

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF PROGRAM SIX

PROGRAM SIX: 1953 - 1963

The second half of the twentieth century saw the struggle for freedom at home and abroad. From Europe to Asia, the United States faced an implacable foe in communism. The Soviets sought to destroy the United States, and the U.S.S.R.'s premier Nikita Khrushchev warned the United States, "We shall bury you." Meanwhile, democracy faced a threat at home in McCarthyism and the frantic witch hunts for subversives in American life. But McCarthy was not solely to blame for the hysteria that gripped the country. With the discovery of spies Alger Hiss and Klaus Fuchs and the seeming unstoppable rise of communist insurgency around the globe, Americans became fearful of communists within their borders. But while communism drove U.S. citizens to panic, perhaps the greatest trial facing the United States in this decade was the African American fight against segregation. It can be argued that the history of the United States is the history of the struggle for equality. From the beginning the country announced itself to the world as a classless society; proclaimed in its most revered document that all men are created equal and endowed with inalienable rights of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness;" and set down in the ultimate law of the nation that "establishing justice, insuring domestic tranquility, providing common defense, promoting general welfare and securing the blessings of liberty" for all the people are the reasons for creating this more perfect union.

In the 20th century African-Americans fought for equal opportunity in education, work, housing and health care. In the first half of the century, whites worked through the courts to deny them equality. The result was that blacks were given substandard school buildings with second-rate supplies; refused access to proper health care; denied their place in the voting booth or on the ballot; and excluded from specific neighborhoods. In the 1950's the African American struggle would finally begin to bear fruit in a series of landmark judicial cases and desegregation protests. These gains came with the rise of television which put a face and words to Black injustices. Television also changed the political dialogue in the country with the first televised presidential debates between John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon in 1960. And it brought a new hero into every American household--the astronaut.

In program six, topics cover America's cold war fight with segments on John Foster Dulles, the rise of McCarthyism and the Cuban Missile crisis. At home the road to Black equality is depicted in *Brown v. Board of Education*, Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King's "I have a Dream" speech. Finally, the evolving face of politics and the space race are depicted in the Nixon-Kennedy debates and John Glenn, America's first astronaut to orbit the Earth.

Turning Point #1

1953 - John Foster Dulles Becomes Eisenhower's Cold War Warrior

STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:

- The nuclear threat behind the communist menace.
- The 'Domino Theory' which guided Republican leaders in the fight against communism.
- Dulles' fight to meet communism everywhere in the world and destroy it.
- The policy of deterrence and its repercussions.

Points for Teachers:

- With Eastern Europe falling under the sway of Stalin, the fall of China to Mao and the subjugation of Tibet by Chinese communists, the fear in America was that if the West did not stand up to Communism, then communist insurgents, controlled by the Kremlin, would take over in Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam.
- Dulles on September 8, 1954, brought together the Philippines, Thailand and Pakistan along with the US, Britain, France, Australia, and New Zealand in the formation of SEATO.
- Stalin called upon communists in Asia, the Middle East, Africa and South America to pick up "The banner of nationalism where it had been dropped by the bourgeoisie and win over the hearts and minds of the people for communism."
- Under Truman, America's response to communism had been containment. Republicans saw containment as an ultimate failure and sought to eradicate communism. Eventually, however, even the policy of eradication was modified and became very similar to containment. Chiang Kai Shek was kept on a very short leash in Taiwan, for example. And the budding revolutions in Hungary and Poland in 1956 saw no aid from the United States and were crushed by the Soviet Union.

Related Segments from other Turning Points include:

- 1947 - The Marshall Plan
- 1950-1953 - The Korean War
- 1954 - Senator Joseph McCarthy is Condemned by the Senate
- 1962 - The Cuban Missile Crisis
- 1992 - The End of the Cold War

Turning Point #2**1954 - Senator Joseph McCarthy is Condemned by the Senate:****STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:**

- The background to the fear of communism that wracked the United States.
- The start of McCarthy's search for communists in the U.S. government.
- The effect that McCarthy's hearings and the House of Un-American Activities Committee meetings had on the American psyche.
- How McCarthy finally overreached himself and brought his four year reign of demagoguery to an end.

