcolm X said, "has been to teach us to hate ourselves." Malcolm X was born Malcolm Little in Omaha, Nebraska, May 19, 1925. When he was still a young boy, he made his way to New York where he sold marijuana and became a cocaine addict. In 1946 he was sentenced to a 10 year prison term for burglary. While in prison, he became familiar with a sect known as the Black Muslims, of which he became an outspoken advocate when he was paroled in 1952. Malcolm X was assassinated in 1965, shortly after he rejected the Black Muslims.