

SS5H8

America: 1950 - 1975

Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam War,
Civil Rights Movement, &
Space Exploration



AMERICA 1950-1975

DAY 1

Review the following slides to learn more about life in America from 1950-1975. You can use the student note-taker to take notes, as you review the presentation.

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SS5H8a

Cuban Missile

Crisis

and the

Vietnam War

Missiles to Cuba

- In 1962, the Soviets sent ballistic missiles with nuclear warheads to communist Cuba.
- Cuba is only 90 miles away from the US.
- The missiles could have easily destroyed the southeastern states!



Soviet Ballistic Missile

Blockade

- US President John F. Kennedy ordered the US Navy to blockade Cuba.
 - The navy allowed no Soviet ships into Cuba.
- President Kennedy also sent troops to Florida in case the US needed to invade Cuba.
- After 13 tense days, the Soviets finally backed down and pulled their missiles out of Cuba.
- The US narrowly escaped a nuclear war.



A US Navy P2-H
Neptune flying
over a Soviet cargo
ship carrying
weapons in 1962.

President Kennedy signs the Proclamation for Interdiction of the Delivery of Offensive Weapons to Cuba at the Oval Office on October 23, 1962.



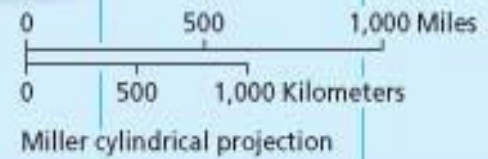
Vietnam War



Vietnam War

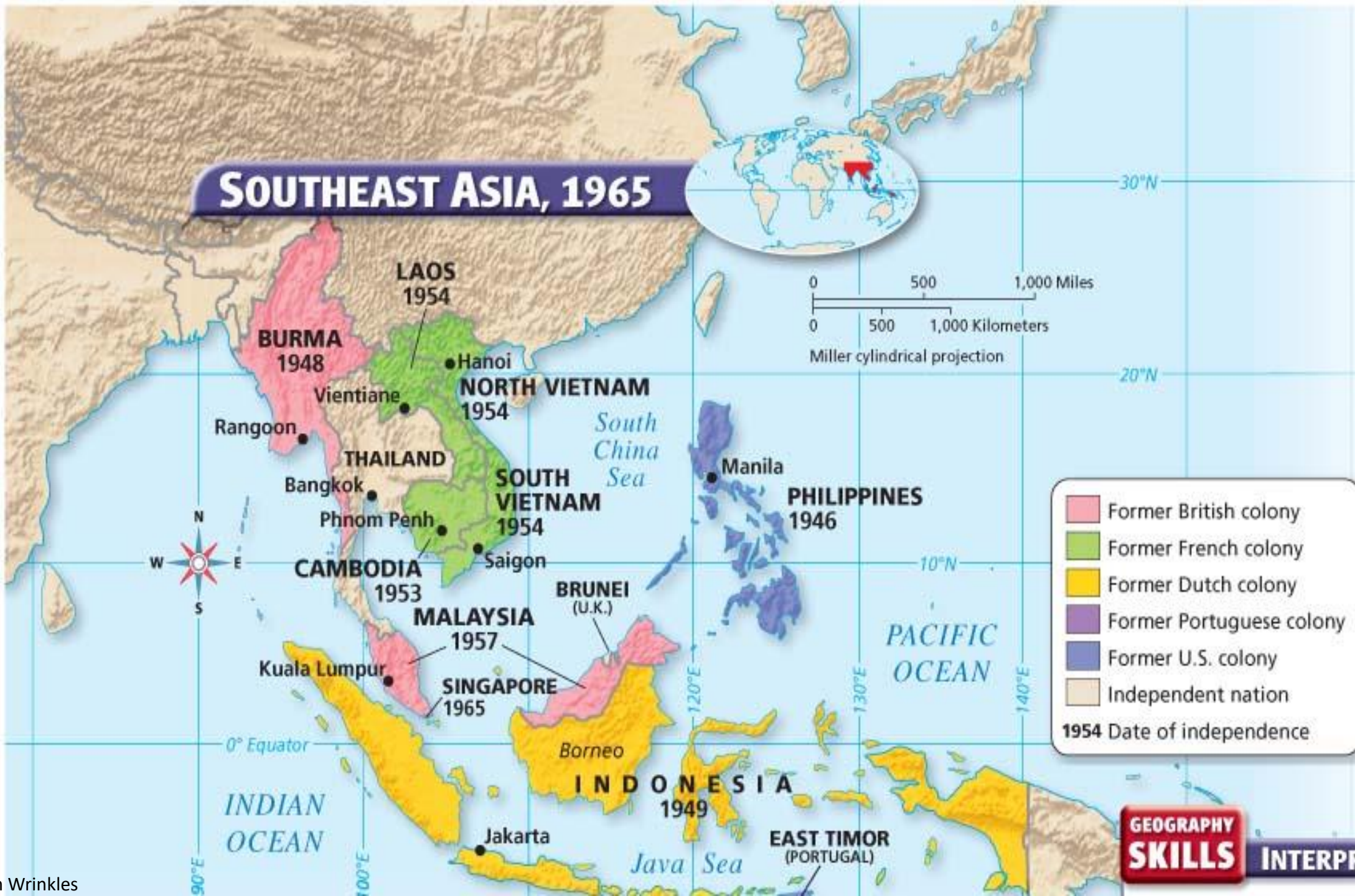
- In the 1960s, the US became involved in the Vietnam War.
- Vietnam is a country in Southeast Asia that was divided into two parts in 1954.
- North Vietnam was communist and South Vietnam was not.
- The North Vietnamese army (called the Viet Cong) was trying to take over South Vietnam.

SOUTHEAST ASIA, 1965



	Former British colony
	Former French colony
	Former Dutch colony
	Former Portuguese colony
	Former U.S. colony
	Independent nation

1954 Date of independence



“If we have to fight, we shall fight. You will kill ten of our men, and we will kill one of yours, and in the end it will be you who will tire of it.”

~Ho Chi Minh (leader of North Vietnam)



Domino Theory

- In the early 1960s, the US sent troops to help South Vietnam because they wanted to stop the spread of Communism.
- Many people believed that if Vietnam became communist, all of Southeast Asia would soon come under Communist control.
- This was called the “Domino Theory”.





A US B-66 Destroyer and four F-105 Thunderchiefs dropping bombs on North Vietnam.

Protests

- The Vietnam War was not popular with many Americans.
- There were many protests against American military troops fighting in Vietnam.

Student Protestors in Wisconsin - 1965



Vietnam Today

- The Vietnam War ended in a cease-fire.
- The United States withdrew its troops in 1973.
- Two years later, North Vietnam took control of the country.
- Vietnam is now one country under Communist rule.

A CIA employee helps South Vietnamese evacuees onto an Air America helicopter.



