

Facts About The Montgomery Bus Boycott

Facts about the Montgomery Bus Boycott • **** Montgomery Bus Boycott: A Pivotal Moment in Civil Rights History** • Category 1: Historical Context • **Rosa Parks and the Spark • Pre-Boycott Segregation in Montgomery • The Jim Crow Laws and their Impact • Existing Civil Rights Organizations and their Influence** • Category 2: The Boycott Itself • Launch and Organization of the Boycott • Duration and Scope of the Boycott • Strategies Employed During the Boycott (Carpools, Walking) • Economic Impact on Montgomery • The Role of Black Churches and Community Leaders • The Legal Battles: Browder v. Gayle • Category 3: Key Figures and Their Roles • Martin Luther King Jr.'s Leadership • E.D. Nixon's Crucial Contributions • Jo Ann Robinson and the Women's Political Council • Other Notable Participants and Their Stories • Category 4: Aftermath and Legacy • The Supreme Court Ruling and its Significance • Long-term Impact on the Civil Rights Movement • The Boycott's Influence on Nonviolent Resistance • Montgomery's Transformation Post-Boycott • The Boycott's Enduring Symbolism in Modern Society • Category 5: Further Research and Learning • **Primary Sources: Documents and Archives • Secondary Sources: Books, s, and Documentaries • Museums and Memorials Dedicated to the Boycott • Educational Resources for Students and Educators**

Facts about the Montgomery Bus Boycott **Montgomery Bus Boycott: A Pivotal Moment in Civil Rights History** *The Montgomery Bus Boycott, a watershed event in the American Civil Rights Movement, transcended a simple protest against segregation. It represented a profound shift in societal power dynamics, catalyzed by the courageous defiance of Rosa Parks and the unwavering commitment of an entire community. This boycott, lasting over a year, fundamentally altered the landscape of racial equality in the United States. This delves into the key facets of this pivotal moment in history.* Category 1: Historical Context • **Rosa Parks and the Spark: While Rosa Parks' refusal to relinquish her seat is iconic, it's important to understand that this wasn't a spontaneous act. She was a seasoned activist, involved in the NAACP for years, making her defiance a deliberate act of civil disobedience.** • **Pre-Boycott Segregation in Montgomery:** Montgomery, Alabama, like many Southern cities, operated under a rigid system of Jim Crow laws. For Black citizens, this meant relegated seating on buses, enforced racial separation, and the constant threat of de facto oppression. • **The Jim Crow Laws and their Impact:** *These codified discriminatory practices permeated every aspect of life, creating second-class citizenship for African Americans. The systematic denial of basic rights fueled a simmering resentment that ultimately erupted in the boycott.* • **Existing Civil Rights Organizations and their Influence:** *Groups like the NAACP and the Women's Political Council (WPC) laid the groundwork for organized resistance prior to the boycott. Their strategic activism and community organizing proved invaluable in unifying the response to segregation.* Category 2: The Boycott Itself • **Launch and Organization of the Boycott:** **The boycott's organization was remarkably swift and effective. Leaders such as E.D. Nixon and Martin Luther King, Jr., leveraged pre-existing networks, galvanizing the Black community around a**

common goal: to dismantle the discriminatory bus system. • Duration and Scope of the Boycott: **Lasting 381 days, the boycott involved a massive, sustained effort. Almost the entire Black population participated, demonstrating unprecedented solidarity.** • Strategies Employed During the Boycott (Carpools, Walking): **The boycott's success rested upon innovative strategies. Carpools, strategically organized, became a vital artery, while countless individuals walked miles daily to work and school. This showed profound dedication.** • Economic Impact on Montgomery: **The boycott dealt a significant blow to Montgomery's economy, which relied heavily on the bus system's patronage. This economic pressure proved a potent weapon in the fight for equality.** • The Role of Black Churches and Community Leaders: **Black churches became logistical and spiritual hubs, providing shelter, coordination, and a sense of community purpose that was instrumental to success.** • The Legal Battles: Browder v. Gayle: **The boycott culminated in legal challenges. Browder v. Gayle ultimately led to the desegregation of Montgomery's buses, establishing a landmark precedent in the fight for civil rights.**

