

1960s

# Understanding the Civil Rights movement

# INTRODUCTION

To understand the fight for civil rights, we need to go back in time and look at **a short history of slavery and segregation** in the USA



# 17th century :

the first white settlers\* arrive from Europe



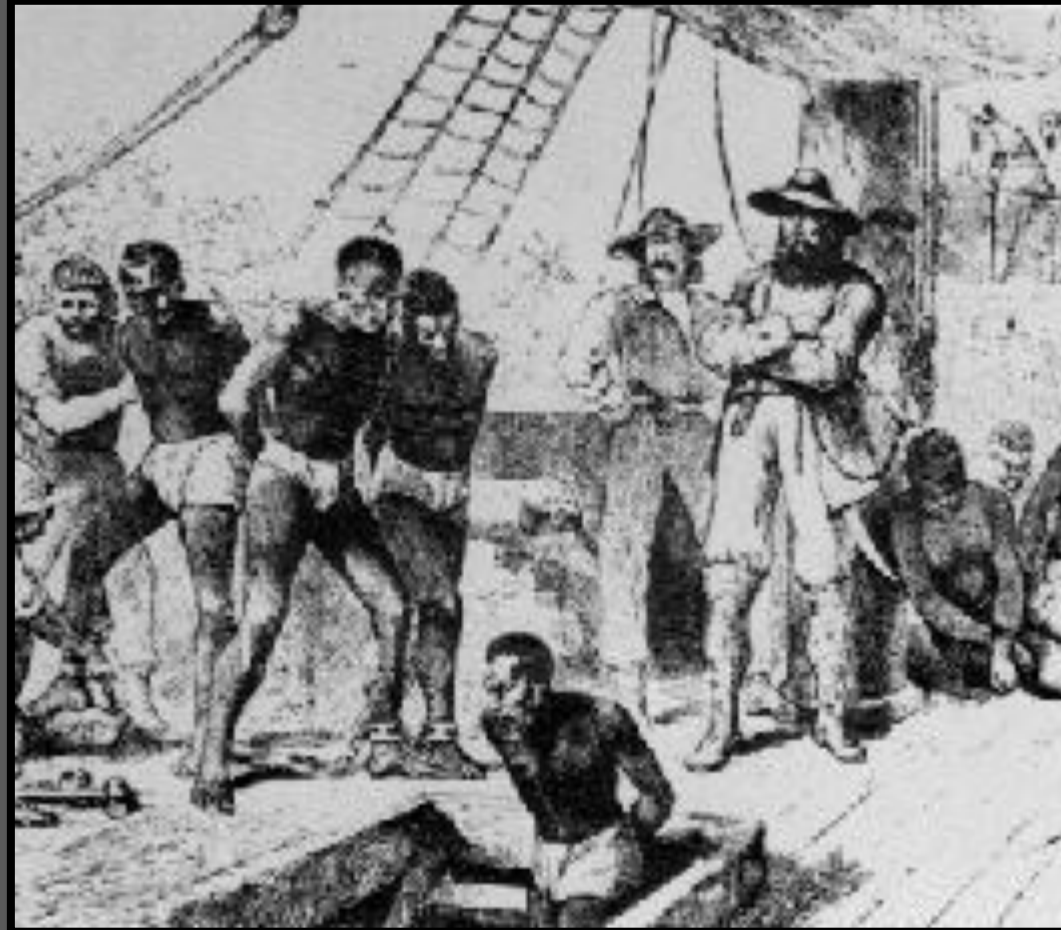
\*settlers: colons



They settle on the East Coast  
They found 13 colonies

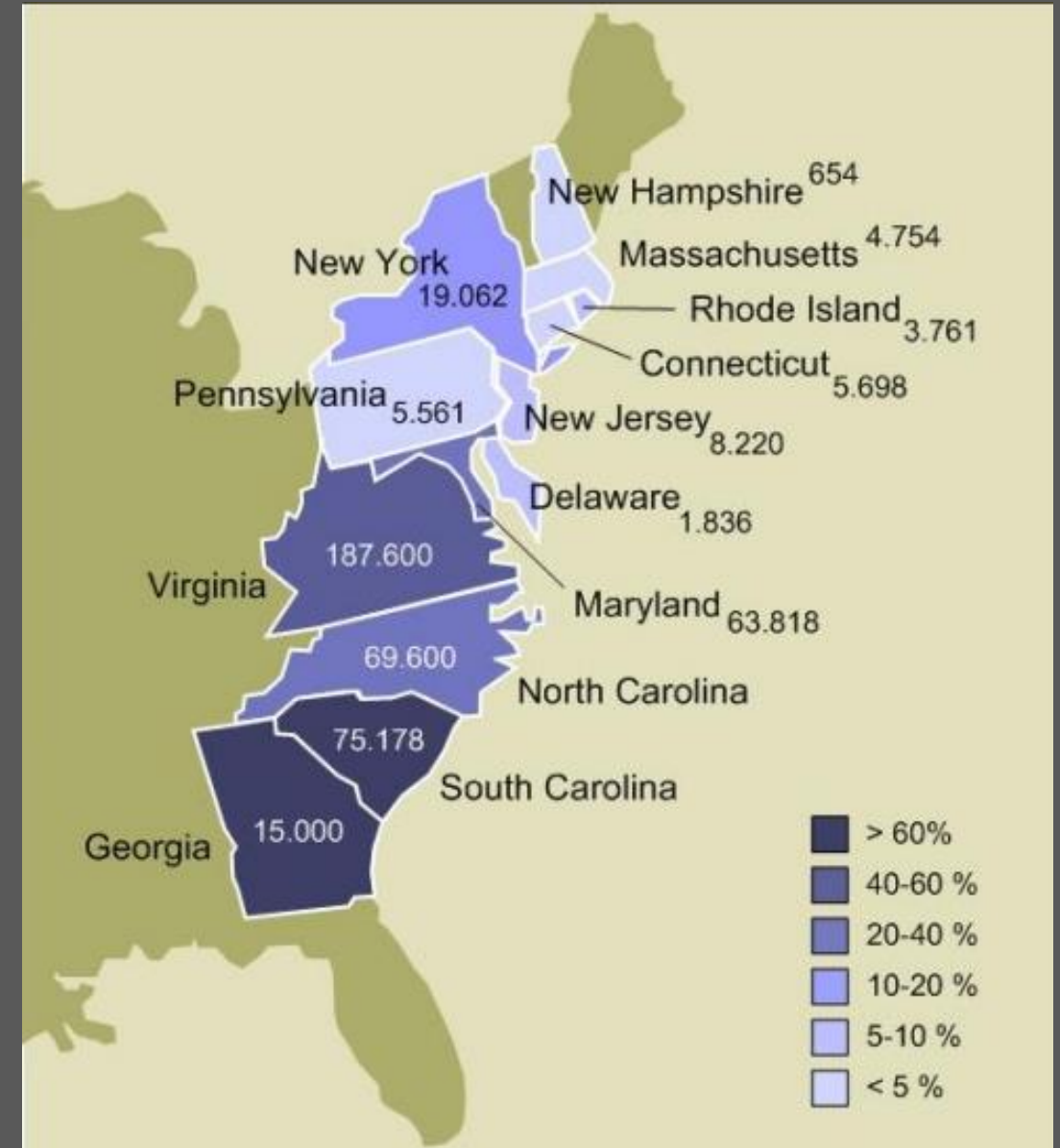


# 1619 : The first slaves arrive in Virginia



# 17th – 18th centuries

## Slavery develops in the colonies







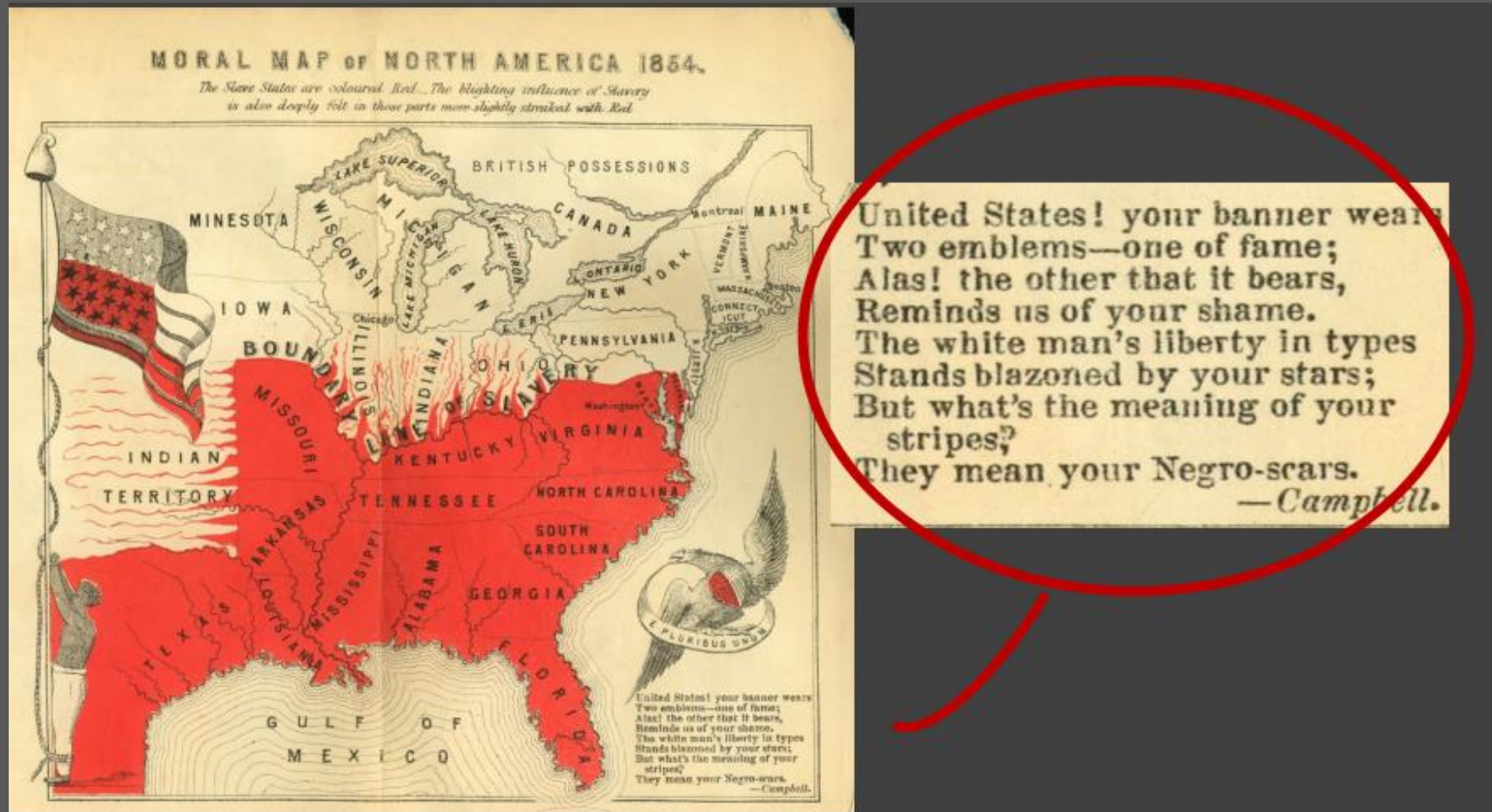


