



# 1961-1965 Historical Events


## *1961-1965 Historical Events*

| <u>Date/Year</u>       | <u>Name of Event</u>   | <u>Photo</u>   | <u>Link/YouTube</u>  |
|------------------------|--|--|--|
| <b>1961<br/>Jan 20</b> | The inauguration of John F. Kennedy as the 35th President of the United States |  | <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HEPHihPw-kE&amp;feature=player_detailpage">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HEPHihPw-kE&amp;feature=player_detailpage</a><br><br><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00qXqx3CY14&amp;feature=player_detailpage">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00qXqx3CY14&amp;feature=player_detailpage</a> |


On January 20, 1961 the inauguration of John F. Kennedy as the 35th President of the United States was held. The [inauguration](#) marked the commencement of the term of [John F. Kennedy](#) as President (which lasted until his [assassination](#) two years, ten months, and two days later on November 22, 1963). Many Hollywood stars were involved, including Bette Davis. Kennedy was sworn in by [Chief Justice of the United States Earl Warren](#), and Johnson was sworn in by [Sam Rayburn](#), the [Speaker of the House of Representatives](#). On John F. Kennedy's inauguration day, January 20, 1961, a snowstorm created chaos in Washington, almost canceling the inaugural parade. At 43, Kennedy was the youngest president to be elected.

| <u>Date/Year</u> | <u>Name of Event</u>                               | <u>Photo</u>   | <u>Link/YouTube</u>   |
|------------------|--|--|---|
| 1961<br>May 24   | 27 Freedom Riders arrested in Jackson, Mississippi |  | <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=caiMAjIi5EQ&amp;feature=player_detailpage">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=caiMAjIi5EQ&amp;feature=player_detailpage</a> |


On May 24, 27 Freedom Riders planned to take two Greyhound buses from Montgomery to New Orleans, with a scheduled stop in Jackson, Mississippi. There were national guards stationed in three cities to protect the riders. This was considered national news. The two bus load of freedom riders were escorted by 16 highway patrol cars. When the riders entered the whites-only waiting room, they immediately were steered by police into a paddy wagon, which drove them to jail. They were tried and convicted for violating state law. At the trial, the prosecution accused the riders of trespassing As defense attorney jack Young spoke in defense of the riders, the judge turned his back and looked at the wall. After Young finished, the judge immediately sentenced the activists to 60 days in the state penitentiary.

| <u>Date/Year</u> | <u>Name of Event</u>                        | <u>Photo</u>   | <u>Link/YouTube</u>  |
|------------------|---|--|--|
| 1962<br>Aug 6    | Jamaica gains independence from the British |  A commemorative logo for Jamaica's 50th anniversary. It features the word 'JAMAICA' in a stylized font at the top, a large '50' in the center, and 'AUGUST 6TH 1962 - 2012' at the bottom. The background is a stylized Jamaican flag with green, yellow, and black diagonal stripes. | <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&amp;v=CKdNODM-MOc">http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&amp;v=CKdNODM-MOc</a><br><br><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1CzUYZo5JE&amp;feature=player_detailpage">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1CzUYZo5JE&amp;feature=player_detailpage</a> |


Jamaica gained independence on August 6, 1962, remaining a member of the [Commonwealth of Nations](#). The first prime minister was [Alexander Bustamante](#) of the Jamaica Labour Party. Jamaica slowly gained increasing independence from the United Kingdom. In 1958, it became a province in the [Federation of the West Indies](#), a federation among the [British West Indies](#). Jamaica attained full independence by leaving the federation in 1962. After 300 years of British rule this small Island got it's Independence.

| <u>Date/Year</u> | <u>Name of Event</u>              | <u>Photo</u>  | <u>Link/YouTube</u> |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1962<br>Oct      | HLS Forum<br>(Harvard Law School) |  |                     |

In October 1962, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke at Harvard Law School on “The Future of Integration.” It was six months before he would be imprisoned in a Birmingham jail, 10 months before the March on Washington, almost two years before the signing of the Civil Rights Act and almost six years before his assassination. He called for strong, forthright civil rights legislation, and refuted what he called the myth that time and education were the only ways to bring about change. “It may be that the law cannot make a man love me,” he said, “but it can keep him from lynching me.” But he also told the audience, “Integration is not some lavish dish that the federal government will pass out on a silver platter.”