Category 3: Key Figures and Their Roles • Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Leadership: **King's role as the boycott's primary spokesperson catapulted him to national prominence, showcasing his nonviolent philosophy and powerful oratory skills.** • E.D. Nixon's Crucial Contributions: **Although less publicized, Nixon's organizational prowess and strategic thinking were crucial components, laying critical groundwork behind the scenes.** • Jo Ann Robinson and the Women's Political Council: **The WPC, led by Robinson played an invaluable role in the initial planning and printing of leaflets, which were instrumental in disseminating crucial information.** • Other Notable Participants and Their Stories: **The boycott was a collective effort. Recognizing individual acts of courage and contributions adds depth and texture to the narrative.**

Category 4: Aftermath and Legacy • The Supreme Court Ruling and its Significance: **The Supreme Court's declaration that bus segregation is unconstitutional triggered a ripple effect across the South. The decision was a stunning validation of the boycott's impact.** • Long-term Impact on the Civil Rights Movement: **The Montgomery Bus Boycott served as a potent catalyst, inspiring subsequent civil rights struggles across the nation and laying the groundwork for broader legislative change.** • The Boycott's Influence on Nonviolent Resistance: **The boycott powerfully showcased the effectiveness of nonviolent resistance, a cornerstone of the Civil Rights Movement's strategic approach.** • Montgomery's Transformation Post-Boycott: **While transformation wasn't instant, the boycott spurred long-term social and political changes within Montgomery itself.** • The Boycott's Enduring Symbolism in Modern Society: **The boycott remains a potent emblem of resistance against injustice, a powerful reminder of the fight for equality.**

Category 5: Further Research and Learning • Primary Sources: Documents and Archives: **Examining primary source documents—letters, photographs, and eyewitness accounts—offers an intimate view into the boycott's events.** • Secondary Sources: Books, s, and Documentaries: **Scholarly analyses and well-researched works enrich understanding.** • Museums and Memorials Dedicated to the Boycott: **These crucial sites of remembrance offer tangible connections to the history.** • Educational Resources for Students and Educators: **Utilizing effective educational resources is crucial in transmitting this pivotal history across generations.**

Unpacking the Montgomery Bus Boycott: A Deep Dive into Transformative Facts

The Montgomery Bus Boycott. The name itself resonates with a pivotal moment in American history, a courageous act of defiance that ignited the Civil Rights Movement. But beyond the iconic image of Rosa Parks and the sustained community action, what are the deeper, more nuanced facts that shaped this monumental event? This isn't just a story about a single act of courage; it's a testament to meticulous planning, unwavering solidarity, and a profound understanding of the power of collective action. Let's pull back the curtain and explore some of the essential facts about the Montgomery Bus Boycott that continue to inspire and educate.

The Spark: Rosa Parks and the Seed of Resistance

Undoubtedly, the most famous fact about the Montgomery Bus Boycott begins with Rosa Parks. On December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, Mrs. Parks, a seasoned NAACP activist, refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a segregated city bus. Her arrest wasn't a spontaneous act of weariness, though she was tired. It was a deliberate act of civil disobedience, pre-planned and rooted in years of activism and a deep understanding of the injustices of Jim Crow laws. * **Not the First, But the Catalyst:** It's a crucial fact that Rosa Parks wasn't the first Black person to resist bus segregation in Montgomery. Claudette Colvin, a 15-year-old, had been arrested nine months earlier for a similar act of defiance. However, civil rights leaders at the time felt Parks, a respected figure and NAACP secretary, would be a more palatable and effective symbol for a potential boycott. This highlights the strategic thinking behind the movement. * **A Trained Activist:** Rosa Parks was not just a seamstress; she was deeply involved in the NAACP and had attended workshops on civil disobedience at the Highlander Folk School. This fact underscores that her action was informed and part of a larger strategy for racial justice.

