**Chapter 29, Section 3: New Issues**

**I. Problems Facing Urban African Americans** *(pages 881–883)*

**A.** Even after the passage of civil rights laws in the 1950s and 1960s, **racism,** or prejudice or discrimination toward someone because of their race, was common. The civil rights movement had resulted in many positive gains for African Americans, but their economic and social problems were much more difficult to address.

**B.** Race riots broke out in many American cities between 1965 and 1968. A race riot in Watts, a neighborhood in Los Angeles, lasted six days. The worst of the riots occurred in Detroit when the United States Army was forced to send in tanks and soldiers with machine guns to gain control.

**C.** The **Kerner Commission** was created to make recommendations that would prevent further urban riots. It concluded that the problem was white society and white racism. The commission suggested the creation of two million new jobs in inner cities and six million new units of public housing. However, with the massive spending in the Vietnam War, President Johnson never endorsed the recommendation.

**II. The Shift to Economic Rights** *(page 883)*

**A.** By the mid-1960s, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was criticized for his nonviolent strategy because it had failed to improve the economic condition of African Americans. As a result, he began focusing on economic issues affecting African Americans.

**B.** The **Chicago Movement** was an effort to call attention to the deplorable housing conditions that many African Americans faced. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his wife moved into a slum apartment in an African American neighborhood in Chicago.

**C.** Dr. King led a march through the white suburb of Marquette Park to demonstrate the need for open housing. Mayor **Richard Daley** had police protect the marchers, and Daley met with King to propose a new program to clean up slums.

**Discussion Question**

What was the result of the meeting between Mayor Richard Daley and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.? *(Daley proposed a plan to clean up the slums. Associations of realtors and* *bankers agreed to promote open housing. The plan was not effective.)*

**III. Black Power** *(pages 884–886)*

**A.** After 1965 many African Americans began to turn away from the nonviolent teachings of Dr. King. They sought new strategies, which included self-defense and the idea that African Americans should live free from the presence of whites.

**B.** Young African Americans called for **black power,** a term that had many different meanings. To some it meant physical self- defense and violence. For others, including SNCC leader **Stokely Carmichael,** it meant they should control the social, political, and economic direction of their struggle for equality.

**C.** Black power stressed pride in the African American culture and opposed **cultural assimilation,** or the philosophy of incorporating different racial or cultural groups intothe dominant society. These ideas were popular in poor urban neighborhoods,although Dr. King and many African American leaders were critical of black power.

**D.** In the early 1960s, **Malcolm X** had become a symbol of the Black Power movement. Malcolm X was a member of the **Nation of Islam,** known as the Black Muslims, who believed that African Americans should separate themselves from whites and form their own self-governing communities.

**E.** Malcolm X later broke from the Nation of Islam and began to believe an integrated society was possible. In 1965 three members of the Nation of Islam shot and killed Malcolm X. He would be remembered for his view that although African Americans had been victims in the past, they did not have to allow racism to victimize them now.

**F.** The formation of the **Black Panthers** was the result of a new generation of militant African American leaders preaching black power, black nationalism, and economic self-sufficiency. The group believed that a revolution was necessary to gain equal rights.

**Discussion Question**

Why did the black power movement replace the nonviolent civil rights movement led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.? *(Dr. King’s nonviolent civil rights movement failed to change* *the poor economic conditions that many African Americans faced in the 1960s. Some African* *American leaders called for more aggressive forms of protest. They placed less emphasis on interracial* *cooperation with sympathetic whites. Many young African Americans called for black* *power—controlling the social, political, and economic direction of their struggle for equality. It* *stressed pride in the African American cultural group. It emphasized racial distinctiveness.)*

**IV. The Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.** *(pages 885–886)*

**A.** By the late 1960s, the civil rights movement had fragmented into many competing organizations. The result was no further legislation to help African Americans.

**B.** Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated by a sniper on April 4, 1968, creating national mourning as well as riots in more than 100 cities.

**C.** In the aftermath of King’s death, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which contained a fair housing provision.