AMERICA 1950-1975

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SS5H8b

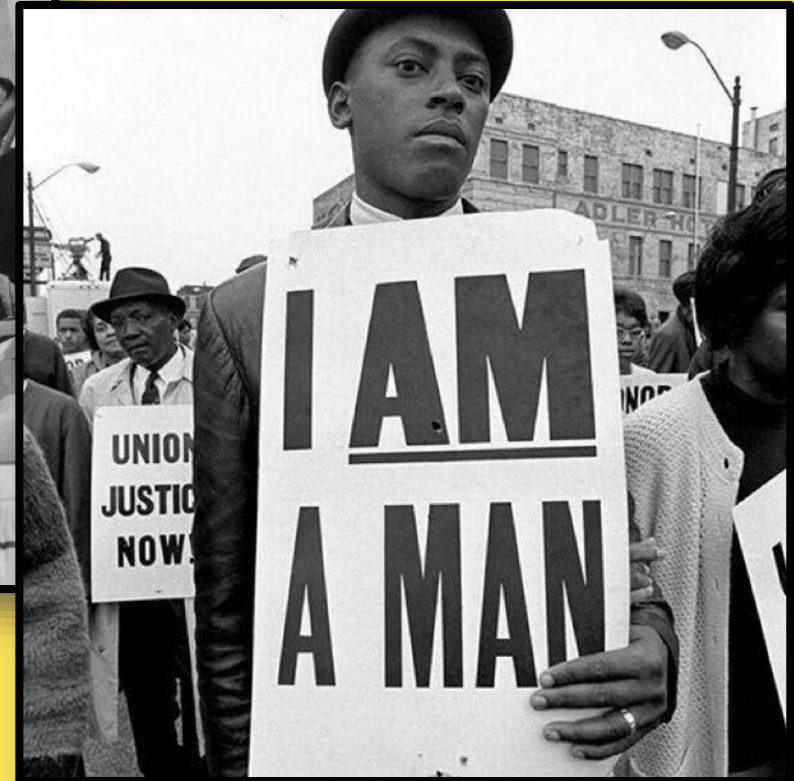
Civil Rights Movement

Civil Rights Movement



Civil Rights

- African Americans were treated like second-class citizens.
- They were forced to live in segregated housing, attend segregated movies, and use segregated facilities such as restrooms, water fountains, and waiting rooms.
- During the Civil Rights Movement, African Americans fought against racial discrimination and segregation.

