

Primary Source (Image)

Images of Bloody Sunday, 1965

To what extent did Founding principles of liberty, equality, and justice become a reality for African Americans during the civil rights movement?

- ☐ I can interpret primary sources related to Founding principles of liberty, equality, and justice in the civil rights movement
- ☐ I can explain how laws and policy, courts, and individuals and groups contributed to or pushed back against the quest for liberty, equality, and justice for African Americans.
- ☐ I can create an argument using evidence from primary sources.
- ☐ I can analyze issues in history to help find solutions to present-day challenges.

Building Context

After 3 months of local organization, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) leader Hosea Williams and SNCC leader John Lewis jointly led the first attempt at a 54-mile march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. On Sunday, March 7, 1965, about 600 people began the walk to demonstrate for African American voting rights and commemorate the death of Jimmie Lee Jackson, shot by a state trooper while trying to protect his mother at a recent civil rights demonstration. As the marchers attempted to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge over the Alabama River, state troopers, local police, and deputized locals attacked them using tear gas and clubs. The press captured the violence of this “Bloody Sunday,” and audiences across the nation were shocked at what they saw on their televisions. Despite the violence, the protesters went on to continue the march and reached Montgomery on March 25, 1965.

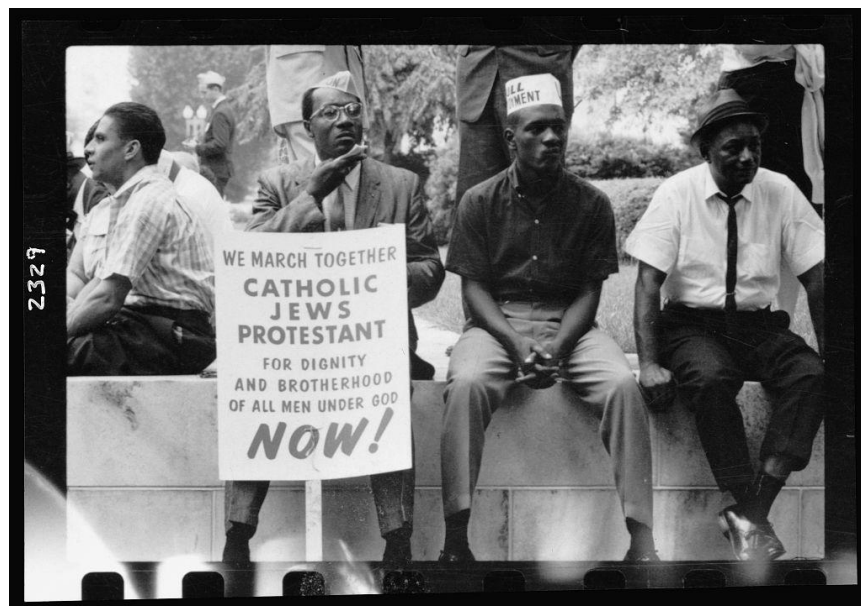
Images of Bloody Sunday, 1965

Source: <https://history.house.gov/Exhibitions-and-Publications/Civil-Rights/Selma/>



Alabama state troopers attack peaceful protesters, including SNCC leader John Lewis (on the ground left of center in a light coat) on March 7, 1965.

Source: <https://www.loc.gov/item/2003675346/>



Protestors rest on a wall along the way from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. The sign reads: "We march together, Catholics, Jews, Protestant, for dignity and brotherhood of all men under God, Now!"

Source: <https://www.loc.gov/item/2003675345/>

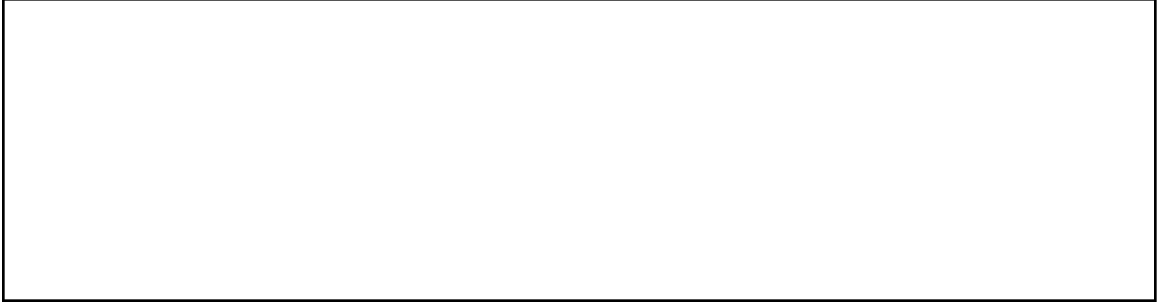


Protestors march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

Comprehension and Analysis Questions

1. What was the role of the press in “Bloody Sunday”?

2. What does the second image reveal about the role of religion in this march?



3. What does the third photograph reveal about those who participated in the march? Why do you think they carried flags?

