**The Montgomery Bus Boycott**

* Many AAs were upset with the slow pace of changes in court system
* Activists promoted direct action to get 14th and 15th Amendment rights

Boycotting Segregation

* 4 days after Brown v. BOE decision, JoAnn Robinson wrote a letter to the mayor of Montgomery, AL



* She asked that riders no longer be forced to sit in “colored” sections
* The mayor refused

Rosa Parks

* Seamstress from Montgomery, AL
* Refused to use “colored” drinking fountains or elevators
* Was a member of the NAACP, starting as a secretary, later becoming an officer
* Refused to move from her bus seat so a white man wouldn’t have to sit next to an AA



* Was arrested for her action
* *Montgomery Improvement Association*: group of AA community leaders and ministers that organized the bus boycott
* Martin Luther King Jr. became the leader of the group



* A lawsuit was filed calling bus segregation unconstitutional
* MLK thought if 60% of AAs boycotted the buses, it would be successful
* 90% ended up boycotting, killing bus revenue



* Other means of transportation found, car pools, walking, etc.
* In 1956 the Supreme Court outlawed bus segregation

Grass root Efforts & Non-Violence

* *Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC):* group of civil rights leaders & ministers that demanded change without violence
* Relied heavily on college students as non-violent protesters
* SCLC based their strategies after CORE i.e. sit-ins



* Mostly focused on desegregating lunch counters



* Lunch counter owners fought back by raising prices, removing seats, and calling police
* By 1960 48 cities had desegregated lunch counters