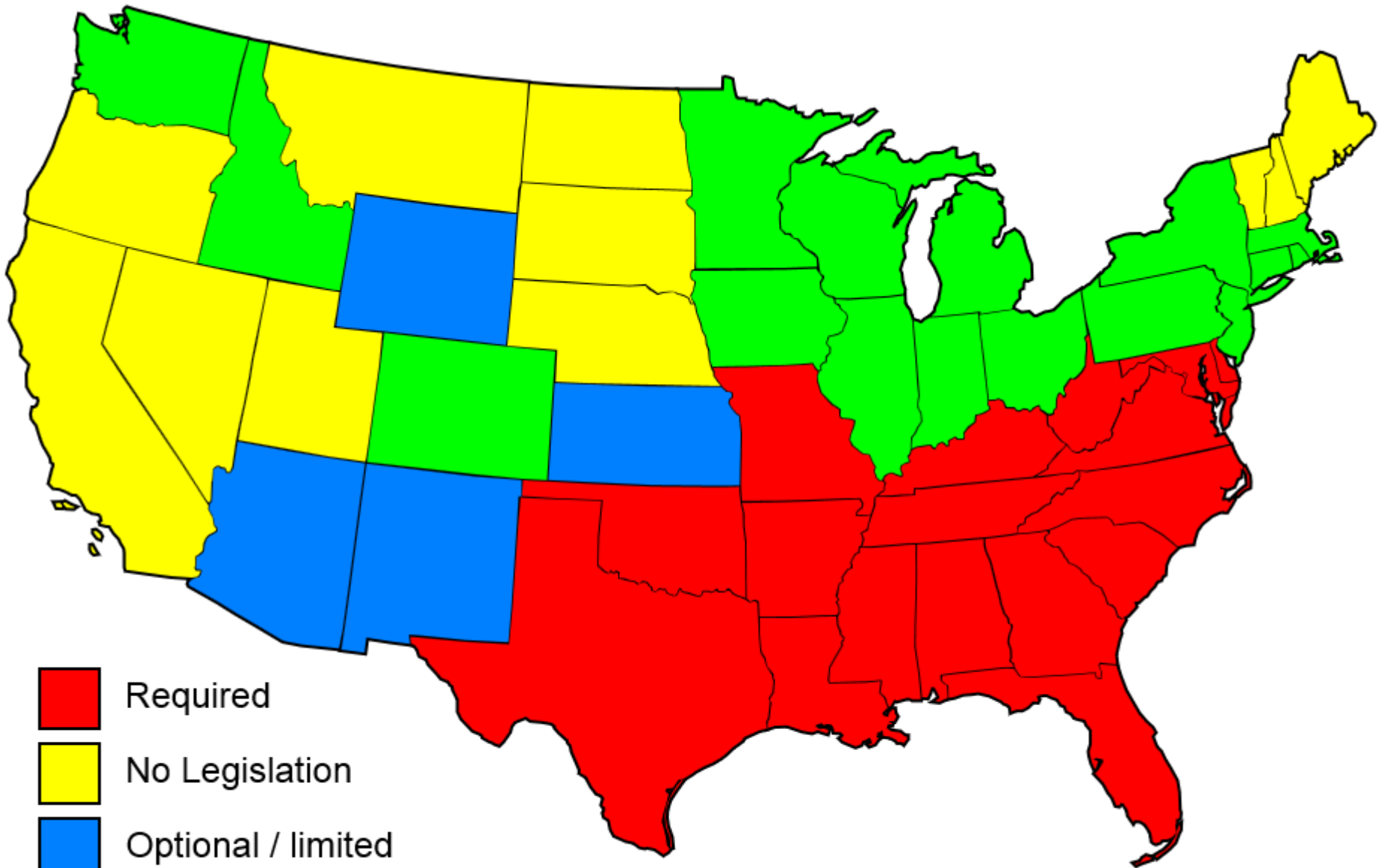






Jim Crow Laws



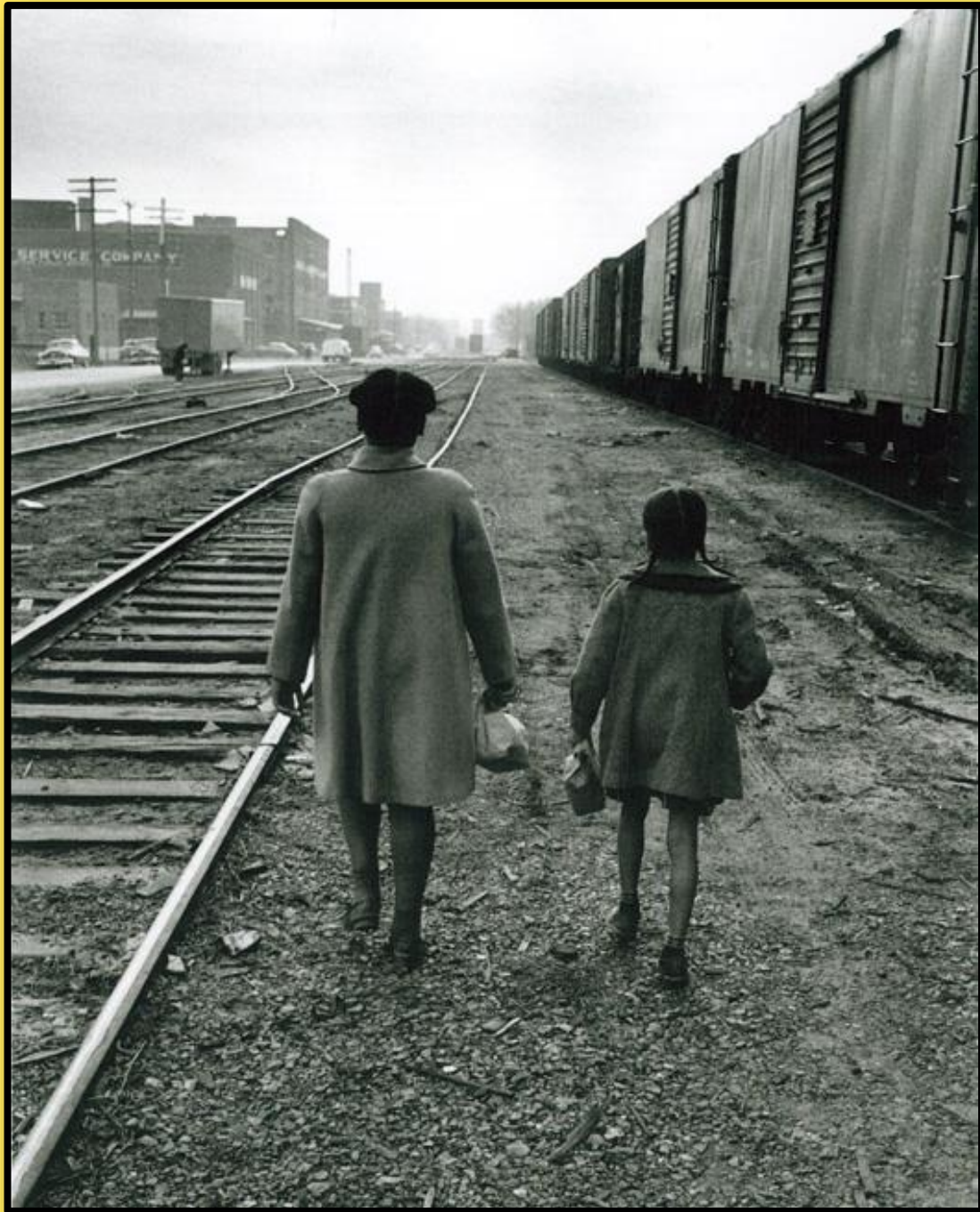
Schools

- Schools were another place where blacks and whites were segregated.
- In 1954, Oliver Brown sued the board of education in Topeka, Kansas because the schools were segregated.
- His third grade daughter, Linda, had to travel one mile to get to her black school, even though the white school was a lot closer.

