

# Civil Rights Movement

- **The United States Constitution guaranteed:**
  - equal protection under the law and equal rights to vote to ALL citizens, Afro-american people too
  - From 1860s on, several amendments (13th,14th,15th) promoted equality for Afro-American people
  - It started with the abolishment of slavery in 1864
- **But in 1890s the Supreme Court made segregation legal in the U.S.**
  - Segregation: different hospitals, schools, bathrooms, restaurants for minorities ( like Mexicans or Afro-americans)
  - This was a way of life, especially in the South
- **Main Leaders:**
  - Martin Luther King, a baptist minister who promoted non violent protests
  - Malcom X, had more brutal tones - did not share the same ideas as M.L.King
- **Main forms of protests:**
  - Marches of protest
    - often stopped with violence by the police
  - Sit-ins
    - Black activists occupied seats in the counters of pubs.
  - Freedom riders
    - journeys in bus across the continent
- **Main events:**
  - (1956)Montgomery Bus Boycott
    - Rosa Parks refused to leave her seat in the bus to a White passenger. She was incarcerated for this. The whole Afro-American community started a boycott of public transport, they stopped to use the bus. After one year, the Supreme Court declared the end of segregation in public transport
  - (1963) March on Washington
    - Martin Luther King had his famous speech, " I have a Dream" in front of thousands of people.
- **Crucial and cruel events**
  - some violent events raised the attention of the nation for the civil rights movement
  - For instance: the murder of a 14-years old boy; several violent murders of civil rights activists, with the help of Ku-Klux Clan; the assassination of the main leaders (M.L.King and Malcom X)
  - Segregation and racism were proclaimed illegal

## Movements of protest that fight for the rights of Afroamerican people

amendment: emendamento

murder: assassinio

speech: discorso

slavery: schavitù