The Organization: More Than Just a Single Protest

The Montgomery Bus Boycott wasn't a spontaneous eruption of anger. It was a meticulously planned and executed operation that involved a broad coalition of community leaders, churches, and ordinary citizens. The Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) was formed to lead the boycott, demonstrating remarkable organizational prowess. * **The Birth of the MIA:** Following Rosa Parks' arrest, Black leaders convened at the Holt Street Baptist Church. It was here that the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) was founded, with the young Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. elected as its president. This election proved to be a turning point, catapulting King into a national leadership role. * **The Role of Churches:** Churches served as the organizational backbone of the boycott. They provided meeting spaces, mobilized participants, and served as collection points for donations. This fact highlights the central role of faith and community institutions in the fight for civil rights. * **Logistical Genius: The Carpool System:** A significant, often overlooked, fact is the intricate carpool system that sustained the boycott for 381 days. Over 300 cars, organized through churches and supported by private donations, ferried thousands of Black residents across Montgomery.

This massive undertaking required incredible coordination, volunteerism, and resourcefulness, showcasing the community's commitment. * **Economic Pressure as a Weapon:** The boycott's success hinged on its economic impact. Montgomery City Lines, the bus company, lost an estimated \$1.5 million (a significant sum at the time) due to the boycott. This fact demonstrates how nonviolent economic pressure could be a powerful tool for social change.

The Demands: Beyond Just a Seat

While the immediate trigger was bus segregation, the boycott's demands evolved to address the systemic nature of racial discrimination in Montgomery. * **Initial Demands:** The MIA initially proposed a compromise: Black passengers be seated first, from back to front, and white passengers first, from front to back, with no one asked to give up their seat. They also requested courteous treatment from bus drivers and the hiring of Black bus drivers for predominantly Black routes. These were practical, albeit reasonable, requests in the face of blatant inequality. * **The Shift to Desegregation:** As the boycott gained momentum and faced resistance, the demands broadened to full desegregation of the buses. This demonstrated a growing understanding that incremental changes wouldn't suffice and that a fundamental shift in the system was necessary.

The Legal Battle: From Local Grievances to National Impact

The Montgomery Bus Boycott wasn't solely a grassroots movement; it was also a sophisticated legal challenge that eventually reached the Supreme Court. * **Browder v. Gayle:** The legal case that ultimately ended bus segregation in Montgomery was *Browder v. Gayle*. Filed by Fred Gray, an attorney for the MIA, the lawsuit argued that bus segregation violated the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. * **Supreme Court Ruling:** On November 13, 1956, the Supreme Court affirmed a lower court's ruling, declaring that segregation on public buses was unconstitutional. This landmark decision officially ended the Montgomery Bus Boycott on December 20, 1956. This fact is crucial in understanding the multi-pronged strategy of the movement - activism and legal action working in tandem.

The Human Cost and Resilience

The boycott wasn't without its challenges and hardships. Participants faced intimidation, economic hardship, and violence. * **Economic Strain:** Many boycotters walked miles to and from work, often in harsh weather conditions. This required immense physical endurance and sacrifice. The fact that people endured such hardship speaks volumes about their commitment to justice. * **Harassment and Violence:** Boycotters were often subjected to harassment, job losses, and even violence. Bombings of homes and churches, including Dr. King's own residence, were used to try and break the movement's spirit. This stark reality highlights the bravery of those involved. * **Unwavering Solidarity:** Despite the pressures, the Black community of Montgomery maintained remarkable solidarity for over a year. This unwavering commitment to a common cause is one of the most inspiring facts of the boycott.