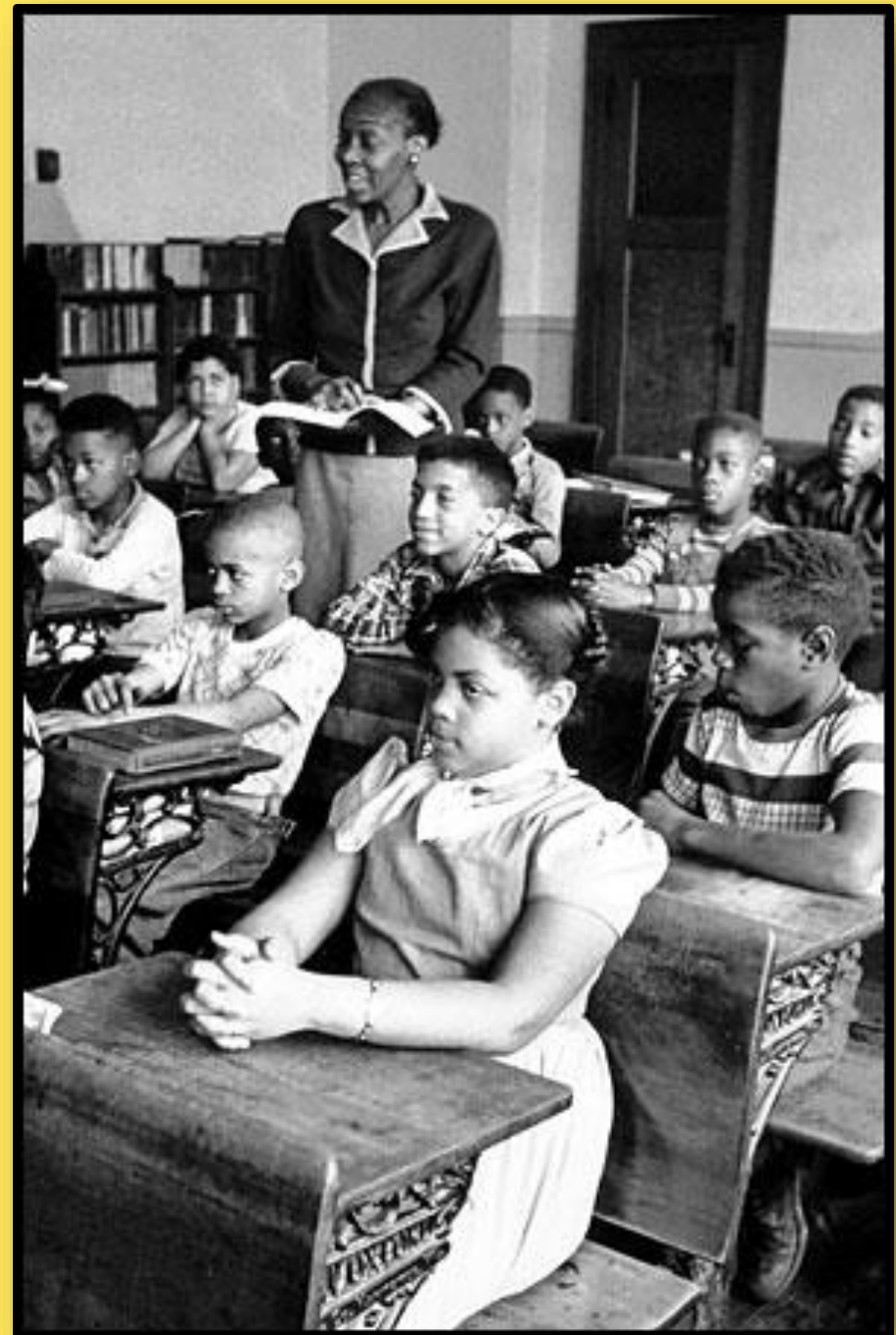


-  Required
-  No Legislation
-  Optional / limited
-  Forbidden

**Educational Segregation in the US
Prior to Brown v Board of Education**



Linda Brown



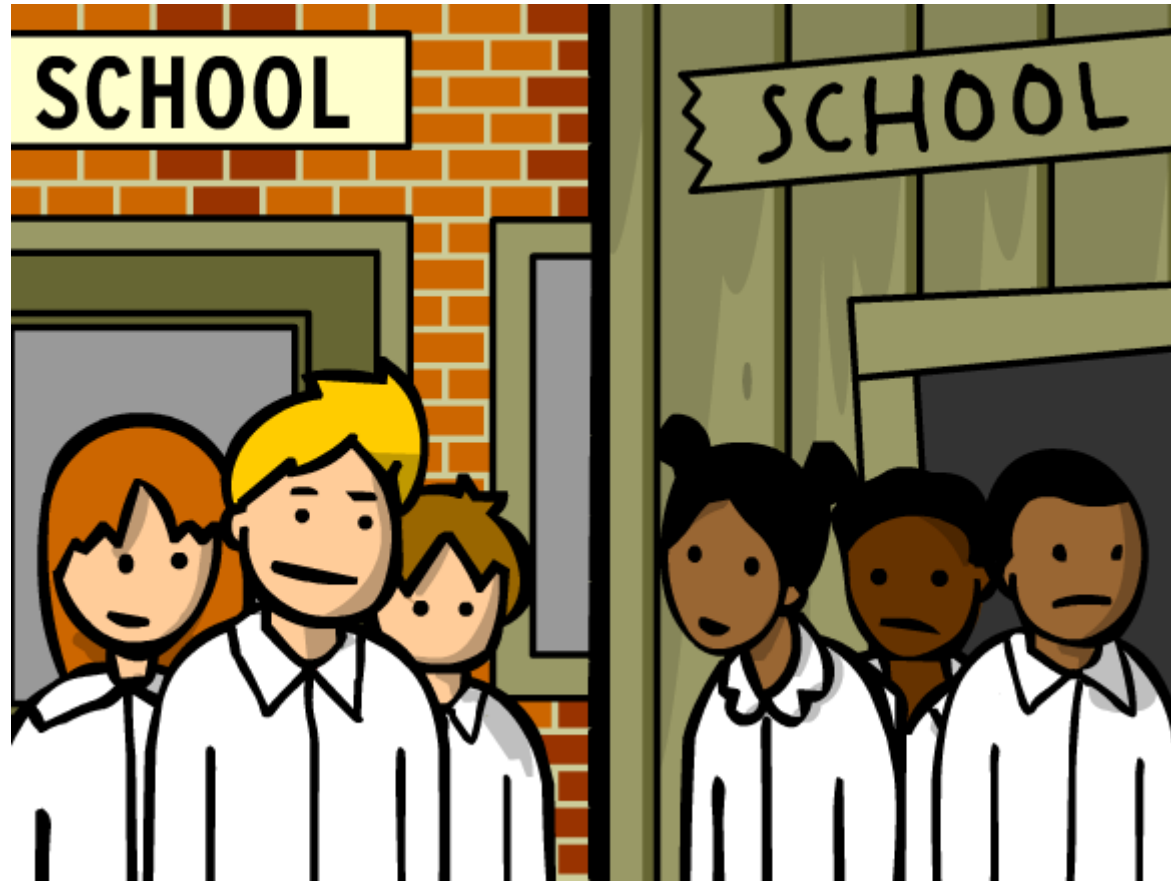
Thurgood Marshall

- Linda Brown's lawyer was Thurgood Marshall.
- He argued the case before the U.S. Supreme Court that having separate schools violated the 14th Amendment to the Constitution.

In 1967, Thurgood Marshall
became the first African
American Supreme Court
Justice.



Brown vs. Board of Education



Brown v. Board of Education

- The US Supreme Court heard the case *Brown v. Board of Education*.
- In 1954, they ruled that students could no longer be segregated.
- The court said segregation was illegal, and public schools across America began to integrate.

Court Bans Segregation In Public School Cases

Paroled Man's Capture Ends Reign Of Terror

Citizens Relieved As Slayor Suspect Is Husted Away



French Cancel Air Evacuation In Indochina

All Our Attacks Will Be Resumed On Rebel Troops

Frank Costello Gets Five Year Prison Term

Court Ruling Is Unanimous

Cases Directly Involve Only Five States But 17 Others May Be Affected

WASHINGTON, May 17.—(AP)—The Supreme Court today announced its landmark decision in the case of Brown v. Board of Education, ruling that racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional.

Chief Justice Earl Warren, writing for the court, said that the "separate but equal" doctrine established in Plessy vs. Ferguson in 1896 is now declared unconstitutional.

PARIS, May 17.—(AP)—The French government today announced that it has decided to cancel its plan to evacuate French citizens from Indochina.

WASHINGTON, May 17.—(AP)—The Supreme Court today announced its unanimous decision in the case of Frank Costello, who was sentenced to five years in prison for conspiracy to defraud the government.

WASHINGTON, May 17.—(AP)—The Supreme Court today announced its unanimous decision in the case of Brown v. Board of Education, ruling that racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional.

Court Questions Suit Challenging Second Primary

WASHINGTON, May 17.—(AP)—The Supreme Court today announced its unanimous decision in the case of *Whitcomb v. Chavis*, questioning a suit challenging the constitutionality of the second primary election system in North Carolina.

Secrecy Clamp Put On Talks

New US Bomber Test Seen Near

Sober, Careful Thought Urged By Tom Ball



The National Guard escorts 9 African American students to their high school in Little Rock, Arkansas.



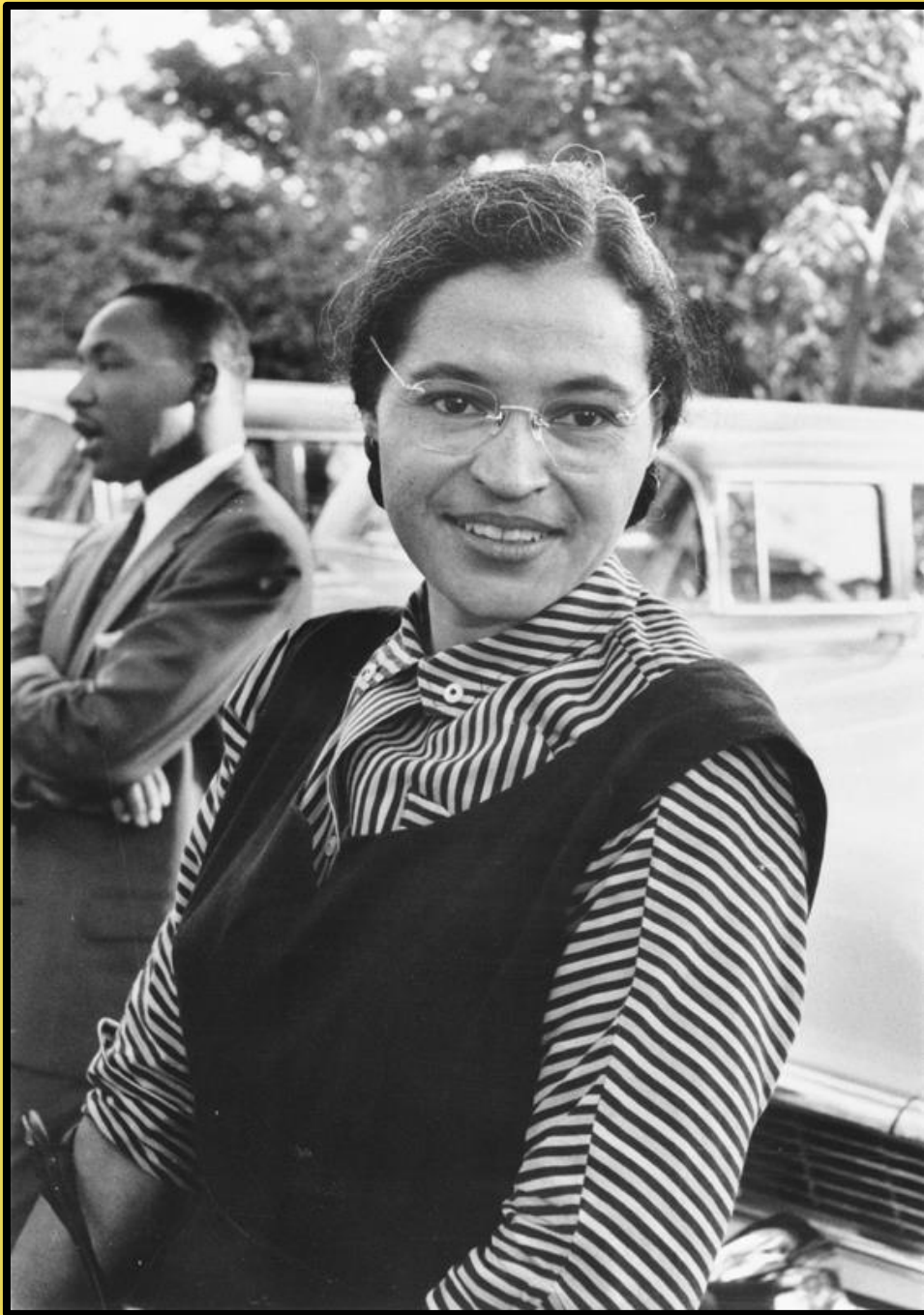
Rosa Parks



Rosa Parks

- In 1955, an African American woman named Rosa Parks helped start the modern civil rights movement.
- After a long day of work, Parks refused to give up her seat on a public bus in Montgomery, Alabama to a white person.
- She was arrested and her actions set off many protests.

