

GCC HISTORY IN ACTION PART I

Lessons From Civil Rights:
Montgomery Bus Boycott



TWO ORGANIZING TOOLS POWER & POWER ANALYSIS



POWER

DEFINITION:
THE ABILITY TO ACT

POWER

POWER COMES IN TWO FORMS

Organized People

+

Organized Money

(persistently and consistently)

=

Organized POWER

FACTS AND EXPERIENCES

VIDEO

[HTTPS://IDEASTREAM.PBSLEARNINGMEDIA.ORG/RESOURCE/CDC9C86B-3888-4812-A708-3A879A31D77A/THE-CIVIL-RIGHTS-MOVEMENT-TAKING-A-STAND/](https://ideastream.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/cdc9c86b-3888-4812-a708-3a879a31d77a/the-civil-rights-movement-taking-a-stand/)



POWER ANALYSIS

Tool used to understand and map power dynamics within a community or organization to develop effective strategies for change



Interstate and Intrastate Transportation Target

NAACP looks at the discrimination of African American traveling
to states and within states

Segregations Bus Court Cases Power Analysis & Map

- ❑ 1944 Irene Morgan (age 27)- Morgan vs. Commonwealth Virginia 1946 NAACP/Thurgood Marshall Attorney (Brown vs Education 1954, Supreme Court Justice)
- ❑ 1947- First Freedom Ride challenging upper southern states on ruling. Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia desegregates
- ❑ 1952- Private First Class Sarah Keys Evans (age 22) Interstate Bus From New Jersey to North Carolina Keys vs. Carolina Coach. North Carolina desegregates
- ❑ 1953 - Baton Rouge Boycott – Compromise (Louisiana desegregates)
- ❑ 1955 – (9 months before Rosa Parks) 4 women Aurelia Browder, Mary Louise Smith, Claudette Colvin and Susie McDonald plaintiffs in Browder vs. Gayle (Mayor of Montgomery)
- ❑ 1955 – December 1st Rosa Parks arrested. Not a plaintiff in Browder as parks case was pending with the state.
- ❑ 1956 Browder vs. Gayle US Supreme Court Ruling segregation on public buses



MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT (Dec. 1, 1955-Dec. 20, 1956)

Organized People

- ☐ **Leaders were trained and organized – Highlander School (Tennessee 1932)**
- ☐ **Congregations, clergy and residents strategized, researched and worked together**
- ☐ **NAACP & Montgomery Improvement Association (Ed. Nixon, Jo Ann Robinson Dr. King and Rev. Abernathy)**
- ☐ **Host Congregation for protest Dexter Avenue (Dr. King)**
- ☐ **Over 50% of the work population were domestic workers who depended on public transportation for work**
- ☐ **African Americans represented approx. 75% of ridership**
- ☐ **Carpools, walk groups and chauffeuring employers**



MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT (Dec. 1, 1955-Dec. 20, 1956) Organized Money



- ☐ *Buses daily ridership declined by up to 90% (some whites also refuse to ride buses in solidarity for boycott)*
- ☐ *Originally set for one day protest*
- ☐ *Supported only organized gas/service stations*
- ☐ *Boycott lasted 381 days*
- ☐ *Daily estimated loss revenue approx. \$3000 per day*
- ☐ *Total estimated loss: \$1,143,000*



ORGANIZE PEOPLE AND ORGANIZE MONEY

***Freedom Riders, SCLC, SNCC and CORE
Interstate Commerce Commission 1961
Civil Rights Act 1964***

- ☐ *Freedom rides after 1956 Browder case takes rides to show brutality of segregation*
- ☐ *Southern Christian Leadership Conference (Dr. King), Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (Lewis), Congress on Racial Equity help bring national attention to enforce laws*
- ☐ *Interstate Commerce Commission Act 1961 ends segregation on all interstate travel*
- ☐ *Civils Rights Act 1964 outlawing any discrimination in public accommodations, employment or any federal funded entity*
- ☐ *Enforcement not carried throughout all states despite laws and act*

OTHER SOUTHERN STATES TIMELINE

- ❑ 1961 Mississippi and Louisiana ends bus segregation
- ❑ 1964 Texas ends bus segregation after the 1964 Civil Rights Act Pass
- ❑ 1965 Oklahoma officially repealed its own statutes that mandated segregated public transportation
- ❑ 1966 Kentucky ends intrastate bus segregation
- ❑ 1970 South Carolina enforced by Federal Government to desegregate buses



WHY MONTGOMERY WORKED?

Power

Organize People and Organize Money

NAACP- Ed Nixon (porter/labor), Dr. Martin Luther King (new pastor/Dexter Avenue Church), Rosa Parks (Seamstress notable community figure and trained), Rev. Abernathy (pastor/First Baptist Church)

Power Analysis (and Mapping)

Long history of fights and rulings and strategize on how to enforce laws
not just have them

ORGANIZING FOR POWER

What stands out to you from
modern civil rights
to today?

NEXT HISTORY IN ACTION TRAINING

Rerum Novarum: Why 134 Year Old Text is Relevant Today

November 13th at 10:00am

November 18th at 7:00pm

