

Emily Copeland

## Civil Rights Handout

### **Key People in the Fight for African American Equality:**

President Eisenhower –

- Passed the Civil Rights Act of 1957: officially giving African Americans the right to vote and protecting against interference with such act

Martin Luther King, Jr. (p.1292) – pastor

- non-violent civil disobedience: boycotts, marches, sit-ins
- created SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference) in 1957
- Letter from the Birmingham Jail
- “I have a dream...” speech at Lincoln Memorial
- Nobel Peace Prize in 1964
- Assassinated 1968

Rosa Parks (p. 1292) – seamstress, officer in local chapter of NAACP in Montgomery, AL

- Refused to give up seat on the bus to a white man
- Led to Montgomery bus boycotts

Stokely Carmichael (p. 1327) – separatist black power = official objective, violent against white authority

- Black nationalism – African roots share culture and destiny
- Headed SNCC (Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee) but excluded whites
- Joined Black Panther Party – urban revolutionaries

Malcom X (p. 1327) – Malcolm Little, black power extremist

- Wanted separate and self-reliant Black community in the United States
- Founded organization of alliances between African Americans and non-whites
- Assassinated 1965 just after switching views from anti-white to those of social change

### **Key People in the Opposition of the Fight for African American Equality:**

George C. Wallace (p.1310) – governor of Alabama

- Pro-segregation
- Believed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 infringed on rights of Americans
- Opposed Supreme Court Rulings: thought they had Communist undertones

Eugene “Bull” Connor (p. 1308) – Police Commissioner in Birmingham, AL

- Ordered use of dogs, tear gas, cattle prods, fire hoses on protesters
- Televised violence and arrested MLK, Jr.