

The Change Led By

The Montgomery Bus Boycott



1

Rosa Parks

Rosa Parks was 42 in 1955. She had lived her whole life with the weight of segregation and racism weighing her down.



The year was 1955. In America, segregation ruled over African Americans. These rules were to create a system known as “separate, but equal”, keeping white and black people segregated, but

equal. However, this system was not equal, but instead used to make life worse for African Americans. Arguably the most well known of these laws affected public transportation. Laws stated that on a



This photo, taken years after the boycott, shows a white man sitting behind Parks. This image is very powerful, as it shows a stepping stone towards desegregation.

public bus, white and black people had to be separate. White people were allowed to ride in the front, and black people in the back. If a white person wanted to sit in the back, the bus driver would make any black people stand up, as they were not to sit in front of white people. One day, a woman named Rosa Parks was sitting in her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. She was approached by the driver and told she had to give up her seat for a white person. She refused. She told the driver that she was tired of giving in to segregation. This statement landed her at a police station, but led to a movement that would change American life forever. She was arrested on December 1st, 1955.

2

Martin Luther King

Martin Luther King was only 26 years old when he led the movement to desegregate buses in Montgomery, Alabama



Following Rosa Parks' arrest, the Montgomery Improvement Association, or MIA, was created. Its purpose was to eradicate segregation from Montgomery, and the rest of the country. When it was

time to choose a leader to represent the movement, a man named Martin Luther King Jr. stepped up. He was a pastor in a Montgomery church, and preached his views against segregation and racism.



After joining the MIA, he came into the public eye as a key character in the Civil Rights movement. His days of changing the world were just beginning.



3

The Bus Boycott

This image shows some of the countless people who walked to work and school throughout the boycott



The MIA formed a plan. On December 5th, 1955, over 40,000 African Americans boycotted the buses and instead went to work or school on their own methods. After the success of this boycott, the MIA

decided to continue until the city took action. Carpools were formed, and taxis charged a reduced fare of 10 cents: the same price as the bus. This boycott was one of the most influential ways of bringing



This photo shows a white woman riding alone in an empty bus during the Montgomery Bus Boycott

change to this situation. It lasted 381 days. African Americans made up around 75% of the bus riders in Montgomery. This proved detrimental for the buses, and the city eventually went to the Supreme Court with the case. The “separate, but equal” segregation was named unconstitutional. On the 20th of December, 1956, the boycott ended. The segregation of buses was no longer enforced.

4

Lasting Impact

The Montgomery Bus Boycott led to many key protests in the Civil Rights Movement



This boycott has had lasting impact on society today. Although racism still exists in today's world, the steps taken by the MIA have changed the way our world works. Segregation in the United States is

much less prevalent today, and with the power of the Civil Rights movement, the world has changed substantially since those days. These events are important to know because they allow us to see the



flaws in our world, and how we change stop these issues from coming back. Racism in our society is still a prevailing issue, and we can use the peaceful, nonviolent protest of the Montgomery Bus Boycott to prove that we can eradicate this. The world has come a long way since 1955.