Rosa Parks



AMERICA 1950-1975

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Montgomery Bus Boycott

- Martin Luther King, Jr. led the protests and he urged people to boycott the buses.
- The Montgomery Bus Boycott lasted for a year and the bus company lost a lot of money.
- The US Supreme Court eventually outlawed segregation of all public transportation in the city.

Empty Busses...



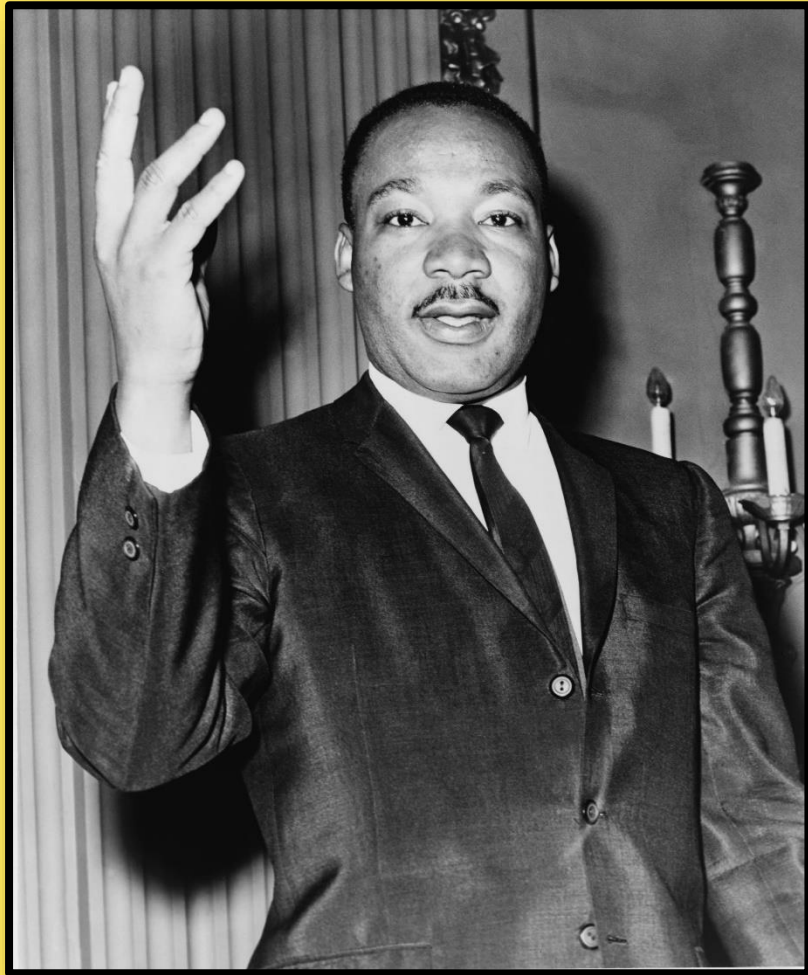
Boycotters Walk to Work

Martin Luther King Jr.



Martin Luther King, Jr.

- As a result of the bus boycott, Martin Luther King, Jr. became known across the nation as a leader of the civil rights movement.
- King preached nonviolent civil disobedience against unfair laws.
- He believed that African Americans could gain their rights by protesting, but that the protests should be peaceful.



Nonviolent Protests

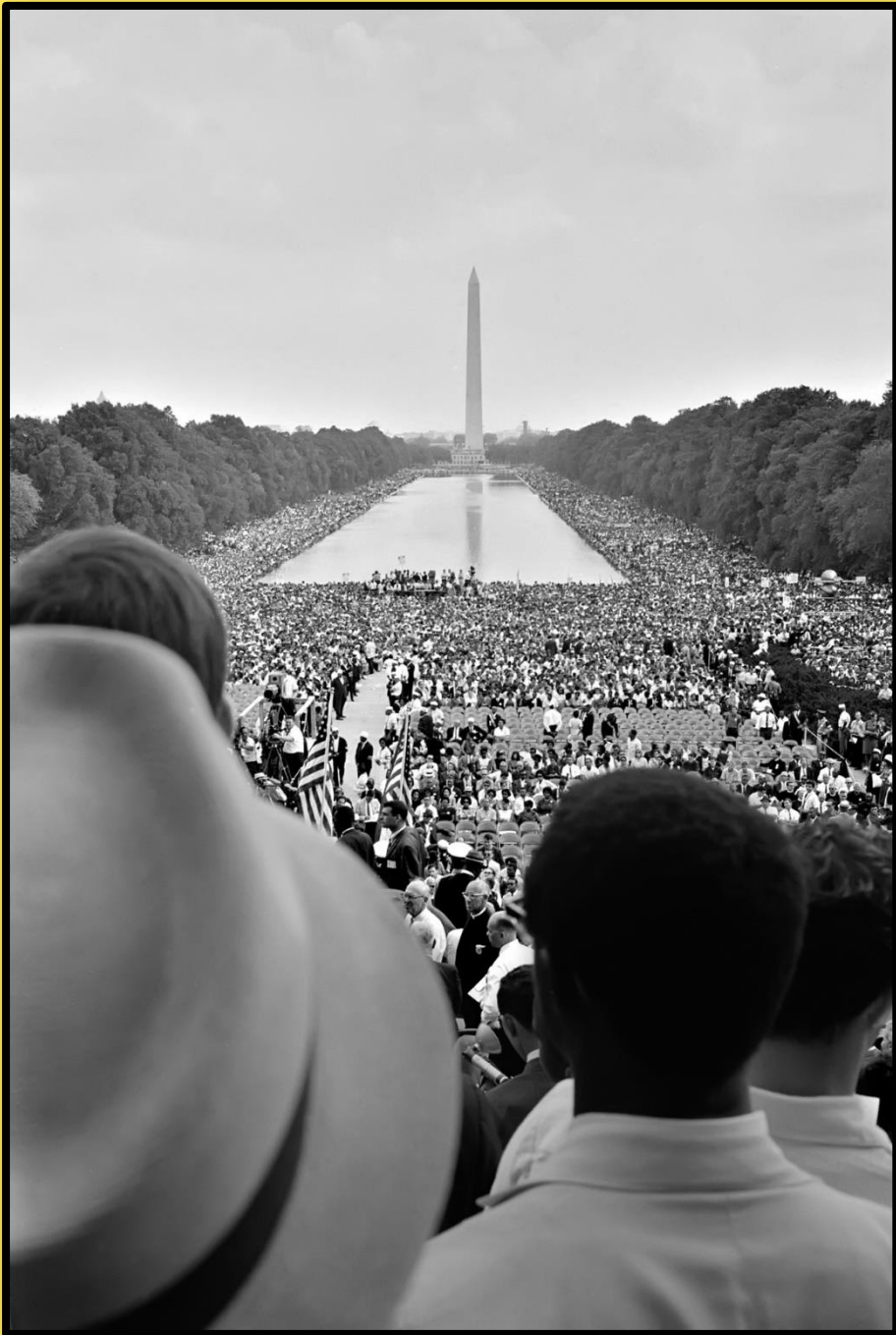
- African Americans and some whites held nonviolent marches and boycotts across the country.
- At times, the nonviolent actions from civil rights workers received violent reactions from white people.
- Some protestors were beaten, shot at, and even killed.





