# Soul to Funk

* Development connected to the civil rights movement and the development of African American identity
* When part of a marginalized group, representation becomes much more important
* Late 1950’s – growing anticipation of civil rights
* Rejection of blues as the sound of the past, rural south, slavery
* New sound of the urban – soul music
* Fusion of:
  + 1) Vocal style from Gospel
  + 2) Rhythm beat of R&B
  + 3) Arrangements and lyric styles from TPA
* Important locations for soul music:
  + 1) Motown – Detroit (Hitsville USA, Motown Records)
  + 2) Stax – Memphis (Soulsville USA, Stax Records)

## Motown

* Founded by Berry Gordy
  + First important label owned by an African American
* Starts in 1959 – based on Gordy’s experience in automotive plants

### Assembly Line – Everything under one roof

* Song writers: Holland/Dozier/Holland, Smokey Robinson
* Maxine Powell: Finishing school
* Cholly Atkins: Choreographer
* The Funk Brothers: House band
* Result is absolute consistency of product

### “You’d Better Shop Around” (Smokey and the Miracles, 1960)

* Polished, restrained presentation – sophistication
  + This was intentional in order to appeal to the middle-class white audience

### “Stop in the Name of Love” (The Supremes, 1965)

* Gospel influence
* Idealized romance lyrics
* A dancing beat – intended for dance
* A vibraphone (usually found in Jazz)
* Sound and production practice:
  + Focus on arrangement
  + Clarity of sound
  + Accuracy of performance
  + “Quality Control” – comparison to other hit records
* Motown was a very successful operation even though it came under criticism for whitening the artists

## Stax

* Formed in 1959 – Satellite Records (Stax, 1961)
* Jim Stewart and Estelle Axton
* House Band: Booker T and the M.G’s
* Approach to recording:
  + Collective decision making
  + Less emphasis on arrangements than Motown
  + Focus on energy of performance over accuracy

### “Try a Little Tenderness” (Otis Redding, 1966)

* AABA – TPA song written in the 1920’s
* Hit for Bing Crosby in 1933
* Less self-conscious than Motown artists
* Cathartic performance – unrestrained energy in performance
* In late 1967, his career was cut short when he died in a plane crash while on a tour with the Bar-Kays

### “Soul Man” (Sam and Dave, 1967)

* Still the optimistic sound
* “Soul” as a term for black culture
* Stax focused on producing good soul music and did not tailor their songs to target middle-class white audiences like Motown

## 1966 – Atlantic begins working at FAME

### “Respect” (Aretha Franklin, 1967)

* Beginning of a more militant sound
* Her version becomes an anthem for civil rights movement
* Very strong gospel influence, distortion, energy, etc. (like Stax)

### James Brown

* Soul brother #1 godfather of soul
* First hit – 1956, “Please, Please, Please”
  + Is Considered R&B
  + Music historians say that it’s sometime around this song when soul started breaking away from R&B
* 1963 – “Live at the Apollo”
  + Apollo is in NYC
  + One of the first albums by an African American artist to sell over one million copies
* 1965 – “Papa’s Got a Brand-New Bag” crossover hit
* “I Feel Good” (recorded in 1964) becomes Brown’s biggest pop hit (#3) after “Papa’s Got a Brand-New Bag”
  + Apart from being a hit among his African American audience, this song was also very popular among white audience
  + Has an AABA structure and 12 bar blues

## 1965 – 1967: Inner City Riots

* 1967 was called the long hot summer
* In Detroit
* Martin Luther King Jr., assassinated April 4th, 1968 on a hotel balcony in Memphis, Tennessee
* The Black Panthers
* The re-Africanization of culture
  + Black people started making cultural changes to separate themselves from white culture
  + Changes in diet, clothing, hairstyle, etc. to become closer to West African culture
  + James Brown applied the same idea to music
* Cold Sweat (1967) introduces a new style
* “Get Up (I Feel Like Being a) Sex Machine” (1970)
  + Deprivileged of melody and harmony
  + Privilege of rhythm (also articulation)
  + Interlock groove - based on African Drum Groups Community
    - Combining a bunch of simple instruments being played which combine to make something much more complicated
  + Involvement of community is an important part of the song where we can hear the band talking back to James during the beginning of the song
  + Riff-based composition – this is where simple riff structure came back, and it always stays to date
  + Tremendously successful with African Americans but virtually no success with white audience
  + Cyclical – pleasure in repetition
  + Open-ended forms – cyclical vs. linear
  + This is the kind of style which formed the genre known as punk