# 4th July 1776

The 13 colonies declare their independance  
They become the USA



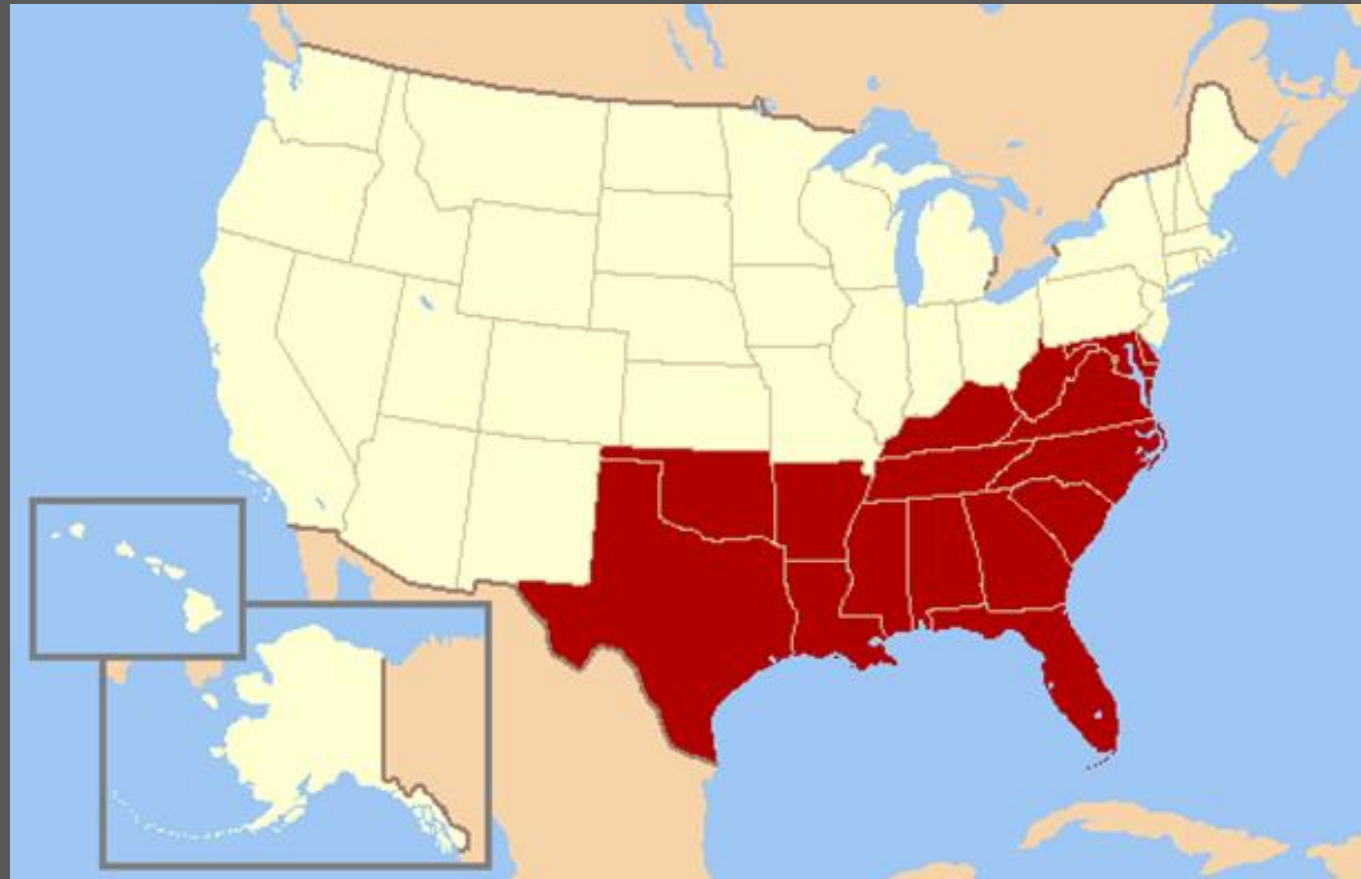
# 19th century – a divided nation



19 free states, 15 slave states

People in the northern states begin to reject slavery

# The secession of the South





# The Civil War: 1861 - 1865

It is  
the war between  
the North and  
the South  
of the USA



**1865** : end of war  
The North wins.

President **Abraham Lincoln** signs the 13th Amendment.  
It is, by law, the **end of slavery**.



