

Freedom Rides

US History II

Civil Rights Movement Organizations

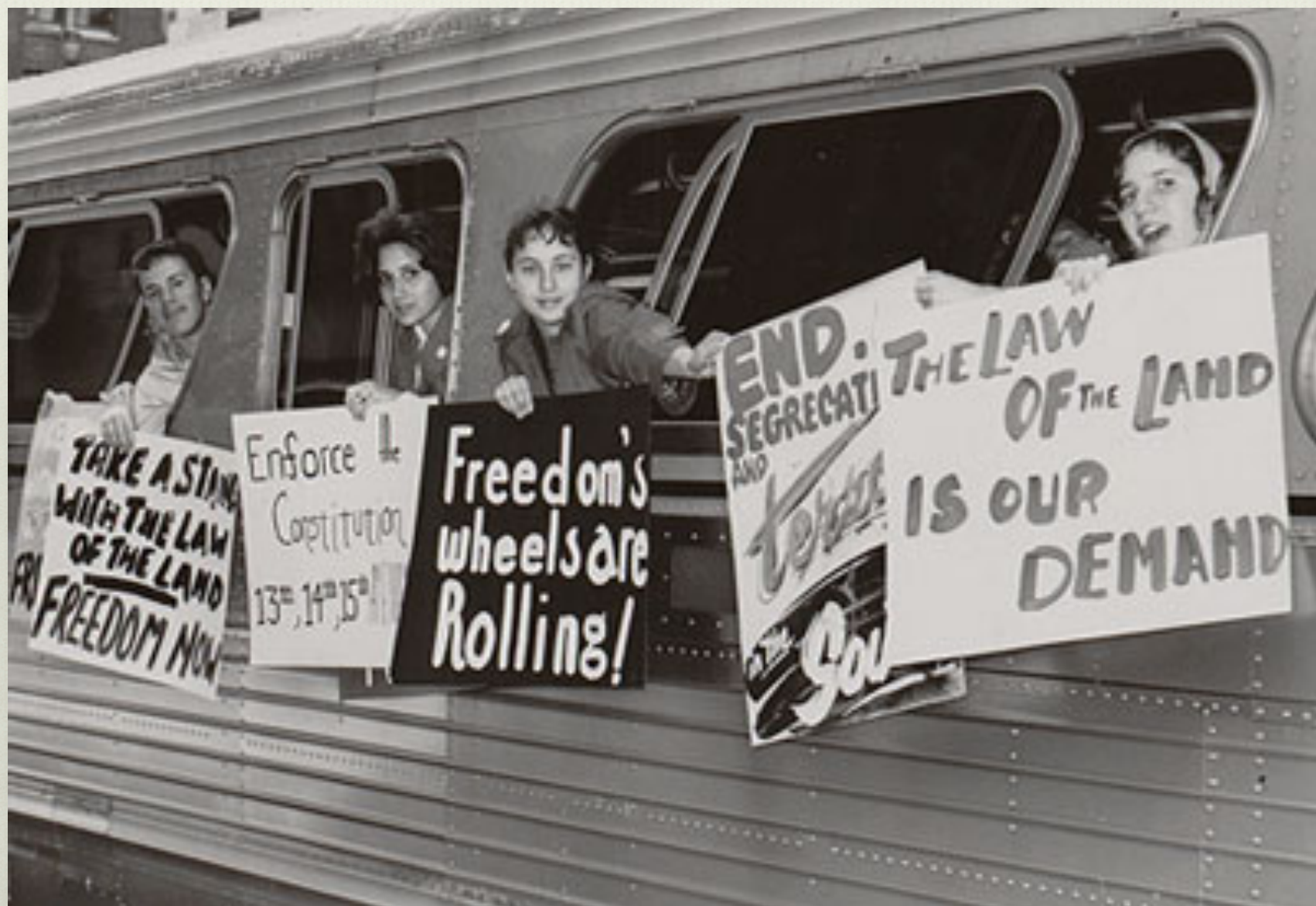
❖ SCLC, SNCC, CORE



The Plan

- ❖ *Boynton v. Virginia* (1960)
 - ❖ Ruled that segregation was illegal for interstate passengers
- ❖ CORE wants to challenge
 - ❖ Plan was to leave D.C. by bus on May 4, 1961 & arrive in New Orleans on May 17
 - ❖ One Greyhound and one Trailways bus





Bull Connor

- ❖ Commissioner of Public Safety for the City of Birmingham
- ❖ Friendly with the chapters of the KKK in & around the city
- ❖ “15 minutes”



Anniston, Alabama

- ❖ Sunday, May 14th
- ❖ KKK attacks



Birmingham, Alabama

- ❖ Attacked with iron pipes, baseball bats, & bicycle chains
- ❖ Most were refused hospital care
- ❖ RFK involved
- ❖ Flew directly to New Orleans, feel like work is done



Birmingham, AL

- ❖ May 17th
 - ❖ 10 more riders sent by SNCC travelled from Nashville to Birmingham
 - ❖ Arrested by Bull Connor
 - ❖ “Buses are A-Coming”
 - ❖ Bull Connor drove them to the TN border because “I just couldn't stand their singing”



Escalation

- ❖ More riders arrived in Birmingham on May 19th, Greyhound refused to provide drivers
- ❖ Pressured by JFK they eventually drove to Montgomery, again they were beaten but now they had MLK & RFK on their side
 - ❖ 600 federal marshalls



Jackson, MS (May 24)

- ❖ (Finally) greeted by hundreds of supporters!
- ❖ Arrested for trespassing for trying to use “white-only” facilities
- ❖ Sentenced to 30 years in a maximum security prison
- ❖ NAACP appealed up to the Supreme Court



Summer of '61

- ❖ Throughout the summer of 1961 more and more riders travelled throughout the South
- ❖ Over 300 were jailed in Mississippi alone for “breaching the peace”
- ❖ They stayed in “jail, no bail”



Impact?

- ❖ Nonviolent, direct action can deliver results, esp. national attention
- ❖ Organizations can work together
- ❖ Federal gov't involvement
- ❖ Created leaders within the movement