March on Washington

- In 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr. led more than 250,000 people on a civil rights march in Washington, D.C.
- They called on President Kennedy and Congress to pass a law that guaranteed equal rights and quality education for all citizens.
- King gave his famous “I Have a Dream” speech at the gathering.



“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.”
Martin Luther King, Jr.



Civil Rights Act

- The March on Washington got the government's attention and Congress soon passed the Civil Rights Act in 1964.
- This law banned discrimination against any American because of that person's race, color, or religion.
- The law enforced the desegregation of public places.
- It also said that people of all races, male and female, should have the equal opportunity to get a job.

Voting Rights Act

- Even though the 15th and 19th Amendments had given African American men and women the right to vote, there were still voting problems in the South.
- Many states still used literacy tests to keep people from voting.
- The Voting Rights Act of 1965 banned all literacy tests.

President Lyndon Johnson and Martin Luther King, Jr. at the signing of the Voting Rights Act in 1965.



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SS5H8c

Assassinations in America

Assassinations

- The 1960s were a time period of great change in America.
- Many people did not like the civil rights legislation and they disagreed with powerful political leaders at the time.
- The assassinations of three important leaders during the 1960s made a lasting impact on American society.

John F. Kennedy



John F. Kennedy

- President John F. Kennedy was shot in Dallas, Texas on November 22, 1963.
- He was riding in a convertible car with the top down during a parade.
- Lee Harvey Oswald was charged with shooting President Kennedy from a building across the street.
- Many Americans mourned the loss of Kennedy, as he had been a very popular president.



Martin Luther King, Jr.

- On April 5th, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was shot while he was standing on a hotel balcony in Memphis, Tennessee.
- Many people were furious and riots broke out all across the country.
- His death did not stop the civil rights movement, though.
- Today, the fight to achieve equal civil rights for all Americans still goes on.

The Lorraine Motel, where King was assassinated, is now the site of the National Civil Rights Museum.



Robert F. Kennedy

- Another assassination occurred in 1968.
- Robert F. Kennedy was shot at a hotel in Los Angeles, California on June 5th.
- He was the younger brother of President Kennedy.
- Robert Kennedy was running for the Democratic nomination for president.

Robert F. Kennedy speaking
in front of a crowd at a Civil
Rights rally in 1963.



AMERICA 1950-1975

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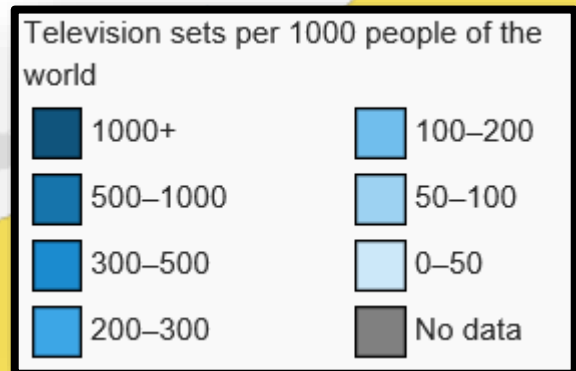
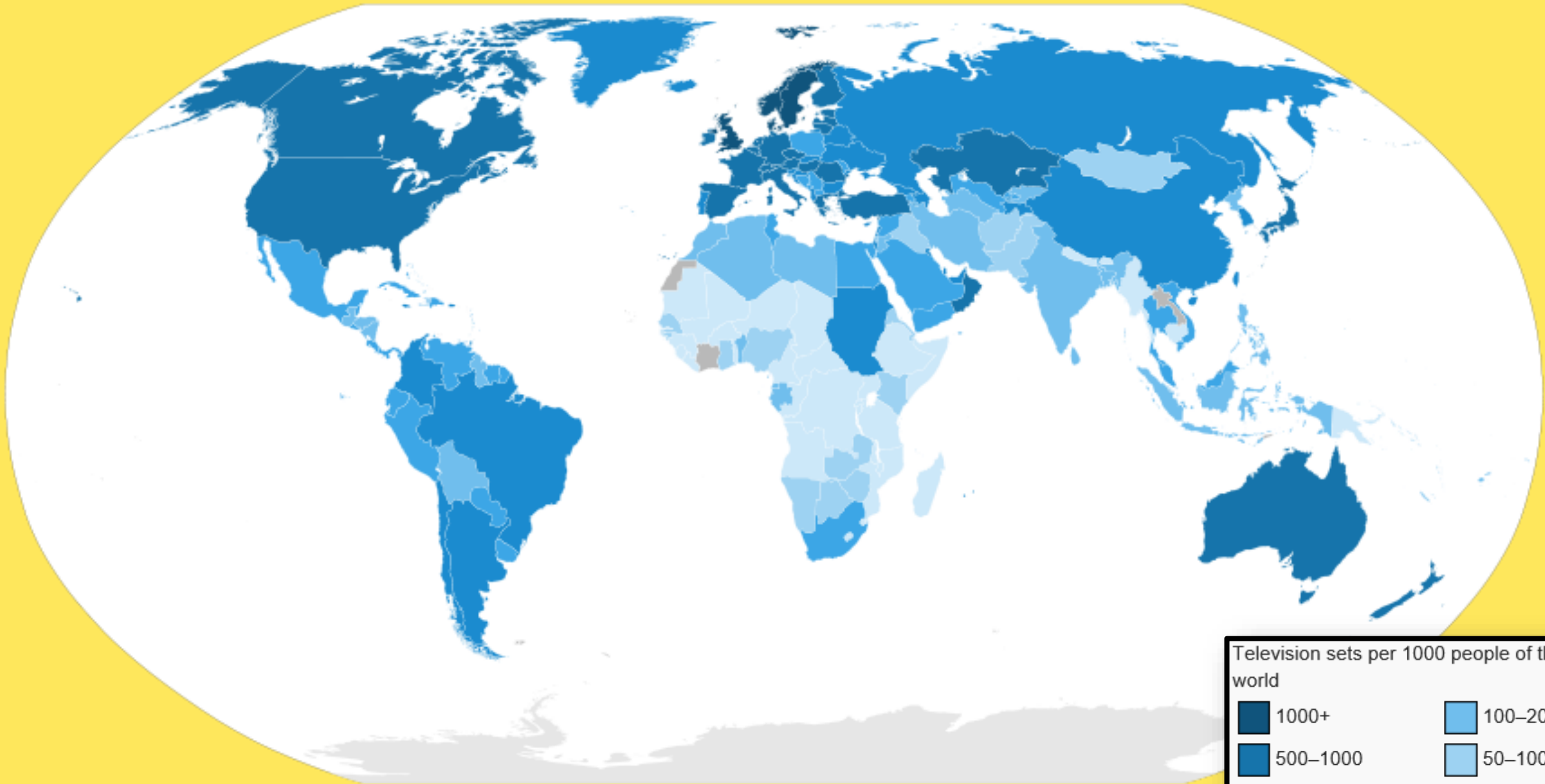
SS5H8d

New Technologies

Television &
Space Exploration

Television

- Television was a technological development that changed American life in the 1960s.
- In 1950, only 10% of Americans owned a TV.
- By 1960, 90% of homes owned a TV.
- Today, 99% of Americans have at least one TV.



