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Civil Rights Activist Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was not only the leader of the Civil Rights movement, but he also paved the way to the end of racial segregation by using nonviolent resistance techniques.

It is fundamental to note that Martin Luther King, Jr. was the renowned leader of the Civil Rights movement. Although he was a Baptist minister, he became the leader of the Movement in 1955 after the arrest of Rosa Parks. After becoming the head of the group, King was at the forefront of the organization and participation of various nonviolent resistant marches. For instance, he led the famous 1955 Montgomery bus boycott that lasted for more than 365 days. This nonviolent resistance led to the Supreme Court outlawing racial segregations in December 1956 on public transportation (“Civil Rights Leader Martin Luther King Jr.”). In addition, the author of the “Civil Rights Movement” contends that “Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was speaking passionately for the rights of the poor, disadvantaged, and racially oppressed people.” It is essential to understand that by 1957, segregation in schools and other public places came to an end, marking a critical stride towards the realization of equal rights and protection among citizens in America. **(This highlighted sentence should be moved to somewhere inside the second body paragraph)**

Even though Martin Luther King, Jr. was one of the many people who wanted the end to racial segregation, he was the principal person to put his foot forward and let his views be heard. His presence in various demonstrations encouraged African-Americans and other activists to fight racial segregation in the United States. For instance, he participated in the 1962 Albany Movement against segregation, the 1963 peaceful demonstrations in Alabama, and the March on Washington where King gave his famous “I have a dream” speech. **(This sentence should be moved up to somewhere in the 1st body paragraph)** As Jackson argues in his article, “the right to work became a central movement demand by 1963. Birmingham protesters led by King demanded jobs for black clerks as well as desegregated lunch counters” (Jackson). As a result, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 helped to improve the status of African-Americans and other people of color in the country. In most of his rallies, King articulated with authority that Blacks and other people of color needed not only equal rights but also a higher social status and dignity in the community (Sunnemark). Therefore, the success of King as the leader of the Civil Rights Movement led to the assimilation of Africa-Americans in the society, especially in the South where racial segregation and discrimination was common.

The nonviolent resistance movement led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. went down in history for its effectiveness. King borrowed most his nonviolent ideologies from the Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi and became successful in enforcing them. Although there were significant challenges during his career as a leader and activist, he did not give up in fighting for the rights of African-Americans. For instance, he was arrested on many occasions, faced violence from other countering movements, and attacked in his house. Simkins states that “weeks after the March on Washington, tragedy struck in Birmingham when a bomb exploded at the 16th Street Baptist Church during Sunday school classes. Four young girls were killed and 23 others injured.” Worse than that, King was assassinated on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee while planning a national protest against poverty and oppression among individuals in America (Jackson). Although opponents eliminated him, his legacy as a leader and activist persist in the contemporary world.

It is evident that Martin Luther King, Jr. was a significant figure in the Civil Rights Movement. Through his abilities and skills, King succeeded as a leader of the movement that led to the realization of equal rights and protection among individuals in the United States regardless of their ethnic background. Serving as an example, Martin Luther King, Jr. progressed in fighting racial segregation and discrimination in America through the nonviolent resistance techniques (Sunnemar). Although he was arrested and eventually assassinated, his legacy as an African-American activist is still relevant in the present-day American society. Martin Luther King, Jr. remains to be an icon, model, and a historical figure that people are living to emulate.

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