Points for Teachers:

- The red scare was not confined to the fifties. It began as early as 1920 when then Attorney General Mitchell Palmer raided suspected communists in a nationwide effort to rid the country of subversives.
- In 1938, the House un-American Activities Committee, led by Congressman Martin Dies, was set up in 1938 to hunt out communists.
- Responding to reporters' inquiries about the validity of McCarthy's statement that he had a list of known communists in his briefcase, President Truman remarked, "The only thing McCarthy has in his brief case is a bottle of booze."
- Ferreting out communists and suspected communists became a cottage industry that led to Hollywood Black Lists and innocent lives ruined.

- Truman established a Loyalty Program to demonstrate to the people of the United States that there were no communists in the Federal Government. Though no cases of espionage were ever uncovered by the FBI through this program, the taint of fear trickled down through the government and gave rise to what Secretary of State Dean Acheson described as, "How dangerous was the practice of secret evidence and secret informers, how alien to all our conceptions of justice and the rights of citizens. Experience proved again how soon good men become callous in the use of bad practices."
- In 1951 McCarthy denounced George C. Marshall as part of "A conspiracy so immense and an infamy so black as to dwarf any previous venture in the history of man." This is the same George C. Marshall whose Marshall Plan saved Western Europe from communism.

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Turning Point #3

1954 Brown v. Board of Education

STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:

1. The background of racism and desegregation in the first half of the 20th century.
2. Details of the Brown v. Board of Education case.
3. The impact the case had on segregation.

Points for Teachers:

- Brown was not the first case dealing with segregation:
 - a. Shelly v. Kramer, 1948 removed the government's sanctions from restrictive covenants or private efforts to exclude blacks from buying houses in specific neighborhoods.
 - b. Sipuel v. University of Oklahoma, 1948, and Sweatt v. Painter, 1950, required that southern states admit Blacks to white colleges when training in Black colleges was demonstrably not equal.
- The 1954 decision was followed by a subsequent decision on May 31, 1955, requiring that school authorities submit plans "with all deliberate speed" for desegregation. In addition, the decision gave local federal courts the responsibility of determining if the plans were done in good faith.
- By September 1960, 765 out of the South's 6,676 school districts were desegregated.
- Later named to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1968, Thurgood Marshall shepherded this case through all its trials and reviews to a successful conclusion.

Related Segments from other Turning Points include:

- 1732 - Black uprising in South Carolina
- 1793 - Congress Enacts a Fugitive Slave Act
- 1865 - Formation of the Ku Klux Klan
- 1875 - Robert Smalls, Former Slave, Is Elected to the House

- 1881 - Booker T. Washington Opens Tuskegee Institute
- 1896 - Plessey v. Ferguson Case Upholds Segregation
- 1936 - 38-Jesse Owens and Joe Louis Debunk Hitler's Aryan Superiority
- 1955 - Rosa Parks is Arrested
- 1963 - Martin Luther King's 'I Have a Dream Speech'

Turning Point #4

1955 - Rosa Parks is Arrested

STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:

- The facts surrounding Rosa Park's decision not to give up her seat on the bus.
- The rise of the young black minister, Martin Luther King.
- President Eisenhower's executive order sending troops to Little Rock, Arkansas, to enforce desegregation of the city's schools.

Points for Teachers:

- Montgomery's complex segregation laws required Blacks to pay their fare to the driver, then get off and reboard through the back door. When the white section filled up, Blacks were ordered to give up their seat and move farther to the back of the bus.
- The NAACP had been looking to test the laws for sometime. Perhaps no single event had an impact on the Black struggle for equality as the arrest of this middle aged seamstress, going home after a long day of work for her white employer, the Montgomery Fair Department Store.
- Clifford Durr, the white lawyer whose wife had employed Parks as a seamstress, posted Park's bail.
- Local civil rights leader E.D. Nixon saw the importance of the arrest and exclaimed, "My God, look what segregation has put in my hands!"
- Breaking the color line in Montgomery would have other ramifications for the country as well. The boycott became a media event and its heroes, heroes for the entire nation, North and South, white and black.
- Within ten years Civil Rights legislation would bring America out of the dark ages of racism and into the light as a progressive nation.
- Along the way, the Black Civil Rights cause would meet violence head on. Perhaps the most glaring example would be in Birmingham, Alabama, when a bombing at the 16th Street Baptist Church killed four young black children. Klanswoman, Connie Lynch, proclaimed that the four girls weren't children. "Children are little people...They're just niggers, and if there are four less niggers tonight, then I say good for whoever planted the bomb."
- There were other violent attacks against Blacks over the decade of the 60's. James Meredith was shot by a sniper when he tried to enter the University of Mississippi. Police attacked freedom marchers in Selma, Alabama with clubs and dogs.
- Stating in 1957 that "Mob rule can not be allowed to override the decisions of our courts," President Eisenhower ordered 1000 paratroopers and 10,000 Arkansas National Guardsmen, pressed into Federal Service, to protect Black students integrating Little Rock High School over the protests of citizens and politicians.

