



Timeline of the Early 1960s

YEAR	HISTORICAL EVENT
<p>1960</p> 	<p>LUNCH COUNTER SIT-IN IN GREENSBORO, NC – On February 1st, four college students stage a lunch counter sit-in at the Woolworth’s department store in Greensboro, N.C. to protest segregation in cafes and restaurants. This sparked a wave of other sit-ins in college towns across the South. The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, or SNCC (pronounced “snick”), was created.</p>
<p>1961</p> 	<p>FREEDOM RIDERS TRAVEL TO THE AMERICAN SOUTH – On May 4th, an integrated group of protesters begin their trip riding buses throughout the South to test new court orders that outlaw segregation on interstate public buses. Non-violent black and white riders are beaten by mobs in several cities.</p>
<p>1961</p> 	<p>BERLIN WALL CONSTRUCTED – On August 13th, construction begins on the Berlin Wall in Germany, separating West Berlin from East Berlin. Border guards in East Berlin are given “shoot to kill” orders for any resident who tries to cross. The wall remains until 1989, becoming the symbolic boundary between Democracy and Communism during the Cold War era.</p>
<p>1961</p> 	<p>RUSSIANS TEST HYDROGEN BOMB – On October 30th, Tsar Bomba, the largest nuclear weapon to ever be detonated, is exploded in the Arctic Ocean, north of Russia. Cold War tensions between the Soviet Union and the U.S., both armed with nuclear weapons, escalate heavily.</p>
<p>1962</p> 	<p>UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI ORDERED TO DESEGREGATE – On September 29th, President John F. Kennedy orders U.S. Marshals to the campus of the University of Mississippi to enforce the court-ordered admission of James Meredith, an African American student. Mississippi Governor Ross Barnett had blocked implementation of the court order to integrate the University, citing states rights.</p>
<p>1963</p> 	<p>MARCH ON WASHINGTON – On August 28th, several hundred thousand Americans participate in the historic Civil Rights march, featuring Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. Musical acts also perform throughout the day, including Bob Dylan. That same month, Dylan releases a recording of “Blowin’ in the Wind.” The song establishes him as a powerful singer-songwriter capable of penning and performing his own material.</p>