

## Martin Luther King and the Transformation of the Civil Rights Movement

1964 King was the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize

1965--The beginnings of a new strategy for King and the civil rights movement

There were four issues he needed to consider carefully:

- (1) the growing conviction among whites that blacks, with federal backing, were moving too rapidly;
- (2) the fierce expostulations of black militants that racial progress had not been too slow but was being subtly manipulated by powerful whites;
- (3) practical programs to deal with urban and, largely, Northern black poverty;
- (4) the extent to which the nexus between federal assistance to the poor and the spending for Vietnam war could profitably be exposed.

*\$20,000,000,000/  
Year - 1965  
1966*

January 1966 King spoke agt against the Georgia Legislature which refused to sit Julian Bond because he endorsed SNCC's anti-Vietnam War platform

By the summer of 1966 King was persona non grata in the Johnson Circle and the Johnson White House. Johnson worked carefully and consistently to isolate King from the other leaders in the Civil Rights movement.

In June 1966 the White House carefully controlled the scenerio for the Civil Rights Conference at the White House. Blacks who were not identified with opposition to Johnson's escalating war in Vietnam were carefully pushed forward into leading positions at the Conference.

James Nabrit, Jr.,  
Walter Fauntroy  
Thurgood Marshall (solicitor general) Was pushed forward  
and gave the opening address to the Conference  
Whitney Young. . .

All of these black leaders had remained silent on the war and had criticized King for breaking with the Great Society consensus and with President Johnson . . .

Other blacks who came down against King's anti-war stand were Ralph Bunck, Jackie Robinson, Bayard Rustin, Roy Wilkins, etc. . The National Headquarters of the NAACP and the Urban League, earlier, October, 1965, opposed King's first tentative conjunction of the civil rights and the war in Asia



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1966 The King crusade in Chicago and the white suburbs. . . The shift from drug-store sit-ins; the demands for political enfranchisement to the bastions of white institutional racism in the Northern cities.

King's campaign for jobs, housing and economic democracy in the the Heart of the Dailey Machine--A King-Maker of the Democratic Party, the party of LBJ and the architect of the Great Society programs. . .Of course King's was not only taking on the Dailey Machine--but the bastions of northern institutional racism--the northern financial institutions, Midwestern industry and labor, and the federal power. . . . .

The Palmer House Compromise--after the violence of Cicero. It was a placebo by the white power structure. King lost in the north. . .

Why the new strategy. He ~~was~~ want north in part to keep the Dream alive among the black proletariat in the northern cities. He was fearful that their despair might turn them to the appeals of the Black Power advocates with the ir violent rhetoric and unsettling militancy. . .

March 1967 King was back in Chicago calling for an immediate negotiated settlement to the war. He led his first peace march in Chicago. . .And announced that "We must continue ~~this~~ fervor of the civil rights movement with the peace movement."

King was making a clean break with the Great Society and Establishment blacks and with the Johnson White House and was moving unmistakably into the ranks of the growing Peace Movement. Aligning with Dr. Spock, A.J. Muste, and Reverend William Sloah Coffin and the Mobilization Movement.

April 4, 1967. King's memorable Riverside Church address on the war

If the war continued, the next phase of civil rights disobedience. King promised, would become massive antiwar ~~profit~~ *protest*.

For King the political conditions in America by 1967 forced a choice for him--either massive nonviolence (see the proposed Poor Peoples's Campaign) against poverty and the war (which were related directly) or face more ~~and~~ violent urban riots in the nation.

The nation had to make more political and socio-economic concessions to avoid black violence and alienation. King was referring to the findings of Johnson's own National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders that warned against the direction we were going--toward to separate and unequal societies--one black and one white. . .