

CHAPTER
14
SECTION 3

Section Summary

NEW SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

The civil rights movement had made some progress. However, many African Americans were still unable to vote. In 1964, the SNCC organized a project known as **Freedom Summer**. Volunteers registered African Americans to vote in Mississippi.

In 1965, Martin Luther King, Jr., organized a march in Selma, Alabama. He wanted the government to pass laws to protect voting rights. The march met with a series of violent confrontations. Television coverage of the violence outraged the nation. In response, Congress passed the **Voting Rights Act** of 1965. This law banned literacy tests. In 1964, the **Twenty-fourth Amendment** banned the poll tax. It had been used to keep poor African Americans from voting.

Some African Americans were angry that discrimination and poverty continued. In many cities, this anger led to violent riots. The **Kerner Commission** was established to figure out the cause of the riots. The commission blamed discrimination against African Americans over a long period of time.

At the same time, many young African Americans were becoming more radical. **Malcolm X** was the most well-known African American radical. He was a minister of the **Nation of Islam**. This religious group demanded that the races be separated. However, Malcolm X was shot and killed in 1965.

Many young African Americans wanted to continue the policies of Malcolm X. They no longer supported the idea of nonviolence. SNCC leader Stokely Carmichael thought African Americans needed “**black power.**” He wanted African Americans to use their economic and political power to gain equality. Not long after, the Black Panther Party was formed. The **Black Panthers** became the symbol of young militant African Americans.

In 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated. The civil rights movement had made segregation illegal. However, the radical methods that had been used left some people bitter.

Review Questions

1. Why was the march in Selma important?

2. Why did violence occur in many American cities during the 1960s?

READING CHECK

Which group became the symbol for young militant African Americans?

VOCABULARY BUILDER

Find the word *confrontations* in the underlined sentence. What does *confrontations* mean? Look for clues in nearby words or phrases. Circle any that help you figure out what *confrontations* means.

READING SKILL

Summarize Summarize the effect Malcolm X had on the civil rights movement.
