

**The Fight for Black
Human Rights in
America: Timeline**

1526

The first African slaves in what would become the present-day United States of America arrived on August 9 in Winyah Bay when Lucas Vázquez de Ayllón brought 600 colonists to start a colony, an unspecified number of whom were enslaved Africans.

August 21, 1791

Beginning of the Haitian Revolution, when African people rose up to overthrow chattel slavery

**February 12, 1809-
April 15, 1865**

Abraham Lincoln birth and death

1818-1907

Elizabeth Keckley birth and death

1819-1892

Walt Whitman birth and death

1830s-40s

Underground Railroad between the south and the north

August 21, 1831

Nat Turner inspired revolt of enslaved people in Southampton County, Virginia

1831-1895

Frederick Douglass birth and death

August 21-22, 1850

Fugitive Slave Law Convention

1861-1865

Abraham Lincoln/Mary Todd Lincoln White House years

1859-1958

Negro Baseball League Began, November 15

1861-1865

U.S. Civil War. Abraham Lincoln was referred to as the Civil War President

January 1, 1863

Emancipation Proclamation signed by President Lincoln

April 14, 1865

Abraham Lincoln assassination

June 19, 1865

Federal troops arrived in Galveston, TX to ensure all enslaved people be freed. Commemorated as "Juneteenth"

**February 23, 1868-
August 27, 1963**

W.E.B. du Bois birth and death

**August 27, 1908-
January 22, 1973**

Lyndon Baines Johnson birth and death

**August 17, 1887-
June 10, 1940**

Marcus Garvey birth and death

**February 4, 1913-
October 24, 2005**

Rosa Parks birth and death

**May 29, 1917-
November 22, 1963**

John F. Kennedy birth and death

1914-1918

African Americans fight in WWI (most only assigned support positions). Many fought in the French Army and were honored for bravery, only to be discriminated against and lynched on their return to the US.

**January 31, 1919-
October 24, 1972**

Jackie Robinson birth and death

August 26, 1920

The women's suffrage movement was a decades-long fight to win the right to vote for women in the United States. On August 26 the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing women the right to vote, was formally adopted into the U.S. Constitution by proclamation of Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby.

1925

Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and Maids formed

**January 15, 1929 –
April 4, 1968**

Martin Luther King, Jr. birth and assassination

1939-1945

World War II

**February 21, 1940-
July 17, 2020**

John Lewis, civil rights leader and American Congressman, birth and death

**August 30, 1948-
December 4, 1969**

Fred Hampton birth and death

**January 3, 1949-
January 3, 1961**

Lyndon Baines Johnson served as Senator from Texas

**June 5, 1950-
July, 1953**

Korean War beginning and end (armistice signed, but no formal end to war)

**November 1955-
April 30, 1975**

Vietnam War

December 1, 1955

Rosa Parks would not move to the back of the bus

February 1, 1960

Lunch room sit-ins began in Greensboro, North Carolina. Four friends targeted the lunch counter in Woolworths, beginning campaign to allow blacks to sit down and eat lunch.

**January 1961-
June 6, 1968**

Robert Francis Kennedy, sometimes referred to by the initials *RFK* and occasionally as *Bobby*, was an American politician and lawyer who served as the 64th United States Attorney General from January 1961 to September 1964, and as a U.S. Senator from New York from January 1965 until his assassination.

**January 20, 1961-
November 22, 1963**

Lyndon Johnson served as Vice President under John F. Kennedy

August 28, 1963

Martin Luther King and the March on Washington D.C. King gave his "I have a dream" speech

September 15, 1963

Birmingham church bombing. Eleven-year-old Denise McNair and 14-year-olds Carole Robertson, Addie Mae Collins and Cynthia Wesley were killed while attending Sunday services in Mother Ebenezer Baptist Church in Alabama. Three Ku Klux Klan members were later convicted of murder.

**November 22, 1963-
January, 1969**

Lyndon Johnson became president when John F. Kennedy was assassinated, remained in office till beginning of 1969

1964

Civil rights movement began

1964-1968

Peaceful protests led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

1965

Voting Rights Act declared by President Lyndon B. Johnson. His speech ended with "We shall overcome." Watts Rebellion in L.A.

March 7, 1965

March over the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. John Lewis participated with Martin Luther King Jr. Peaceful protest for the "Beloved Community," a society founded on justice that marched for voting rights. State Troopers beat John Lewis and others.

1968

Assassination of Robert F. Kennedy during his presidential campaign in Los Angeles, CA

1970

The Kent State shootings in Kent, Ohio. National Guardsmen fired their weapons at a group of anti-war demonstrators on the Kent State University campus, killing four students, wounding eight, and permanently paralyzing another. The incident marked the first time that a student had been slain in an anti-war gathering in the United States.

August 21, 1971

[George Jackson](#), founder of the Black Guerrilla Family, killed at San Quentin prison

1972

Angela Davis Acquitted

1986-2020

[John Lewis](#) served in US Congress for 35 years.

**January 20, 2009-
January 20, 2017**

[Barak Obama](#): 44th U.S. President, and the first African American President

May 25, 2020

George Floyd, a 46-year-old African American man, was killed in Minneapolis, Minnesota, during an arrest for allegedly using a counterfeit bill. George Floyd's murder by the police was spread on social media, causing world-wide demonstrations.

**May 25, 2020 and
continuing**

Black Lives Matter demonstrations in the U.S. and internationally

July 6, 2020

[Live stream of conversation about "Good Trouble,"](#) a documentary that chronicles John Lewis's 60-plus years of social activism and legislative action.

August 23, 2020

March on Washington D.C. led by Black Lives Matter

November 3, 2020

Presidential election