

Stokely Carmichael and Black Power in the Civil Rights Movement

Born: June 29, 1941, Port of Spain, Trinidad
Died: November 15, 1998, Conakry, Guinea

At age eleven, Stokely Carmichael moved with his mother to New York City to attend school in the Bronx. He later graduated from Howard University in 1964 with honors in philosophy.

Carmichael joined groups like the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Nonviolent Action Group. Carmichael wanted to help insure black citizens received their equal rights and used nonviolent measures to get his point across. He participated in some of the first Freedom Rides.

Carmichael became frustrated, as he was arrested more than 32 times during his nonviolent demonstrations. He felt he needed to take more serious action. During a Freedom March in Mississippi he coined the term "Black Power." Black Power relied on self-defense, self-determination, and racial pride.

Carmichael left the SNCC and moved to join the Black Panther Party. In 1968 he was elected Prime Minister of the Black Panther Party. He also left that group and moved to Guinea to concentrate his efforts on African pride.

Carmichael was a great contributor to the Civil Rights Movement; helping blacks to register to vote and helping them have pride in their race.