Related Segments from other Turning Points include:

- 1739 - Black Uprising in South Carolina
- 1793 - Congress Enacts a Fugitive Slave Act
- 1865 - Formation of the Ku Klux Klan
- 1875 - Robert Smalls, Former Slave, Is Elected to the House
- 1881 - Booker T. Washington Opens Tuskegee Institute
- 1896 - Plessey v. Ferguson Case Upholds Segregation
- 1936 - 38-Jesse Owens And Joe Louis Debunk Hitler's Aryan Superiority
- 1954 - Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka
- 1963 - Martin Luther King's 'I Have a Dream Speech'

Turning Point #5

1960 - Kennedy - Nixon Televised Debates

STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:

- The impact of television on American politics.
- Background on Kennedy and Nixon
- The impact of the debate on the election.

Points for Teachers:

- There were 4 debates, watched by tens of millions of viewers. The first one on September 26, 1960, had 70 million viewers.
- In the debates Nixon declared. "Militarily, economically and diplomatically, we maintain and have a position of strength unparalleled in the history of the country. American prestige is at an all time high."
- Kennedy found the national situation perilous. America lagged behind the Soviets technologically and economically. More over, socially the United States needed serious Civil Rights legislation. He called for a supreme national effort to create a New Frontier to get the country moving again.
- Eisenhower summed up Nixon's television persona years after the election when he told his editor, Sam Vaughan, that Nixon "lacked star quality." Journalist Teddy White wrote, "His eyes were exaggerated hollows of blackness, his jaws, jowls and face drooping with strain."

Related Segments from other Turning Points include:

- 1911 - Hollywood Founded
- 1926 - David Sarnoff Founds NBC
- 1951 - Alan Freed Introduces Rock n' Roll

Turning Point #6

1962 - Astronaut John Glenn is the First American to Orbit the Earth

STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:

- The rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union created a space race.
- The background to the space race and how America lagged initially.
- How the U.S. created NASA to catch up with the Soviet space program.
- How the United States caught up with and passed the Soviets.

- American achievements in space in the last half of the 20th century.

Points for Teachers:

- Sputnik weighed only 184 pounds and circled 500 miles above the Earth at nearly 18,000 miles per hour.
- In the four years after the launch of Sputnik in 1957, the Soviet Union would also launch a dog, Laika, a man, Yuri Gagarin who on April 12, 1961, circled the earth, and a woman into space before the United States could respond with Allan Shepard's 15 minute ride to fame.
- Interesting comment by Glenn about this ride in 'Friendship Seven'. As he was waiting for the launch sequence, he reflected on the fact that everything in the capsule was built by the lowest bidder.

Related Segments from other Turning Points include:

- 1903 - Wright Brothers Fly at Kitty Hawk
- 1926 - Goddard Initiates the Space Age
- 1927 - Charles Lindbergh Flies Across the Atlantic
- 1932 - Amelia Earhart: Record-Breaking Woman Aviator

Turning Point #7

1962 - Cuban Missile Crisis:

STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:

- How close to nuclear war the world was in October 1962.
- Background to the missile crisis.
- Details of the naval blockade of Cuba.
- The negotiations that ended the crisis.
- The significance of the America's willingness to stand up to the Soviets.

Points for Teachers:

- South America in the 50's was a turbulent place. 13 countries were military dictators, all of them allies of the US. But thanks in part to the Soviet Union's communist insurgency techniques, revolutionary fervor was strong throughout the Southern hemisphere.
- By 1961, four of the dictatorships had been overthrown, including, Peron of Argentina, 1955; Jimenez of Argentina, 1958; and Batista of Cuba in 1959.
- Two views of the Cuban Missile Crisis:
 - a. Some critics of these monumental thirteen days, when the world stood on the brink of nuclear war, feel that Kennedy banked world peace on the idea that the Soviet Union would back down. They charge that Kennedy's actions were the most reckless since the end of WWII.
 - b. Other's point out that American toughness, lacking in the Eisenhower years, was reestablished by Kennedy.

