

Martin Luther King – “I Have a Dream “ by S.Schw

Martin Luther King was an American clergyman and became a civil rights activist early in his career.



Moreover he was best known for being an iconic figure in the advancement of civil rights in the United States and around the world, using nonviolent methods, following the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi.

So in 1964 he received the Nobel Peace Prize for his work to end racial segregation and racial discrimination through civil disobedience and other nonviolent means.

King`s efforts led to the “March on Washington” in 1963, which was organized by six human rights organizations. There he delivered his speech “I Have a Dream”, in which he called for racial equality and an end to discrimination

(⇒ this was a decisive moment of the American civil rights movement).

In front of the Lincoln Memorial 250 000 people took part in.

The speech of Martin Luther King paints the dream of a better, fairer future of racial harmony and integration.

Aspects in King`s speech:

- Mutual respect, a brotherhood of blacks and whites
- Injustice and oppression shall be transformed into freedom and justice
- In the future people will be just judged by their characters (not by the color of their skin)
- Brotherhood between all children; harmony; peace
- Everybody should be valued the same way
- Treating all men as equals

There are three factors, which make his speech memorable:

1. The remarkable emotion of King`s delivery in terms of both: voice and body language.
2. The site at which it was delivered - on the steps of the memorial to the President who defeated southern states over the issue of slavery.
3. The mood of the day, a sense of perpetuated slavery among black people and the gradual realization of a sense of guilt among white people.