Non-violent direct protest gathers pace — sit-in protests, 1959-60
• In the winter of 1959-60 civil rights groups stepped up their non-violent campaigns; they organised marches, demonstrations and boycotts to bring an end to segregation in public places
• In February 1960 in Greensboro, North Carolina, the sit-in protests (demonstrators sit in a public place and refuse to move) began at the lunch counter in the F. W. Woolworth store
• By August 1961 the sit-ins in restaurants, libraries and movie theatres had attracted over 70,000 participants and resulted in over 3000 arrests

The ‘freedom rides’, 1961
• Segregation still existed on interstate buses and in May 1961 members of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) began a form of direct protest in the southern states known as the ‘freedom rides’
• They deliberately rode on buses run by companies that were ignoring the laws banning segregation. The first freedom rides began at Washington DC on 4 May 1961 with the plan of travelling down to New Orleans — once they reached the southern states the riders met with a hostile reception
  • At Anniston, Alabama, a bus was attacked and burnt
  • In Montgomery, white racists beat up several freedom riders
  • At Birmingham there was no police protection for the freedom riders and they were attacked by an angry mob
  • In Jackson, Mississippi, 27 freedom riders were jailed for 67 days for sitting in a whites-only section of the bus station
• The freedom riders continued, against much violence, throughout the summer, by September 70,000 students had taken part and 3600 had been arrested
• The Attorney General Robert Kennedy was able to get the Interstate Commerce Committee to end segregation in all bus and rail stations and airports

Key figures in the campaign for equal rights
The role and significance of Martin Luther King
• Benefits and methods: King’s ideas were based on non-violent civil disobedience. He thought violence was wrong and favoured sit-ins, boycotts, freedom rides and marches as a way of protesting
• Bus boycott, 1955: King became the leader of the Montgomery Improvement Association and played a key part in the Montgomery bus boycott
• Southern Christian Leadership Conference: The SCLC grew out of the bus boycott and was formed and led by King. He was a gifted public speaker and he quickly became the leading figure in the civil rights movement
• Birmingham March, 1963: The SCLC challenged the city of Birmingham’s decision to close its public recreation facilities in order to avoid de-segregation. It organised sit-ins and marches. The protestors faced water cannon, dogs and baton charges, King was arrested and sent to jail. President Kennedy sent in troops and Birmingham was forced to de-segregate
• March on Washington, August 1963: On the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, King delivered his ‘I have a dream’ speech to a crowd of 250,000. It put pressure on President Kennedy to draft legislation. The Civil Rights Act was passed in 1964
• Nobel Peace Prize, 1964: This was awarded for King’s work as a peacemaker, promoting non-violence and equal treatment for different races
• Selma to Birmingham marches, March 1965: Protest marches demanding voting rights led to marchers being attacked by police and state troopers. King was sent to jail — it resulted in the passing of the Voting Rights Act (1965)
• Assassination: King was assassinated in Memphis in April 1968 by a white racist, James Earl Ray. His death indicated that there was still huge frustration among the black population

The role and significance of Malcolm X
• Malcolm Little was the son of an African-American Baptist preacher who was murdered by white supremacists
• In 1952 he joined the Nation of Islam and changed his surname to ‘X’
• **9 August 1945**: a second atomic bomb was dropped, this time on Nagasaki; it killed 40,000 (raising to 48,000 due to radiation sickness)
• **15 August 1945**: Emperor Hirohito announced Japan’s unconditional surrender, ending the war in the Pacific

Reasons for the US victory in the Pacific
• The US had a large industrial base and was able to produce more military hardware and weapons than Japan
• Japan’s industrial production was badly affected by US bombing raids
• Key naval victories (the battles of Coral Sea, Midway and Leyte Gulf) gave the US command of the sea and air
• The bombing of Japan’s cities in 1945 destroyed one-quarter of all housing, making 22 million people homeless