Related Segments from other Turning Points include:

- 1947 - The Marshall Plan
- 1950-1953 - The Korean War
- 1954 - Senator Joseph McCarthy is Condemned by the Senate

- 1964 - Vietnam War: Congress Passes the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution
- 1968 - Vietnam War: The Tet Offensive
- 1973 - Vietnam War: Cease- Fire Ends War
- 1991 - End of the Cold War

Turning Point #8

1963 - Martin Luther King Delivers his "I Have a Dream" Speech:

STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:

- Martin Luther King's influence in the black cause of equality.
- Black successes following the desegregation of Birmingham's buses in 1956.
- The divergence of Black protests from King's non violent advocacy of black civil rights to violent protests.

Points for Teachers:

- King's speech was the antithesis of Booker T. Washington's 1895 Atlanta Speech which advised that blacks keep a low profile.
- King was always subject to harassment and violence for his stand on black equality. During the 381 day Birmingham bus boycott, King's house was bombed and he was jailed twice: once for organizing an illegal boycott and a second time for a minor traffic violation.
- After his "I Have a Dream" speech, King went on to organize more protest marches and give more speeches. In 1965 he chose Selma, Alabama, to highlight the need for a voting rights bill.
- A King aid explained, "Bull Connor gave us the civil rights bill, and Jim Clarke is going to give us the voting rights bill."
- The marchers were met with vicious attacks, and several were killed. President Johnson went before Congress to urge passage of the bill. Johnson declared that Selma showed "the effort of American Negroes to secure for themselves the full blessings of American life."
- James Earl Ray would be charged and convicted for Martin Luther King's murder.

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- 1739 - Black uprising in South Carolina
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- 1875 - Robert Smalls, Former Slave, Is Elected to the House
- 1881 - Booker T. Washington Opens Tuskegee Institute
- 1896 - Plessey v. Ferguson Case Upholds Segregation
- 1936 - 38-Jesse Owens And Joe Louis Debunk Hitler's Aryan Superiority
- 1954 - Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka
- 1955 - Rosa Parks is Arrested

Resources - Internet Sites:

Turning Point #1

1953 - John Foster Dulles Becomes Eisenhower's Cold War Warrior

1. JF Dulles Oral History Catalog

http://libweb.princeton.edu/libraries/firestone/rbrc/finding_aids/jfdoral.html

2. Modern History Sourcebook: John Foster Dulles:

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1957Dulles-peace1.html>

3. The John Foster Dulles Oral History Collection

<http://www.scholarly.com/guides/Dulles.Oral/dullesoraltitlepg.pdf>

4. John Foster Dulles, Education on the Internet & Teaching History

Online <http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/USAdulles.htm>

5. History Channel - Speeches - John Foster Dulles

http://www.historychannel.com/speeches/archive/speech_73.html

6. 'Eisenhower Explains the Domino Theory

<http://web.mala.bc.ca/davies/323Discussion/0000007c.htm>

Turning Point #2

1954 - Senator Joseph McCarthy is Condemned by the Senate

1. McCarthyism, Education on the Internet & Teaching History Online

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/USAmccarthyism.htm>

2. H102 Lecture 23: The Coils of Cold War

<http://us.history.wisc.edu/hist102/lectures/lecture23.html>

3. The Age of McCarthyism:

<http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/usingseries/hovey/schrecker%20.htm>

4. Learn History - USA A Divided Union - McCarthyism

<http://www.learnhistory.org.uk/usa/mccarthy.htm>

5. History Channel Exhibits: The Fifties

<http://www.historychannel.com/exhibits/fifties/mccarthy.html>

Turning Point #3

1954 - Brown v. Board of Education

1. Civil Rights: Brown v. Board of Education I (1954)

<http://www.nationalcenter.org/brown.html>

2. Early Civil Rights Struggles: Brown v. Board of Education

<http://www.watson.org/~lisa/blackhistory/early-civilrights/brown.html>

3. Simple Justice: The History of Brown V. Board of Education and

http://www.legallibraries.com/Simple_Justice_The_History_of_Brown_V_Board_of_Education_and_Black_Americas_Struggle_for_Equality_0394722558.html

