Civil Rights Assassinations and Murders: Responses and Reactions that Inspired Key Civil Rights Moments

Goal:
The ultimate goal of this project was to educate those who are especially new to studying Civil Rights, for students learning to understand the important how and why of history, and most importantly as a tool for students to understand that history does not happen in a vacuum. By including the cause and effect map, students can understand that these deaths inspired some of the key moments during the movements. By including the “Beyond Civil Rights” section, students are able to learn that the Civil Rights Movement did not happen in a vacuum and is part of a larger story of fighting for rights and that fight still continues today.

Project:
This project was dedicated to mapping the different assassinations and murders that took place during the Civil Rights Movement and beyond. By using ArcGIS Story Maps, I was able to create cause and effect maps of each death I had chosen. Each death was the main focal point of the map with arrows extending from it pointing to events that happened in response. These events can be as small as a trial or as large as a national protest, as even small events can have large impacts. Each map is also accompanied by a simple biography with basic facts about each person to know them apart from their murder.

The Assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.: April 4, 1968

Martin Luther King Jr. (January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968) felt racism present in his life from a young age and was constantly conscious of it. He eventually graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in sociology and became a minister and an activist for African American rights. He is one of the most known activists during the Civil Rights Movement and is most famous for his nonviolent tactics used to advance civil rights. His eventual assassination resulted in riots across the nation and a belief that the nonviolent movement had died with him. He was 39.

The Murder of Michael Brown: August 9, 2014

Michael Brown (May 20, 1996 - August 9, 2014) graduated high school eight days before his death. He was an aspiring musician and posted many of his songs online. He was about to begin at a technical school for heating and air conditioning repair training but died before he began. Brown was shot by an officer who had an altercation with him at his car window, resulting in the officer shooting Brown’s hand. Brown attempted to flee with his hands raised but the officer fatally shot him six times in the back.

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