Television

- TV changed the way Americans saw themselves and the world because it brought the world right into their homes.
- Television coverage of the Vietnam War brought the horrors of war into the living rooms of millions of Americans for the first time.
- TV also made it possible to view the first landing on the moon in 1969 as it was happening.

An American family watching TV in 1958.



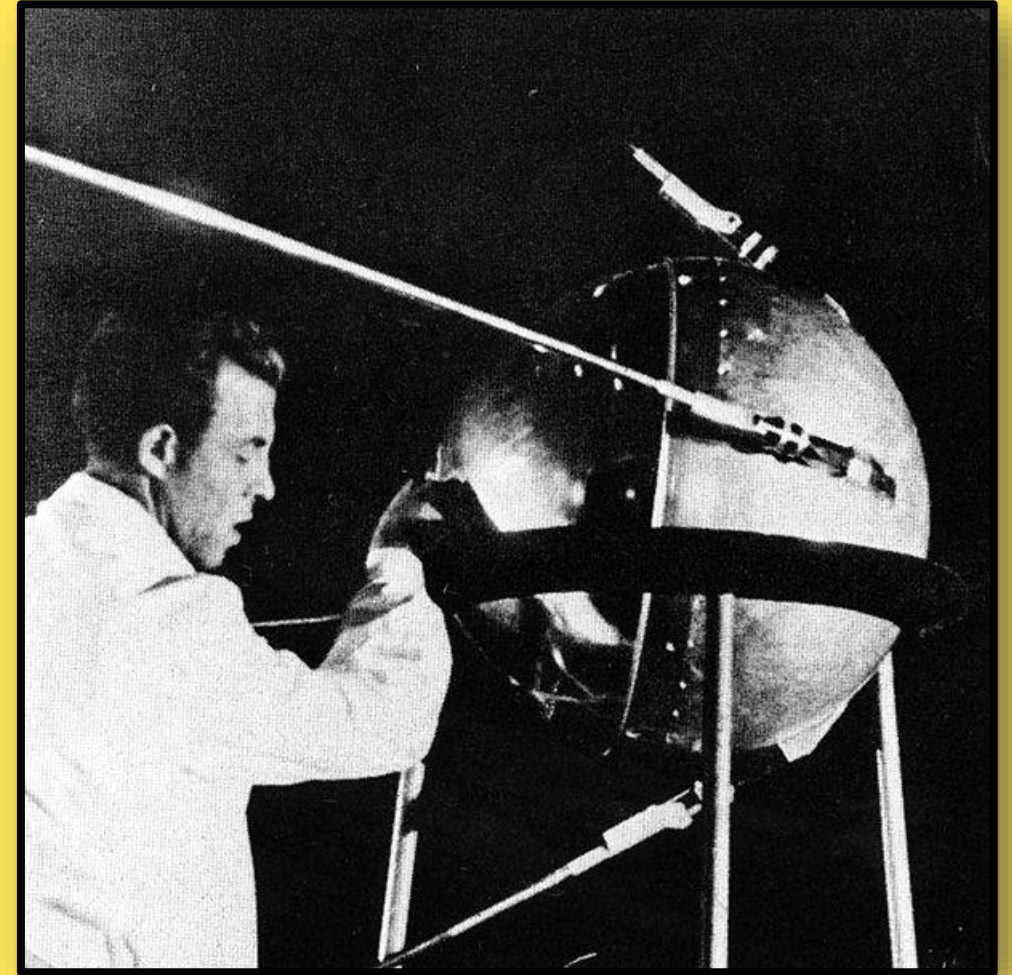
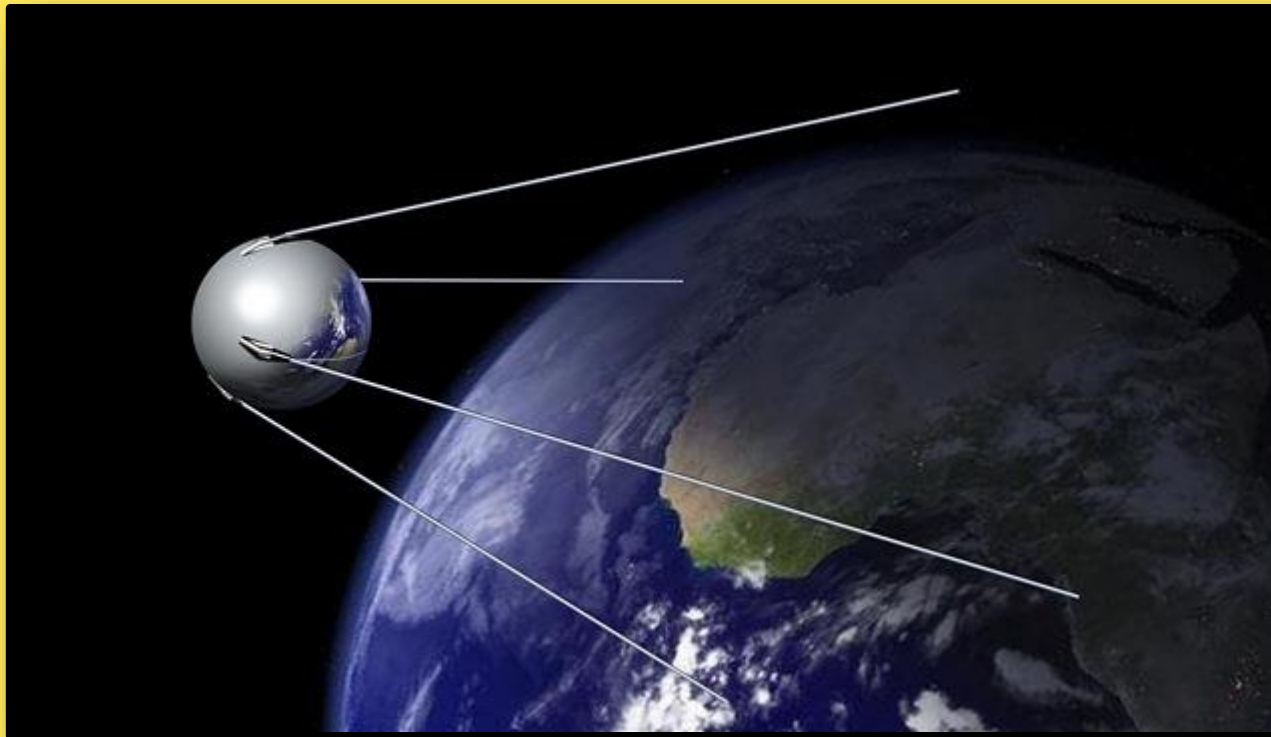
Space Exploration (Space Race)



