



THE SIXTH FLOOR MUSEUM
AT DEALEY PLAZA

REBEL SPIRITS: ROBERT F. KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Books | Articles | DVDs | Collections | Oral Histories | YouTube | Websites | Podcasts
Visit our [Library Catalog](#) for a complete list of books, magazines and videos.

Resource guides collate materials about subject areas from both the Museum's library and permanent collections to aid students and researchers in resource discovery. The guides are created and maintained by the Museum's librarian/archivist and are carefully selected to help users, unfamiliar with the collections, begin finding information about topics such as Dealey Plaza Eyewitnesses, Conspiracy Theories, the 1960 Presidential Election, Lee Harvey Oswald and Cuba to name a few. The guides are not comprehensive and researchers are encouraged to email readingroom@jfk.org for additional research assistance.

The following guide focuses on the Museum's 2018 temporary exhibition *Rebel Spirits: Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr.* presented in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversaries of the assassination of both these iconic individuals. The resources below are related to the events, persons and time period depicted in exhibit photographs and text, shedding light on the converging paths of Kennedy and King, two American leaders who came from such different worlds.

Rebel Spirits: Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. was produced by Wiener Schiller Productions and is presented locally by The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza. The exhibition was curated by Lawrence Schiller with support from Getty Images.

BOOKS

The selections below compare and contrast the lives and legacies of Kennedy and King. The authors reflect upon the complexity of their character, the significance of their enigmatic relationship and how their deaths impacted the nation.

Longley, Kyle. *LBJ's 1968: Power, Politics, and the American Presidency in America's Year of Upheaval*. New York: Cambridge University Press. 2018.

Luck, Daniel S. *Selma to Saigon: The Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam War*. Kentucky: University of Kentucky Press. 2014.

Margolick, David. *The Promise and the Dream: The Untold Story of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy*. New York: Rosetta. 2018.

Wofford, Harris. *Of Kennedy and Kings: Making Sense of the Sixties*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 1980.

Robert F. Kennedy

The titles below examine Robert F. Kennedy's family background of privilege, his rise to political office and his tragic death on the campaign trail. Kennedy's own memoir of the Cuban Missile Crisis and the other titles reveal a man both deeply ambitious and yet sensitive to the human condition.

Clarke, Thurston. *The Last Campaign: Robert F. Kennedy and 82 Days That Inspired America*. New York: Henry Holt. 2008.

Fusco, Paul. *RFK Funeral Train*. United Kingdom: Dewi Publishing. 2001.

Guthman, Edwion O. and Allen C. Richard editors. *RFK: His Words for Our Times*. New York: William Morrow, 2018.

Kennedy, Robert F. *Thirteen Days: A Memoir of the Cuban Missile Crisis*. New York: W.W. Norton. 1969.

Kennedy, Kerry. *Ripples of Home*. New York: Center Street. 2018.

Lasky, Victor. *Robert F. Kennedy: The Myth and the Man*. New York: Pocket Books. 1971.

Matthews, Christopher. *Bobby Kennedy: A Raging Spirit*. New York: Simon & Schuster. 2017.

Meacham, Ellen B. *Delta Epiphany: Robert F. Kennedy in Mississippi*. Mississippi: University Press of Mississippi. 2018.

Martin Luther King Jr.

The books below reveal Martin Luther King Jr.'s life, beginning as a young seminary student to his shocking assassination in 1968. Through his moral roots and convictions, he led a civil rights revolution. His writings, speeches and sermons persuaded thousands to participate in the marches, boycotts and protests that inspired the activism of the 1960s.

Boyd, Herb. *We Shall Overcome*. Illinois: Sourcebooks. 2004.

Branch, Taylor. *Parting the Waters*. New York: Simon and Schuster. 1988.

Carson, Clayborne. *In Struggle: SNCC and the Black Awakening of the 1960s*. Massachusetts: Harvard University Press. 1995.

King, Martin Luther Jr. *Strength to Love*. Minnesota: Fortress. 2010.

Parr, Patrick. *The Seminarian: Martin Luther King Jr. Comes of Age*. Chicago: Lawrence Hill Books. 2018.

Posner, Gerald. *Killing the Dream: James Earl Ray and the Assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.* New York: Random House. 1998.

Shelby, Tommie and Brandon M. Terry. *To Shape a New World: Essays on the Political Philosophy of Martin Luther King Jr.* Massachusetts: Harvard University Press. 2018.

ARTICLES

The articles below provide general overviews of both the Kennedy and King legacies, as well as analysis of the controversial FBI wiretapping of Martin Luther King Jr.

Brinkley, Douglas. "The Man Who Kept King's Secrets." *Vanity Fair*, no. 548, April 2006, p. 146.

Carlson, Peter. "J. Edgar Hoover Lectures Martin Luther King." *American History*, vol. 45, no. 1, April 2010, p. 18.