The Legacy: A Ripple Effect of Change

The Montgomery Bus Boycott's impact extended far beyond Montgomery, Alabama. It served as a powerful blueprint and inspiration for future civil rights struggles. * **Rise of Martin Luther King Jr.:** The boycott propelled Dr. King into the national spotlight, establishing him as a prominent leader of the Civil Rights Movement. His philosophy of nonviolent resistance, honed during the boycott, became a guiding principle for subsequent activism. * **Model for Future Boycotts:** The success of the Montgomery Bus Boycott demonstrated the effectiveness of sustained, organized boycotts as a tactic for achieving social and political change. Similar boycotts and protests were organized in other cities and for various causes across the nation. * **Shifting National Consciousness:** The boycott, widely covered by national and international media, brought the brutal realities of segregation to the forefront of American consciousness. It forced many white Americans to confront the injustice of racial discrimination and galvanized support for civil rights legislation. * **The Power of Everyday People:** Ultimately, the Montgomery Bus Boycott is a powerful reminder of the collective power of ordinary people to effect extraordinary change. It proved that when a community unites with a clear purpose and unwavering resolve, even deeply entrenched systems of injustice can be challenged and ultimately dismantled. The Montgomery Bus Boycott is a complex tapestry woven with threads of courage, strategic brilliance, unwavering solidarity, and profound sacrifice. By understanding these multifaceted facts, we gain a deeper appreciation for the individuals and the movement that fundamentally reshaped the course of American history. It's a story that continues to teach us about the enduring power of protest, the importance of community, and the unyielding pursuit of justice.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott stands as one of the most pivotal and transformative events in the American civil rights movement, marking a turning point in the struggle for racial equality and social justice. Occurring between December 5, 1955, and December 20, 1956, this sustained protest against racial segregation on public buses in Montgomery, Alabama, was not merely a reaction to injustice but a carefully organized, community-wide movement that reshaped legal and societal norms.

Historical Context and Catalyst The boycott emerged from a long history of discriminatory practices enforced by Montgomery's bus system, where African Americans were required to give up their seats to white passengers once the front of the bus filled—a humiliating and daily reminder of systemic racism. The immediate spark came on December 1, 1955, when Rosa Parks, a courageous

seamstress and NAACP member, refused to surrender her seat after a long day of work. Her arrest ignited widespread outrage and galvanized community leaders into action. Rather than a spontaneous outburst, Parks' defiance was rooted in years of quiet resistance and strategic planning, setting the stage for a coordinated challenge to segregation.

Organization and Leadership What distinguished the Montgomery Bus Boycott from earlier protests was its disciplined organization and broad-based participation. Local civil rights groups, including the Montgomery Improvement Association, swiftly mobilized under the leadership of a young Baptist minister, Martin Luther King Jr. King's eloquence and moral vision provided a powerful unifying voice, while grassroots networks ensured that carpool systems, walking routes, and communication channels remained robust. Churches became central hubs for planning and solidarity, demonstrating how faith communities could serve as engines of social change. The boycott's success hinged on unity across economic, generational, and social lines, with African Americans—who made up the majority of bus riders—boycotting daily transit in a show of collective power.

Key Insights and Strategic Impact Beyond its immediate goal of desegregating Montgomery's buses, the boycott revealed critical insights about nonviolent resistance

and mass mobilization. The movement demonstrated that sustained, nonviolent protest could challenge entrenched systems of oppression when combined with clear demands, disciplined execution, and moral authority. The legal strategy culminated in *Browder v. Gayle*, a federal court case that ruled bus segregation unconstitutional—a landmark victory that set a precedent for future civil rights litigation. Equally important was the movement’s emphasis on economic leverage; by removing a significant portion of the transit system’s revenue, African Americans proved they could disrupt business as usual, forcing authorities to negotiate.

Broader Applications and Lasting Benefits The Montgomery Bus Boycott’s legacy extends far beyond the city limits of Alabama. It became a blueprint for civil rights activism across the United States, inspiring campaigns such as the Greensboro sit-ins, Freedom Rides, and the broader push for voting rights. The boycott demonstrated that ordinary citizens, when organized and committed, could challenge injustice at every level—legal, political, and social. It also elevated Martin Luther King Jr. as a national leader and solidified the philosophy of nonviolent direct action as a cornerstone of social reform. For African Americans, the boycott represented a powerful assertion of dignity, agency, and collective strength in the face of

dehumanizing oppression.

Future Outlook and Enduring Relevance Today, the Montgomery Bus Boycott remains a vital case study in the power of grassroots mobilization and strategic nonviolence. It reminds us that progress often begins with a single act of courage and grows through sustained, inclusive effort. In an era of renewed social justice movements, the boycott's principles—unity, resilience, moral clarity—continue to inspire activists worldwide. Its success underscores the enduring truth that systemic change is possible when people come together with purpose, discipline, and unwavering commitment to justice. The lessons from Montgomery endure, not only as a chapter in history but as a living guide for those striving to build a more equitable future.

