

Civil Rights DBQ Question

Directions: The following question requires you to construct a coherent essay that integrates your interpretation of Documents A-K and your knowledge of the period referred to in the question. High scores will be earned only by essays that cite key pieces of evidence from the documents and draw on outside knowledge of the period.

Question: From the 1950s to 1970s leaders of the Civil Rights movement used various methods to affect change. Analyze the types of resistance and the extent to which the methods successfully advanced the movement.

Document A



Richmond Times Dispatch (September 2, 1958)

Document B

OFFICIAL BALLOT
City of Norfolk
SPECIAL INFORMATIVE ELECTION
Tuesday, November 18, 1958

QUESTION—Shall the Council of the City of Norfolk, pursuant to State Law, Petition the Governor to return to the City Control of Schools, now closed, to be opened by the City on an Integrated Basis as Required by the Federal Court?

For Petitioning the Governor
 Against Petitioning the Governor

**FOR INFORMATION ONLY
NOT TO BE VOTED ON**

In the Event the Closed Schools are returned to the City of Norfolk, and are re-opened Integrated by the City, It will be necessary, because of the loss of State Funds, for every family having a child or children in Public Schools from which State Funds are withheld, to pay to the City a substantial Tuition for each child in or entering such Public School.

City of Norfolk Ballot
(November, 1958)

Document C

.... Today I have stood, where once Jefferson Davis stood, and took an oath to my people. It is very appropriate then that from this Cradle of the Confederacy, this very Heart of the Great Anglo-Saxon Southland, that today we sound the drum for freedom as have our generations of forebears before us done, time and time again through history. Let us rise to the call of freedom-loving blood that is in us and send our answer to the tyranny that clanks its chains upon the South. In the name of the greatest people that have ever trod this earth, I draw the line in the dust and toss the gauntlet before the feet of tyranny . . . and I say . . . segregation today . . . segregation tomorrow . . . segregation forever.....

George Wallace, January, 1963 Inaugural Address

Document D

"...You may well ask: "Why direct action? Why sit-ins, marches and so forth? Isn't negotiation a better path?" You are quite right in calling, for negotiation. Indeed, this is the very purpose of direct action. Nonviolent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and foster such a tension that a community which has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue. It seeks so to dramatize the issue that it can no longer be ignored. My citing the creation of tension as part of the work of the nonviolent-resister may sound rather shocking. But I must confess that I am not afraid of the word "tension." I have earnestly opposed violent tension, but there is a type of constructive, nonviolent tension which is necessary for growth. Just as Socrates felt that it was necessary to create a tension in the mind so that individuals could rise from the bondage of myths and half-truths to the unfettered realm of creative analysis and objective appraisal, we must we see the need for nonviolent gadflies to create the kind of tension in society that will help men rise from the dark depths of prejudice and racism to the majestic heights of understanding and brotherhood..."

-Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.
Letter from a Birmingham Jail (April 16, 1963)

Document E

...All of this is on account of us wanting to register, to become first-class citizens, and if the freedom Democratic Party is not seated now, I question America, is this America, the land of the free and the home of the brave where we have to sleep with our telephones off of the hooks because our lives be threatened daily because we want to live as decent human beings, in America?

-Fannie Lou Hamer, Speech at the Democratic National Convention, July 22, 1964.

Document F

"Neither the State nor any subdivision or agency thereof shall deny, limit or abridge, directly or indirectly, the right of any person, who is willing or desires to sell, lease or rent any part or all of his real property, to decline to sell, lease or rent such property to such person or persons as he, in his absolute discretion, chooses."

- California Proposition 14 – Amendment to the Rumford Fair Housing Act, sponsored by the California Realtors Association - November, 1964

Document G



Document H

A MILLION NEW NEGRO VOTERS?



President Johnson, at the Capitol, signs the new voting-rights bill for Negroes

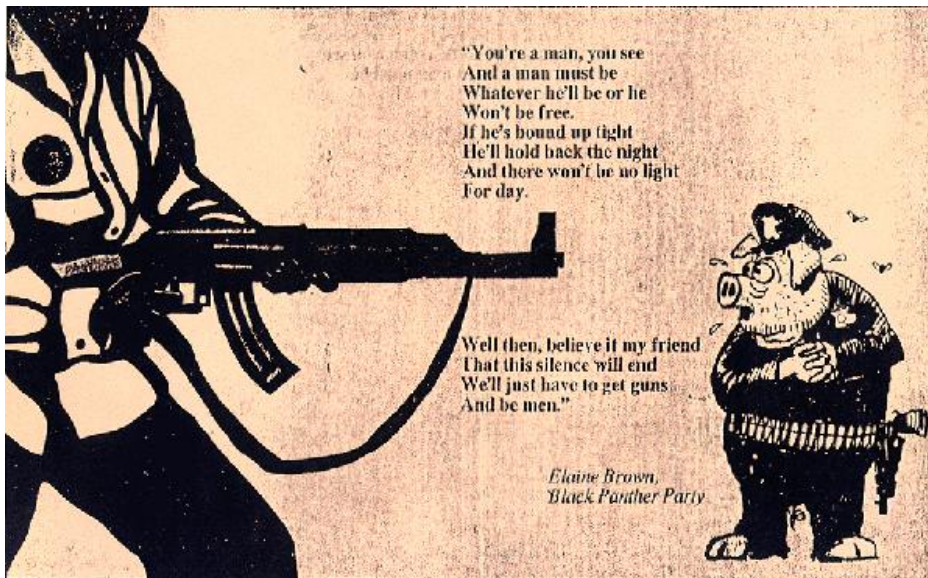
"Signing the Voting Rights Act," U.S. News and World Report, August 16, 1965.

Document I

7. We want an immediate end to police brutality and murder of black people. We believe we can end police brutality in our black community by organizing black self-defense groups that are dedicated to defending our black community from racist police oppression and brutality. The Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States gives a right to bear arms. We therefore believe that all black people should arm themselves for self defense.

- Black Panther Party Platform, 1966

Document J



Black Panther Party Poster, NYU Archives Collection - 1969