Cobb, Jelani. "Honoring Martin Luther King Jr. Fifty Years After His Death." *The New Yorker*, April 9, 2018. p.16.

Garrow, David J., et al. "The FBI and Martin Luther King." *Atlantic*, vol. 290, no. 1, July/August 2002, p. 80.

Konermann, Alyssa. "Every Word Held You." *Indianapolis Monthly*, vol. 41, no. 8, April 2018, p. 78.

Randall, Kennedy. "Relationship of Two Flawed Icons: King and Robert Kennedy." *The Washington Post*, April 27, 2018.

"RFK: The Bob Kennedy We Knew." *Look*, Special edition. 1968.

Ryskind, Allan H. "JFK and RFK Were Right to Wiretap MLK." *Human Events*, vol. 62, no. 7, February 27, 2006, p. 7.

Steel, Ronald. "The Bobby Gap." *New Republic*, vol. 206, no. 21, May 25, 1992, p. 16.

Thomas, Evans. "RFK The Untold Story: His Secret Role in the Cuban Missile Crisis." *Newsweek*, August 14, 2000.

Tye, Larry. "Tough Talk: RFK Asked Black Americans for the Truth." *American History*, December. 2016.

DVDs

The documentaries below include interviews with key individuals and archival news footage to show the chaos and bravery of ordinary citizens during the civil rights unrest of the late 1960s and how they were impacted by the assassinations of Kennedy and King.

A Ripple of Hope. PBS. 2010.

Citizen King. WGBH. 2004.

Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years. PBS. 2010.

Firing Line: Who Killed Bobby Kennedy? Hoover Institution at Stanford University. 2010.

Freedom Riders. PBS. 2011.

Roads to Memphis. WGBH. 2010.

Robert F. Kennedy Legacy. Speechworks. 2008.

COLLECTIONS

The Museum's collection provides audio, visual, documentary resources and artifacts; visit our [online collections database](#) for more information. For research assistance, please contact the Reading Room at readingroom@jfk.org or 214.389.3070.

ARTIFACTS

This curated selection of artifacts, newspapers and magazines from the Museum's permanent collection are on display in the *Rebel Spirits* exhibition. They convey the connection between President Kennedy, Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr., as dedicated freedom fighters who died heroically in the face of adversity. Follow the links to visit the Museum's online collections database to learn more about these objects.

1993.013.0001 – Print on canvas of painting by Gregory Thornton of Robert F. Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and John F. Kennedy

Limited-edition print on canvas of a painting by Gregory Thornton of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and President John F. Kennedy.

2001.047.0001 – Commemorative pin for Martin Luther King Jr.

Round commemorative pin for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with white text on a black ground.

2001.048.0001 – Commemorative pin for Martin Luther King Jr.

Large round commemorative pin for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. created post-assassination.

2001.056.0002 – Funeral fan with an image of Martin Luther King Jr.

Hand-held funeral fan featuring a color reproduction of a painting of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

2001.058.0009 - Brick from the Lorraine Motel where Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated

A beige brick from the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968.

2001.072.0001 – LP record "The American Dream"

Memoriam LP record album of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech titled "The American Dream" delivered at Syracuse University on June 15, 1965.

2003.017.0002.0001 - LP record album "Robert Francis Kennedy / A Memorial"

"Robert Francis Kennedy: A Memorial," LP record album including speeches given by Senator Kennedy as well as music and eulogies from his funeral on June 8, 1968, Columbia Records© 1969.

2014.041.0001 – “Abraham, Martin and John” sheet music

Vintage three-page sheet music for the song “Abraham, Martin and John,” words and music by Dick Holler. This song was popularized by Dion. The cover shows a version of Mt. Rushmore that includes, from left to right, President John F. Kennedy, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr. and President Abraham Lincoln.

2016.028.0001 – 1968 campaign pin for Robert Kennedy “America Calls Another Kennedy”

Metal campaign pin supporting Senator Robert F. Kennedy during his presidential campaign in 1968.

2018.014.0001 – Postage stamps from the Republic of Chad, dated 1968

Sheet of four collectible postage stamps from the Republic of Chad, dated 1968. The stamps commemorate Mahatma Gandhi, President John F. Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Senator Robert F. Kennedy as advocates of non-violence who were assassinated.

2018.016.0001 – Figurine of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. shaking hands

Collectible figurine of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. shaking hands; stands ten inches tall and titled “Racial Harmony,” dated as 1995.

2018.017.0001 – Textile of Robert F. Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and John F. Kennedy

Machine-woven, vibrantly colored textile of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and President John F. Kennedy against a flag background.

2018.018.0001 – Funeral fan picturing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., President John F. Kennedy and Senator Robert F. Kennedy

Paper funeral fan with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., President John F. Kennedy and Senator Robert F. Kennedy pictured on the front side.

NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES

1996.006.1034 – Political cartoon from Dallas Times Herald, 11/29/1988

Newsprint clipping of a political cartoon from *Dallas Times Herald* depicting (from left to right) the silhouettes of President John F. Kennedy, Senator Robert F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Clipping is dated “Tuesday, November 29, 1988.”

1999.027.0029 – LIFE Magazine, 4/12/1968

LIFE Magazine, Vol. 64, No. 15, published April 12, 1968 contains articles about Lyndon B. Johnson’s plans for peace in Vietnam, the convulsion in American politics and the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

2003.025.0020 – LIFE Magazine, 6/14/1968

LIFE Magazine, Vol. 64, No. 24 dated June 14, 1968 that commemorates the life of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. 112 pages.

2018.015.0001 – Esquire Magazine, October 1968

Esquire Magazine, Vol. LXX, No. 4, Whole No. 419, published October 1968. The cover of the magazine’s thirty-fifth anniversary issue shows full-color image of President John F. Kennedy, Senator Robert F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. standing in Arlington National Cemetery.

ORAL HISTORIES

The audio-visual **Oral History Project** offers personal insights into the history and culture of the 1960s. To listen to oral history interviews and request research assistance, contact the Reading Room at readingroom@jfk.org or 214.389.3070.

If you have memories or reflections of significant events and social movements of the 1960s, please consider adding your unique perspective to this remarkable collection of “living history.” Oral history interviews may be recorded by appointment at The Sixth Floor Museum or elsewhere in the Dallas-Fort Worth area or by telephone for participants who live outside of north Texas. For more information, e-mail oralhistory@jfk.org.

The Museum’s Collection includes more than 1,700 oral history interviews. The selection of interviews below offers a wide range of personal recollections of encounters with, and memories of, Kennedy and King. They range from Barbara Wolpa, the young housewife who fled Washington D.C. during the racial riots after the assassination of King, to Ambassador William vanden Heuvel who was Attorney General Robert Kennedy’s assistant in the Justice Department during the Kennedy administration.

Robert F. Kennedy

William Caldwell

As a student at Marquette University in Wisconsin, Caldwell saw Senator John F. Kennedy during the 1960 campaign. Four years later, on June 7, 1964, U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy delivered the commencement address at Caldwell's graduation. Recorded December 29, 2014.

Linda Hernandez

A native of Indiana who moved to Dallas in the early 1970s, Hernandez saw Robert F. Kennedy in 1968 and was deeply impacted by his assassination. Recorded April 20, 2010.

David Hume Kennerly

A photojournalist for more than half a century, Kennerly won the 1972 Pulitzer Prize for his images of the Vietnam War. Previously he had covered Senator Robert F. Kennedy and was at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles on June 5, 1968, when Kennedy was shot. Recorded September 21, 2016.

Gail Solomon-Canty

Solomon-Canty was a high school student in New York City in 1963. She later saw Senator Robert F. Kennedy and actively followed his presidential campaign. Recorded February 7, 2014.

Ambassador William vanden Heuvel

A distinguished lawyer and former representative to the United Nations, vanden Heuvel was Attorney General Robert Kennedy's assistant in the Justice Department during the Kennedy administration. Recorded November 21 and 22, 2003.

Jay Vogelston

An attorney with the U.S. Justice Department from 1963 to 1966, Vogelston worked closely with Attorney General Robert Kennedy. During the summer of 1964, he was assigned to review evidence for the Warren Commission investigation. Recorded April 3 and **October 11, 2013**.

Martin Luther King Jr.

Joanne Bland

As a young child in Selma, Alabama, Bland participated in the famous civil rights march on "Bloody Sunday," March 7, 1965. Later that month, she joined Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on his march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. Her memories were recorded with those of other civil rights activists. Recorded February 28, 2006.

Charles Cox

Cox was a freshman at Southern Methodist University in Dallas at the time of the assassination. As academic committee chair of the SMU Students' Association, he coordinated a speech on campus by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on March 17, 1966. Cox went on to serve in the Vietnam War. Recorded April 18, 2018.

The Rev. Peter Johnson

A lifelong crusader for civil rights throughout the South, Johnson served on the staff of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and worked for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). He began working for civil rights in Dallas in 1969. Recorded February 23, 2006.

Margaret H. Jordan

The first African-American graduate of the Georgetown University School of Nursing, Jordan attended the March on Washington rally on August 28, 1963, and heard Dr. Martin Luther King's iconic "I Have a Dream" speech. Since moving to Dallas in the 1980s, she has been an active community leader, serving on the boards of institutions such as the Dallas Museum of Art and the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. Recorded March 29, 2011.

