**Black Power & The Black Panthers**

* Tension between militant AAs and peaceful AAs was building
* Both wanted rights for AAs, but disagreed about the means of doing so

The Tipping Point

* James Meredith planned a “march against fear” from Memphis, TN to Jackson, MS
* Meredith was shot and injured by a white racist
* MLK and *Stokely Carmichael* head of SNCC, continued Meredith’s journey through MS
* Carmichael was arrested on the grounds of a school after arguing with police
* After his arrest he gave a fiery speech about *Black Power*: his call for AAs to define their own goals & lead their own organizations
* MLK disagreed with the phrase
* Carmichael wanted civil rights organizations to stop recruiting whites and focus on AA pride
* He also wanted AAs to refuse to fight in Vietnam
* During the march, protesters were harassed by police but were ultimately successful, ending up in Jackson
* The march gave Carmichael national fame and led some to question MLK’s leadership

The Black Panthers

* Political party founded in Oakland, CA by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale
* Its purpose was to stop police brutality
* Developed a violent reputation
* Demanded self-sufficiency, employment, and housing for AAs
* Also wanted to stop AAs from fighting in Vietnam
* Drew attention from the gov’t for distributing writings of Mao Zedong, Chinese communist
* Known for dressing in black
* Openly fought against police, including several shootouts
* “The Revolution has come, pick up the gun. Off the pigs!”
* From 1967-1970, 9 Oakland police officers were killed by BPs, and 56 injured
* Also ran several community programs including Free Breakfast for Children
* Internal disagreements and increasing legal fees led to the demise of the party