

# Notes — Week 8

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## Period 3

- The Montgomery Bus Boycott is where Martin Luther King Jr. first appeared on the public radar
  - He brought up the ideas of love and civil disobedience
  - The boycott lasted 382 days
  - In November 1956, the US Supreme Court ruled that Alabama's racial segregation laws for buses were unconstitutional (Plessy v. Ferguson)
  - Brown v. Board of Education only desegregated schools
  - Governor George Wallace of Alabama said that segregation would proceed
  - 20 unsolved bombings occurred in Birmingham between 1957 and 1963
  - Bail prices increased 800% (8<sup>th</sup> amendment did not apply to states until later)
  - Martin Luther King Jr. and Ralph Abernathy went to jail for marching
- 186 cities across America marched in support of marching students
- Life magazine wrote about the movement, furthering its publicity
- Television changed everything, as it further publicized the struggle
- On June 11, 1963, Kennedy asks for civil rights reforms
- On 9/15/1963, dynamite destroyed the sixteenth street church
- Voting Rights Act of 1965 guaranteed rights that had been part of law but not life
- Whole country watched Little Rock thanks to national television
- Arkansas, after desegregation, shut down schools to stop the desegregation (would not be fully desegregated until 1972)

- Barriers to Voting:
  - Not allowing people to register (1965 V.R.A)
  - Literacy tests (1965 V.R.A)
  - Poll taxes (24<sup>th</sup> amendment)
  - Grandfather clause (Guinn v. U.S. 1915)
  - All white primaries (Smith v. Allwright 1944)
- Presidents, on their own, can not employ civil reforms
  - Violates federalism
  - Violates separation of powers
  - Violates checks and balances
- Presidents have the ability to address the country as a whole due to being the leader (television made this even easier)
- The 1964 Civil Rights Act forbid segregation in public places
- To pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 67 senate votes were needed to stop a filibuster (cloture — 60 votes modern day)