Facts About the Montgomery Bus Boycott: A Cornerstone of the Civil Rights Movement

The Montgomery Bus Boycott, a pivotal event in American history, stands as a testament to the power of collective action and unwavering courage in the face of systemic injustice. For 381 long days, from December 5, 1955, to December 20, 1956, African Americans in Montgomery, Alabama, refused to ride segregated city buses. This nonviolent protest, sparked by the arrest of Rosa Parks, not only challenged the legality of bus

segregation but also ignited the broader Civil Rights Movement, inspiring a generation to demand equality and justice.

The Spark: Rosa Parks and the Arrest That Changed Everything
While often depicted as a spontaneous act of defiance, Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her seat to a white passenger on December 1, 1955, was the culmination of years of activism and deep-seated frustration. Parks, a seasoned NAACP secretary and lifelong advocate for civil rights, was not simply a tired seamstress. She was a trained activist who understood the profound implications of segregation and the necessity of challenging it. Her arrest, meticulously documented, provided the catalyst for organized resistance. This single act of bravery, a simple "no," echoed through the city and beyond, galvanizing a community ready to take a stand. The facts about Rosa Parks often highlight her deliberate choice and her role as a trained activist, moving beyond the popular narrative of a spontaneous act.

Organizing the Boycott: The Birth of the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA)

The immediate aftermath of Rosa Parks' arrest saw swift and effective organization. Community leaders, including ministers and activists, quickly convened to discuss a response. This led to the formation of the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA), an

organization dedicated to orchestrating and sustaining the boycott. The MIA elected a young, charismatic pastor, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as its president. His eloquent speeches and unwavering commitment to nonviolent resistance became the unifying voice of the movement. The early facts about the Montgomery Bus Boycott highlight the crucial role of community organizing and leadership.

The MIA's strategy was multifaceted. They not only called for the boycott but also established a sophisticated system to support it. This included organizing carpools, negotiating with city officials, and raising funds to sustain the participants. The sheer logistical feat of coordinating thousands of individuals to boycott daily bus rides for over a year is a remarkable feat of community mobilization.

The Tactics of Resistance: Nonviolence as a Powerful Weapon

A core tenet of the Montgomery Bus Boycott was its unwavering commitment to nonviolent protest. Inspired by the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi and championed by Dr. King, the boycotters endured insults, threats, and violence without retaliating. This strategy was not born out of passivity but out of a profound understanding of its moral and strategic power. By refusing to mirror the violence of their oppressors, the boycotters exposed the brutality of segregation to the nation and the world, garnering sympathy and support.

The facts about the Montgomery Bus Boycott regarding

nonviolence underscore its strategic brilliance. It disarmed opponents and highlighted the moral bankruptcy of segregationist policies. Media coverage of the peaceful protestors facing violent opposition played a significant role in shifting public opinion and pressuring federal intervention.

The Economic Impact: Crippling the Bus Company

The Montgomery Bus Boycott inflicted a significant economic blow to the Montgomery City Lines bus company. African Americans constituted the majority of the bus company's ridership, and their boycott directly impacted its revenue. The sustained financial pressure served as a potent weapon, demonstrating the economic power of the Black community and making the cost of maintaining segregation increasingly untenable.

Estimates suggest that the boycott cost the bus company millions of dollars in lost revenue over its duration. This economic leverage, coupled with the moral and legal challenges, was instrumental in pressuring city officials and the bus company to reconsider their segregationist policies. The facts about the Montgomery Bus Boycott's economic impact reveal the strategic thinking behind the protest.

The Legal Battle: From Local Courts to the Supreme Court

While the boycott exerted immense pressure, the legal dismantling of bus segregation was equally crucial. The MIA, with the support of legal organizations like the

NAACP, actively pursued legal challenges. A landmark lawsuit, *Browder v. Gayle*, was filed in federal court. This case challenged the constitutionality of bus segregation under the Fourteenth Amendment. In a groundbreaking decision in June 1956, a three-judge panel ruled that bus segregation was unconstitutional. Although the city appealed, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the lower court's ruling in November 1956. This legal victory, coupled with the ongoing boycott, officially ended bus segregation in Montgomery. The facts about the Montgomery Bus Boycott's legal victory highlight the symbiotic relationship between protest and legal challenges in achieving civil rights.

