- **Emmett Till**
  - 14-year-old African-American who was lynched in Mississippi in 1955
    - After a white woman said she was offended by him in her family’s grocery store
    - He allegedly winked at her and this was considered to be “flirting”
  - Became an icon towards the ethics and irrationality of lynching

- **Malcolm X**
  - An African-American Muslim minister and human rights activist
    - Courageous advocate for the rights of blacks
    - Indicted white America in the harshest terms for its crimes against black Americans
    - Detractors accused him of preaching racism and violence
  - Believed in Black Supremacy

- **John F. Kennedy**
  - Responsible for the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1957
    - Provided federal oversight to ensure that African Americans had the opportunity to vote free from intimidation or coercion
  - Issued Executive Order 10925
    - Required the government to take "affirmative action" to ensure that African Americans were well represented in contracted positions

- **Lyndon Johnson**
  - Pushed through more civil rights legislation than all presidents before and after him
  - Responsible for the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
    - Outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin

- **Booker T. Washington**
  - Supported white views on Jim Crow laws to save his popularity and position
  - Laboried secretly against Jim Crow laws and racial violence, writing letters in code names and protecting blacks from lynch mobs, though these efforts were rarely known in his own time
  - Founder of the Tuskegee University

- **W.E.B. Du Bois**
  - an American sociologist, historian, civil rights activist
    - Strongly protested against lynching, Jim Crow laws, and discrimination in education and employment
  - The Souls of Black Folk
    - seminal work in African-American literature
    - Challenged the prevailing orthodoxy that blacks were responsible for the failures of the Reconstruction era

**Notable Organizations**

- **Ku Klux Klan (KKK)**
  - Focused on opposition to the civil rights movement, often using violence and murder to suppress activists
    - Resist social change and blacks' efforts to improve their lives by bombing houses in transitional neighborhoods

- **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)**
  - A civil rights organization in the United States, formed in 1909 as a biracial organization to advance justice for African Americans
    - Created due to the Race Riots of 1908
  - Challenged anti-equality laws in court

- **Southern Christian Leadership (SCLC)**
  - An African-American civil rights organization
    - Called for massive protests through non-violent means
    - "March on Washington"
  - Led by Martin Luther King Jr.

- **Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)**
  - One of the major Civil Rights Movement organizations of the 1960s
    - Emerged from the first wave of student sit-ins and formed at an April 1960 meeting organized by Ella Baker at Shaw University
  - Sit-ins demonstrated that non-violent actions were able to bring positive results through persistence

- **Nation of Islam (Black Muslims)**
  - An African American political and religious movement
    - Formed in 1930, combined the teachings of Islam with the ideas of Black Nationalism including Black pride and separation from Whites
  - Sought to totally break contact between the races