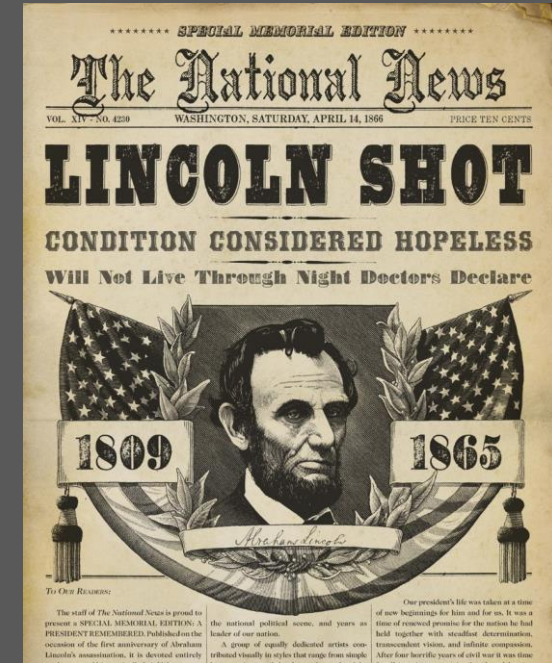
## 13th Amendment

*Section 1: Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.*

*Section 2: Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.*



# A few months later Abraham Lincoln is assassinated



His murderer is John Booth,  
a Confederate sympathiser.



during 1865  
the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) is created



# 1875 Jim Crow Laws

Southern Democrats come back to power.  
They want the White supremacy.

They can't ignore the amendments of the constitution so they decide to create new laws: the **Jim Crow Laws**.



Jim Crow was a character in an old song. A white comedian with black make-up used the character of Jim Crow to make fun of black people.  
Jim Crow became an insult against black people.

The 14th Amendment promises  
'equal protection' under the law?  
EQUAL, OK... but 'separate' !!





The 15th Amendment forbids denial of the **vote** because of  
'race, color, or previous condition of servitude' ?

Ok, let's create literacy tests and a tax before voting!!

1932

\$1.50

POLL TAX RECEIPT

Nº 286

COUNTY OF SUMTER, ALA. 1932

RECEIVED OF *Wm. E. Caudwell* MALE OR FEMALE

the sum of ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS, for Poll Taxes due by him for 1932.