| <u>Date/Year</u> | <u>Name of Event</u>                       | <u>Photo</u>  | <u>Link/YouTube</u>   |
|------------------|--|---|---|
| 1963<br>Nov 22   | The<br>Assassination of<br>John F. Kennedy |  | <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-LA0ypFXig&amp;feature=player_detailpage">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-LA0ypFXig&amp;feature=player_detailpage</a> |


John F Kennedy often referred to by his initials JFK, was the [35th President of the United States](#), serving from 1961 until [his death](#) in 1963. [John Fitzgerald Kennedy](#), the [35th President of the United States](#), was [assassinated](#) at 12:30 p.m. Crowds of excited people lined the streets and waved to the Kennedys. The car turned off Main Street at Dealey Plaza around 12:30 p.m. As it was passing the Texas School Book Depository, gunfire suddenly sounded in the plaza. [Central Standard Time](#) on Friday, November 22, 1963, in [Dealey Plaza](#), [Dallas](#), [Texas](#). Kennedy was fatally shot by a sniper while traveling with his wife [Jacqueline](#), [Texas Governor John Connally](#), and Connally's wife [Nellie](#), in a presidential [motorcade](#). Bullets struck the president's neck and head and he slumped over toward Mrs. Kennedy. The governor was also hit in the chest. A ten-month investigation in 1963–64 by the [Warren Commission](#) concluded that Kennedy was assassinated by [Lee Harvey Oswald](#), acting alone, and that [Jack Ruby](#) also acted alone when he killed Oswald before he could stand trial.

| <u>Date/Year</u>       | <u>Name of Event</u>              | <u>Photo</u>  | <u>Link/YouTube</u>   |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>1963<br/>June 2</b> | The assassination of Medgar Evers |  | <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_HBdrJkmDE&amp;feature=player_detailpage">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_HBdrJkmDE&amp;feature=player_detailpage</a> |

Medgar Wiley Evers was an African-American civil rights activist from Mississippi involved in efforts to overturn segregation at the University of Mississippi. He was born on July 2, 1925, in Decatur, Mississippi. In 1954, he became the first state field secretary of the NAACP in Mississippi. As such, he organized voter-registration efforts, demonstrations, and economic boycotts of companies that practiced discrimination. Due to his high-profile position with the NAACP, Evers became a target for those who opposed racial equality and desegregation. On June 12, 1963, Evers was assassinated outside of his home in Jackson, Mississippi. He and his family were subjected to numerous threats and violent actions over the years, including a firebombing of their house in May 1963. At 12:40 a.m. on June 12, 1963, Evers was shot in the back in the driveway of his home in Jackson. He died less than a hour later at a nearby hospital.

| <u>Date/Year</u> | <u>Name of Event</u>         | <u>Photo</u>  | <u>Link/YouTube</u>   |
|------------------|------------------------------|---|---|
| 1964<br>Feb 10   | The Civil Rights Act of 1964 |  | <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&amp;v=LK2GdOxz3s0">http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&amp;v=LK2GdOxz3s0</a> |

The first Civil Rights bill was passed to stop racial discrimination. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 made Discrimination illegal in schools, jobs, and voting. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is a landmark piece of civil rights legislation in the United States that outlawed major forms of discrimination against racial, ethnic, national and religious minorities, and women. It ended unequal application of voter registration requirements and racial segregation in schools and at the workplace. The House Judiciary Committee approved the legislation on October 26, 1963, and formally reported it to the full House on November 20, 1963, just two days before President Kennedy was assassinated. The House of Representatives passed a final version of the Civil Rights Act on February 10, 1964.

| <u>Date/Year</u> | <u>Name of Event</u>                                  | <u>Photo</u>   | <u>Link/YouTube</u> |
|------------------|---|--|---------------------|
| 1965             | The Astrodome,<br>The world's first<br>roofed stadium |  |                     |

It is the world's first air-conditioned domed stadium for baseball and football, and also accommodates basketball, boxing, conventions, rodeos, and almost any other entertainment or sporting event. Not only was it the first sports stadium to have a roof over a playing field, but it also boasted cushioned orange and red seats, 53 futuristic "Sky Boxes," and a \$2-million scoreboard featuring home run extravaganzas, cartoons, and helpful instructions to fans. It was considered the Eighth Wonder of the World when it opened in 1965. This remarkable stadium opened on April 12, 1965. The cost to build this gigantic stadium was \$35 million in 1965 and in 1989 \$60 million for expansion. The Astrodome is the world's first all-weather, multi-purpose domed stadium, and opened its doors for the first time on April 9, 1965 when the Astros played host to the New York Yankees in an exhibition game.