

Notes — Week 11

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Period 3

- Letter to Martin Luther King (April 12, 1963)
 - Criticizes MLK for inciting violence and disorder
 - Law enforcement “urged” to show restraint
 - Commends law enforcement, puts down protesters
- In 1955:
 - Joanne Robinson is an important figure leading the Civil Rights movement
 - Emmett Till murdered
 - Dr. King joins the movement
- Around the time the movement began, there were 50,000 people living in Montgomery
- The Montgomery Bus Boycott lasted 13 months
- November 1956 — US Supreme Court ruled that Alabama’s racial segregation laws for buses were unconstitutional
 - Limited to buses and Alabama (segregation allowed elsewhere)
- Two forms of fighting: civil disobedience and litigation
- Leading group for African-Americans at the time was the NAACP
- Thurgood Marshall first African-American on the Supreme Court
- The Little Rock Nine in 1957 (integration of Central High School)
 - Media is one of the biggest factors pushing change (more press coverage)
 - Many people have television (allows mass communication)

- Governor of Arkansas used the National Guard to bar the kids from entering the school; when this didn't work, he closed ALL public schools in Arkansas
 - Took 18 years to fully integrate Arkansas schools
- George Wallace of Alabama called for segregation forever; in the South, segregation was part of politics
- From 1957 to 1963 there were over 20 unsolved bombings in Alabama
- “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere” — Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*
- KKK members were part of city politics (police, government, etc.)
- Bail rates were increased to keep more people in jail (contrary to amendment 8)
- Bull Connor held an elected position
- When children marched with parents, firemen refused to attack the protesters with hoses
- Protesters took direct action in the form of sit-ins, marches, and much more, but maintained a policy of non-violence
- In Brutus I:
 - The people are the fountain of power
 - “An unjust law is a code that a numerical or power majority group compels a minority group to obey but does not make binding on itself”
 - “Sometimes a law is just on its face and unjust in its application”
 - Constitution is inadequate to protect our rights
- In Letter From a Birmingham Jail:
 - Civil disobedience is promoted, along with many historical events (Gandhi, Socrates, Boston Tea Party)
 - All men should respect the dignity and worth of human personality
 - People have to work to confirm their rights
 - Refers to “birthright of freedom” (John Locke's idea of natural rights)
 - “Follow this decree because integration is morally right and because the Negro is your brother”
- *Mapp v. Ohio*
 - Concerned search and seizure (warrants)

- Warrants must be signed by a judge to determine whether probable cause exists; warrants do not require a persons agreement
 - Was necessary because there were several states that did not require search warrants
 - Established the exclusionary rule (evidence that does not relate or was obtained without a warrant may not be used in a case)
- Incorporation — Applying a federal right to a state through a court case (Ex. Fourteenth Amendment, *Mapp v. Ohio*)
- *Wolf v. Colorado* applied the fourth amendment to the states (did not apply the exclusionary rule)
- Amici Curiae — Friend of the court (an adviser)