District or Ward No. Color Precinct No. Last Year This Year

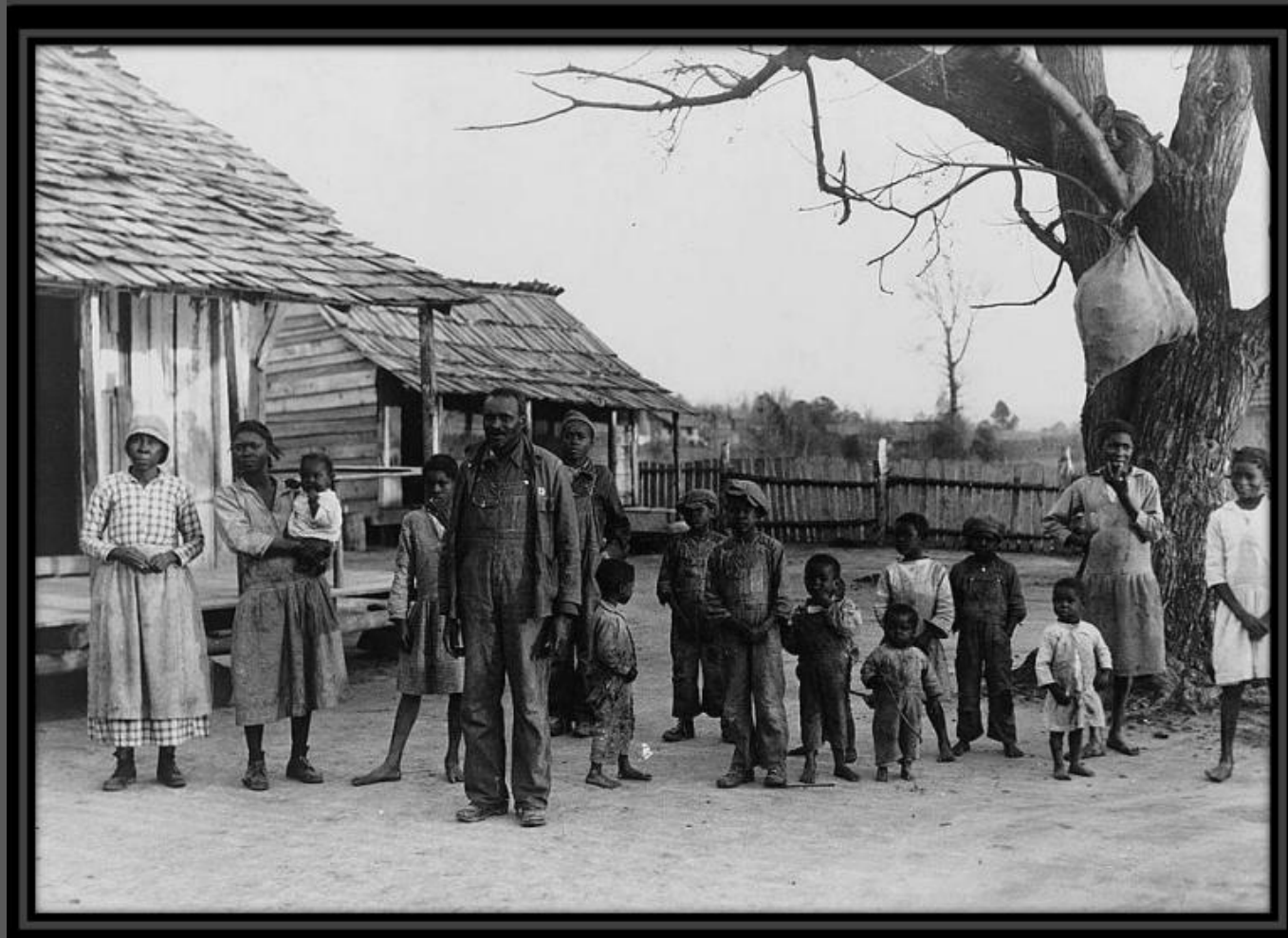
COUNTERSIGNED BY

*Wm. E. Caudwell* State Auditor.

*J. L. Caudwell* Tax Collector.

BRUSH PRINTING CO., MONTGOMERY, 1932

Because Black people can't read and don't have money,  
they can't vote...