4. History - Brown v Board of Education 50 Commemoration

<http://www.umich.edu/~urel/brown50/history.html>

5. Brown v. Board of Education

<http://afroamhistory.about.com/cs/brownvboard/>

Turning Point #4

1955 - Rosa Parks is Arrested

1. Black History Month 1998: Mother of the Civil Rights Movement

Rosa Parks is spotlighted <http://www.girlpower.gov/girlarea/gpguests/RosaParks.htm>

2. Rosa Parks <http://www.grandtimes.com/rosa.html>

3. THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT PAGE

<http://sobek.colorado.edu/~jonesem/montgomery.html>

4. Gale - Free Resources - Black History Month

http://www.galegroup.com/free_resources/bhm/bio/parks_r.htm

5. 40 years ago Rosa Parks made history

<http://www.kstatecollegian.com/ISSUES/v100/FA/n070/cam-parks-edwards.html>

Turning Point #5

1960 - Kennedy - Nixon Televised Debates

1. Debate History: 1960 Debates <http://www.debates.org/pages/debhis60.html>

2. EarthStation1.com - The Sights & Sounds of History

http://www.earthstation1.com/Nixon_Kennedy_Debates.html

3. EarthStation1.com - The Sights & Sounds of History

<http://www.earthstation1.com/Nixon.html>

4. The Nixon-Kennedy Debates of 1960 <http://www.si.edu/i+d/debate.arc.html>

5. The Great Debate & Beyond: The History of Televised Presidential

Debates <http://www.museum.tv/debateweb/html/history/1960/headlines.htm>

Turning Point #6

1962 - Astronaut John Glenn is the First American to Orbit the Earth

1. John Glenn Oral History Interview, June 12, 1964

http://www.jfklibrary.org/john_glenn_oh.html

2. Glenn's Space Flight Commemorated

http://www.jfklibrary.org/john_glenn_exhibit.html

3. In newly released tapes, President John Kennedy says politics, not science, was the key motivation for the multibillion-dollar effort http://www.msnbc.com/news/spacehist_front.asp

4. John Glenn - Project Mercury Friendship 7 space history - John.

<http://www.thespaceplace.com/history/mercury/mercury06.html>

5. Spacelink - John Glenn Returns to Space

<http://spacelink.nasa.gov/NASA.Projects/Human.Exploration.and.Development.of.Space/Human.Space.Flight/Shuttle/Shuttle.Missions/Flight.092.STS-95/John.Glenn>Returns.to.Space/>

Turning Point #7

1962 - Cuban Missile Crisis

1. The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962: A Political Perspective

http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/nsa/cuba_mis_cri/

2. Department of State documents on the Cuban Missile Crisis and after.

http://www.state.gov/www/about_state/history/frusXI/

http://www.state.gov/www/about_state/history/frusX/

3. The Cuban Missile Crisis <http://www.hpol.org/jfk/cuban/>

4. Cuban History: Missile Crisis <http://www.marxists.org/history/cuba/subject/missile-crisis/>

5. Cuban Missile Crisis - US Air Force Museum Cold War History

<http://www.wpafb.af.mil/museum/history/cmc.htm>

Turning Point #8

1963 - Martin Luther King 's "I Have a Dream" Speech

1. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day/Black History Month <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/hum/mlk/>

2. The Seattle Times: Martin Luther King Jr. ... Creating a holiday. Reflections Readers from around the world comment on King's influence and their experiences with race.

<http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/mlk/>

3. Martin Luther King, Jr. <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/history/us/MLK/MLK.shtml>

4. Martin Luther King, Jr. - EnchantedLearning.com: Biographies of some Great African-Americans <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/history/us/MLK/>

5. The King Center <http://www.thekingcenter.org/>

6. African American Themes - Teaching Resources for Martin Luther King

<http://www.atozteacherstuff.com/themes/mlk.shtml>

SEE BLACKLINE MASTER 6A – TEST QUESTIONS

ANSWERS TO TEST QUESTIONS FOR PROGRAM SIX

(Answers:1-c, 2-a, 3-d, 4-a, 5-c, 6-a, 7-b, 8-d, 9-a, 10-b, 11-c, 12-d, 13-b, 14-d, 15-b, 16-a)

SEE BLACKLINE MASTER 6B - TIMELINE