Key Figures and Their Contributions

Beyond Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr., numerous individuals played vital roles in the success of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Jo Ann Robinson, president of the Women's Political Council, was instrumental in distributing thousands of leaflets calling for the boycott on its first day. Reverend Ralph Abernathy, a close associate of Dr. King, was a key organizer and speaker. E.D. Nixon, president of the local NAACP chapter, was a driving force behind the legal challenges and financial support. The collective efforts of these and many other unsung heroes demonstrate that the boycott was a community-wide endeavor.

Understanding the facts about the Montgomery Bus Boycott requires acknowledging the contributions of a

diverse group of individuals, each bringing their unique skills and dedication to the cause.

The Legacy of the Boycott: A Catalyst for Change

The Montgomery Bus Boycott was far more than just a protest against bus segregation. It was a watershed moment that demonstrated the power of organized, nonviolent resistance. It propelled Martin Luther King Jr. onto the national stage and solidified his leadership within the Civil Rights Movement. The boycott inspired similar protests and actions across the South, leading to the desegregation of other public facilities and challenging the broader system of Jim Crow.

The boycott served as a crucial learning experience for the nascent Civil Rights Movement, refining strategies and building a network of activists. The facts about the Montgomery Bus Boycott's legacy extend far beyond the desegregation of buses; it laid the groundwork for future victories and inspired movements for social justice worldwide. It taught invaluable lessons about courage, perseverance, and the transformative potential of unified action.

LSI Keywords and Related Terms:

- 1. Montgomery bus segregation**
- 2. Rosa Parks arrest**
- 3. Martin Luther King Jr. Montgomery**
- 4. Civil Rights Movement beginnings**
- 5. Nonviolent protest history**

- 6. Desegregation of buses**
- 7. Browder v. Gayle**
- 8. Jim Crow laws impact**
- 9. African American activism**
- 10. History of Montgomery Alabama**
- 11. Women's Political Council Montgomery**
- 12. Jo Ann Robinson activism**
- 13. E.D. Nixon role**
- 14. Montgomery Improvement Association**
- 15. Supreme Court civil rights cases**
- 16. End of bus segregation**
- 17. Impact of boycotts on civil rights**

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Questions & Answers About facts about the montgomery bus boycott

No	Question	Answer
1	What sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott?	The arrest of Rosa Parks on December 1, 1955, for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger on a segregated bus, served as the immediate catalyst for the boycott.
2	Who were some of the key leaders of the Montgomery Bus Boycott?	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. emerged as a prominent leader, alongside figures like Ralph Abernathy, E.D. Nixon, and Jo Ann Robinson, who played crucial roles in organizing and sustaining the movement.
3	How long did the Montgomery Bus Boycott last?	The boycott lasted for 381 days, from December 5, 1955, to December 20, 1956, demonstrating remarkable resilience and commitment from the participants.

4	What was the primary goal of the Montgomery Bus Boycott?	The main objective was to desegregate Montgomery's public bus system, challenging the discriminatory practice of forcing Black passengers to sit in the back and give up their seats to white passengers.
5	What impact did the Montgomery Bus Boycott have on the Civil Rights Movement?	The boycott was a pivotal victory, proving the power of nonviolent mass protest and inspiring future civil rights campaigns. It brought national attention to the struggle for racial equality and propelled Dr. King to national leadership.
6	How did the Black community sustain the boycott for over a year?	The community organized carpools, used Black-owned taxis, and walked long distances. Churches served as organizing hubs, providing moral support and financial assistance for those affected.
7	What legal victory resulted from the Montgomery Bus Boycott?	The boycott concluded after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in <i>Browder v. Gayle</i> that bus segregation was unconstitutional. This landmark decision led to the desegregation of Montgomery's buses.

Montgomery Bus Boycott facts, history of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, key facts about the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Montgomery Bus Boycott timeline facts, Montgomery Bus Boycott impact facts, Montgomery Bus Boycott significance facts, facts about Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Montgomery Bus Boycott civil rights facts, important moments in the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Montgomery Bus Boycott facts summary

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