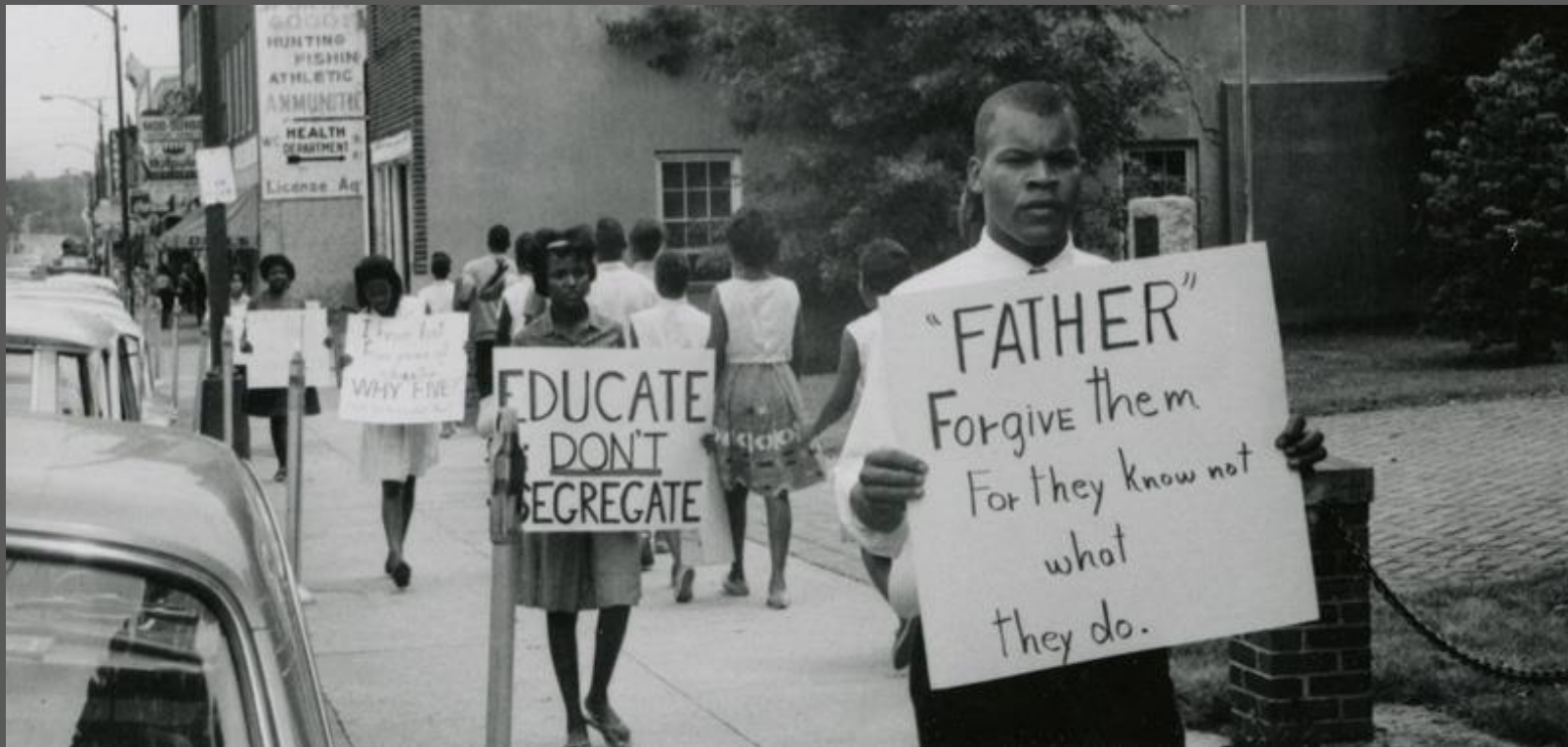


This is when  
our story starts:  
the 1960s



# The Civil Rights movement

# People start to **protest**



# People organize **boycotts**





# People organize **non violent sit-ins**



# People organize **freedom rides**



People organize **peaceful demonstrations**





In response, the **police brutality** is strong in the South



Racist resistance is very strong too





# Racist resistance





The KKK is illegal but secretly **very active**.

They use intimidation, **lynching and hanging**.

The murderers are rarely arrested.