Valda H. Montgomery

As a child in the 1960s, Montgomery was part of a prominent African-American family in Montgomery, Alabama. She observed the aftermath of the 1955 bus boycott and the activities of the civil rights Freedom Riders, and had contact with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Her memories were recorded with those of other civil rights activists. Recorded February 28, 2006.

Father Thomas Shepherd

A onetime recruiter with the NAACP, Father Shepherd later founded the civil rights organization, Awareness, Inc. While living in Kentucky in the mid-1960s, he participated in a march with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Recorded July 21, 2011.

Senator Harris Wofford

A onetime civil rights advisor to both President Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Wofford also served as associate director of the Peace Corps (1962-66) and U.S. senator from Pennsylvania (1991-95). He wrote the book *Of Kennedys and Kings: Making Sense of the Sixties* (1992). Recorded September 21, 2010.

Barbara Wolpa

An Illinois housewife in 1963, Wolpa was caring for her two young children at the time of the Kennedy assassination. In 1968, her family fled Washington, D.C., during the riots that followed the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Recorded December 14, 2017.

Civil Rights Collections

In addition to the objects related to the *Rebel Spirits* exhibition, the Museum's collections include a wide variety of materials related to the struggle for civil rights both nationally and locally. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voters Rights Act of 1965 were passed after a great deal of national debate and social unrest, and considered to be one of the Kennedy administration's enduring legacies.

YOUTUBE

The two selections below tackle civil rights and poverty, two issues which both Kennedy and King championed for change. Economic inequality of the 1960s spurred Kennedy to travel to Mississippi to investigate reports of extreme poverty and starvation and inspired King to initiate the "Poor People's Campaign" on behalf of sanitation workers in Memphis.

Civil Rights in Modern America – The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza

Led by Fort Worth Star-Telegram columnist and community activist Bob Ray Sanders, panelists Devoyd "Dee" Jennings, President of the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce; Jim Riddlesperger, TCU Presidential Scholar; and Eddie Griffin, a civil rights activist, discuss the evolution of civil rights from JFK's presidency to now.

Delta Epiphany – Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics at The University of Mississippi

Ellen Meacham, the author of *Delta Epiphany: Robert F. Kennedy in Mississippi*, a new book on Robert F. Kennedy's dramatic tour of the Mississippi Delta in 1967 and its impact on the region, talks about her research and conclusions involving Kennedy's foray to investigate the problems of hunger among poor people. Bill Rose, who was working as a journalist in the Delta at the time, joins Meacham in the discussion.

WEBSITES

The websites listed below provide access to a wide range of primary sources including photographs, speeches, artifacts, videos, audio recordings and other documents ready to use in the classroom setting.

John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum – Robert F. Kennedy

Because Robert F. Kennedy was President Kennedy's brother and a key individual in the Kennedy administration, the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum holds his papers during his tenure as Attorney General, the Robert F. Kennedy Oral History Collection, papers from his presidential campaign and materials from the Citizens Committee for Robert F. Kennedy and the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Foundation. Other resources include photograph, audio and video collections and access to FBI files related to his assassination in 1968.

The King Center – King Center Library and Archives

The collection consists of the papers of Dr. King and those of the organization he co-founded, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The archives also hold the records of eight major civil rights organizations and the records of several individuals active in the civil rights movement. In addition, the archive includes more than 200 oral history interviews with Dr. King's teachers, friends, family and civil rights associates.

CSPAN3 American History TV - Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy

Interviews, newsreel reports, speeches and public programs related to both King and Kennedy.

American Rhetoric – Online Speech Bank

Access the database and index to over 5000 full text, audio and video versions of public speeches, sermons, legal proceedings, lectures, debates, interviews and other recorded media events. Includes speeches by Martin Luther King Jr. (“**I Have Been to the Mountaintop**”) and Robert F. Kennedy (“**Remarks on the Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**”).

The Digital Library of Georgia – Civil Rights Digital Library

Discover primary sources and other educational materials from libraries, archives, museums, public broadcasters and others on a national scale. The CRDL also features a collection of unedited news film from television archives.

PODCASTS

The podcasts below both aired in April 2018 in recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the assassinations of King and Kennedy.

BBC World Service: The Documentary – The King and Kennedy Assassinations

On the fiftieth anniversary of the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert F. Kennedy, presenter Michael Goldfarb tells the story of how they came to be murdered. He speaks with their children and close associates about how the pair’s lives and deaths affected their own pathway. And he looks at how their words and deeds continue to shape America.

WNYC Midday - The Interwoven Lives, and Deaths, of Two Civil Rights Icons

This interview with journalist David Margolick examines his book *The Promise and the Dream: The Untold Story of Martin Luther King, Jr. And Robert F. Kennedy*. Through oral histories and FBI files, Margolick looks at how the men supported, challenged, and learned from one another until their final days.