Space Exploration

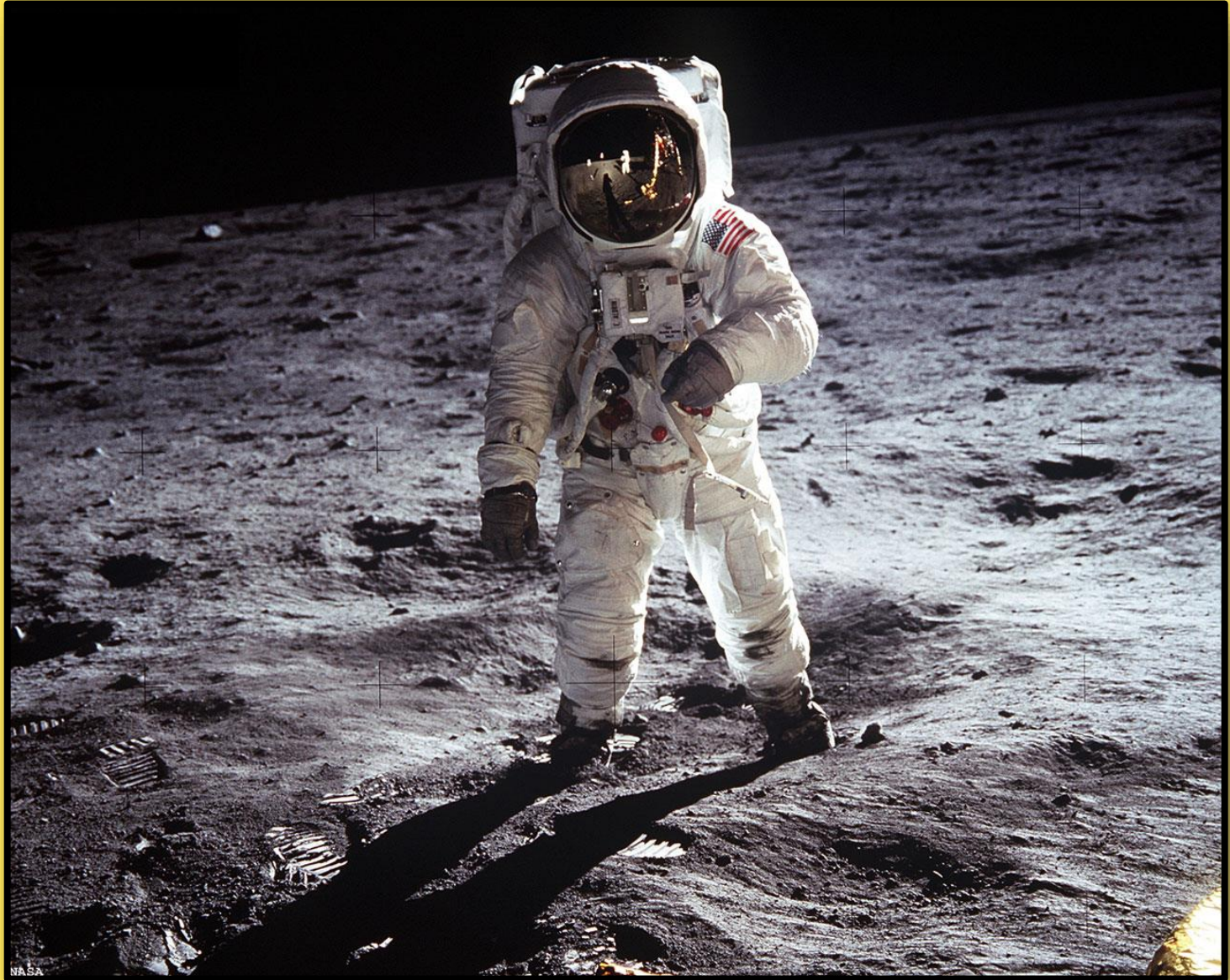
- Space exploration was another great technological development for the US and the world.
- At the time, the Soviet Union was getting ahead of the US in space exploration.
- They launched the first satellite in 1957 and put the first man in space in 1961.
- Americans did not like being behind.

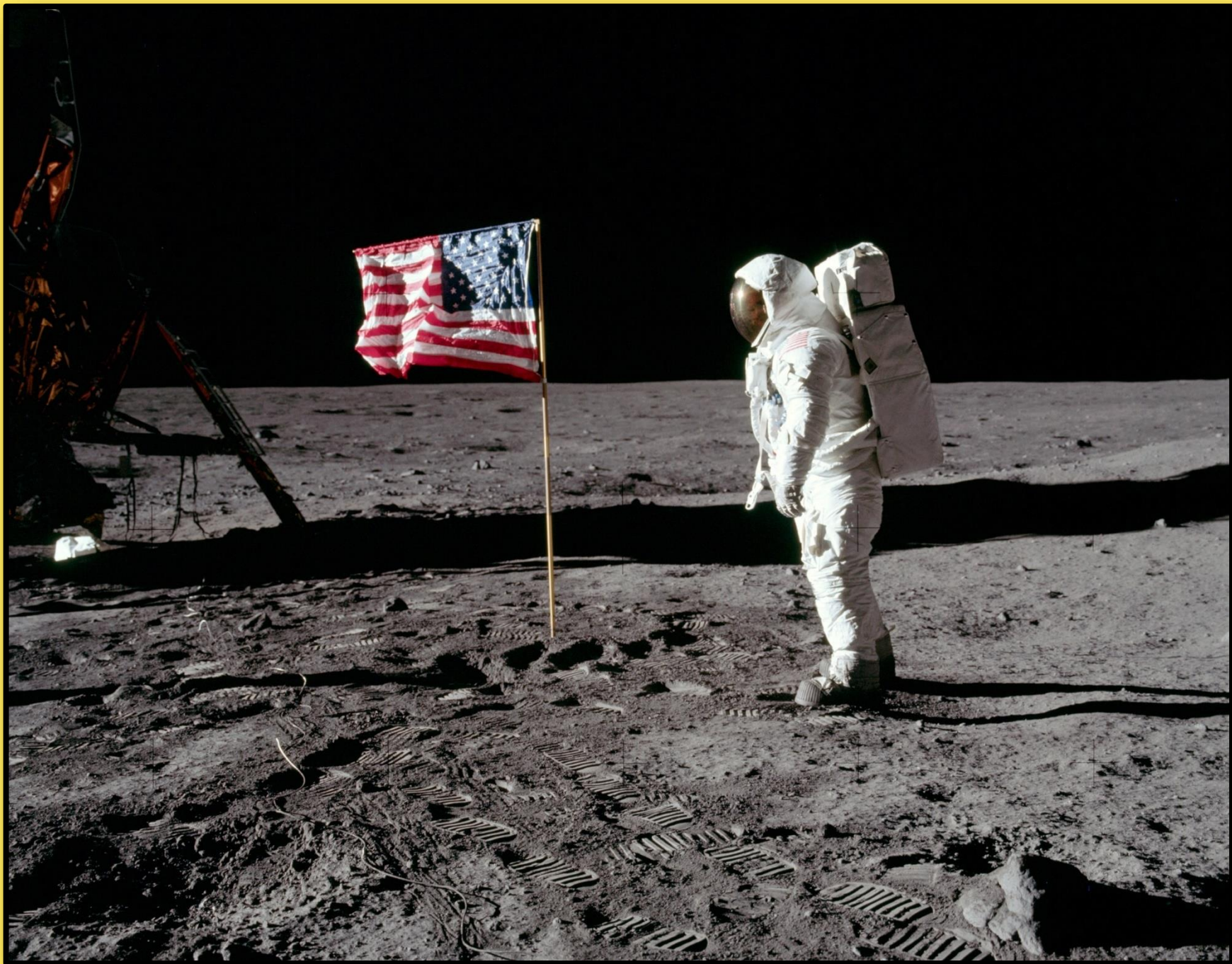
The Soviet Union launched the first artificial Earth satellite, Sputnik 1, in 1957.



Space Exploration

- President Kennedy announced a goal to put a man on the moon by 1970 and the space race began.
- Alan Shepard was the first American to be launched into space in 1961.
- In 1969, Apollo 11 landed on the moon.
 - On that mission, Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon.





Space Today

- By 2000, the Russians and the Americans were working together to build the International Space Station that is orbiting Earth.
- Long-range space vehicles have been sent to explore Mars, Venus, and other planets.
- Space telescopes peer far into the outer reaches of space, helping us learn more about the universe.

The International Space Station