# 1954 : segregation in schools is declared anti-constitutional



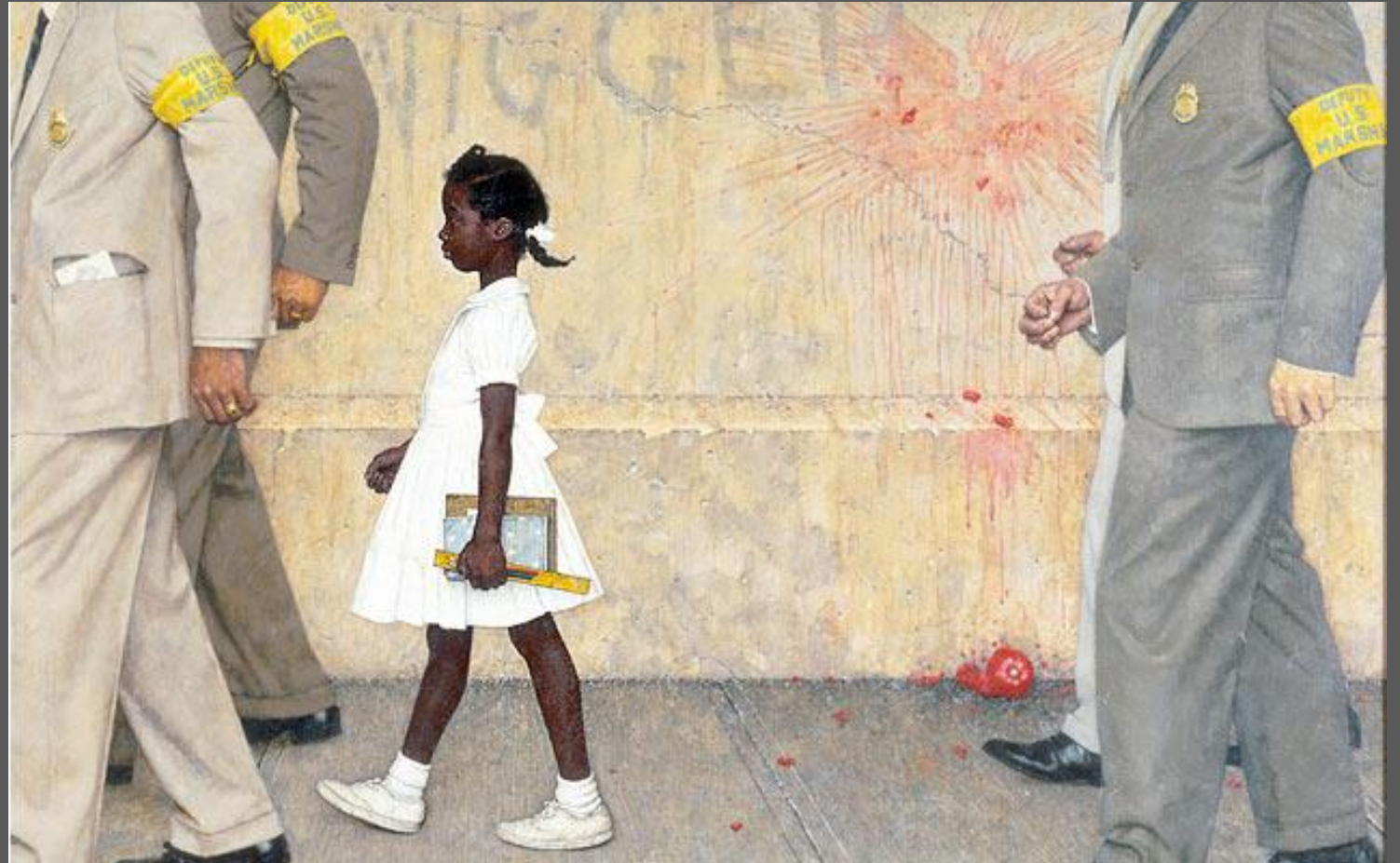
...but the fight continues







**Ruby Bridges**  
has to go to school  
protected by  
US Marshals



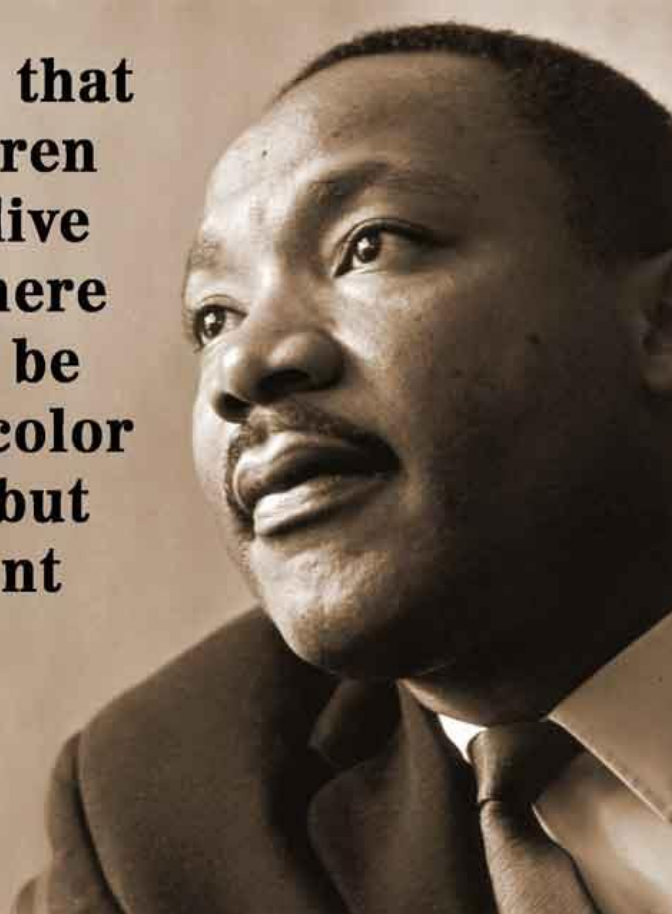
*The problem we all live with, Norman Rockwell*

Mrs Cauquil

# 1963: Martin Luther King's famous speech

**I have a dream that  
my four 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.  
August 28, 1963**



# The victory

1964: President Lyndon Johnson  
signs the official **end of segregation**





**1965:** The Voting Rights Act gives Black people the right to **vote freely**



2004 : first Afro-American president Barack Obama

