

Recommended Viewing: US Black and Civil Rights History

To find out where to borrow DVDs or stream films, check your local library and www.justwatch.com.

Documentary films

"13th" (2018) How US substituted mass incarceration and Jim Crow laws for slavery.

"Freedom Riders" (2010) Tells the story of the summer of 1961 when more than 400 Black and white Americans risked their lives traveling together in the segregated South to protest segregation.

"Eyes on the Prize" (1987-1990) 14-part series that chronicles the movement from 1954 through 1985.

"King: From Montgomery to Memphis" (1970) Presents key events in the life of civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. through major steps in his struggle to promote racial equality. Includes footage of King's stirring speeches. Narrated by numerous celebrities such as Harry Belafonte, Paul Newman and James Earl Jones.

"Freedom Summer" (2014) Describes the 10 weeks in 1964 when more than 700 student volunteers from around the country joined organizers and local African Americans to register voters in Mississippi.

"The Loving Story" (2012) Describes the ordeal of an interracial couple from Virginia, Richard and Mildred Loving, whose 1967 Supreme Court case overturned state anti-miscegenation laws.

"Simple Justice" (1993) examines the tortuous legal and political path that led the Supreme Court to overturn the "separate but equal" doctrine in its 1954 Brown v Board of Education ruling, also told through the stories of courageous lawyers and plaintiffs.

"Soundtrack for a Revolution" (2009) Traces the history of the civil rights movement through its music.

"Slavery by Another Name" (2012) A 90-minute documentary that challenges one of Americans' most cherished assumptions: the belief that slavery in this country ended with the Emancipation Proclamation. The film tells how even as chattel slavery came to an end in 1865, thousands of African Americans were pulled back into forced labor with shocking force and brutality.

Dramatizations

"Marshall" (2017) Chadwick Boseman as Thurgood Marshall, the first African-American Supreme Court Justice, battles through one of his career-defining cases.

"12 Years a Slave" (2013) Chiwetal Ejiofor stars in this epic story as Solomon Northup, a free black man from upstate New York, who is abducted and sold into slavery. Facing cruelty as well as unexpected kindnesses Solomon struggles not only to stay alive, but to retain his dignity. In the twelfth year of his unforgettable odyssey, Solomon's chance meeting with a Canadian abolitionist will forever alter his life.

Rosa Parks (2002) Angela Bassett stars in the story of the civil rights heroine whose refusal to obey racial bus segregation was just one of her acts in her fight for justice.

"Loving" (2016) The true story of Richard and Mildred Loving, an interracial couple, whose challenge of their anti-miscegenation arrest for their marriage in Virginia led to a legal battle that would end at the Supreme Court.

"Mississippi Burning" (1988) Two white FBI agents (played by Gene Hackman and Willem Dafoe) with very different styles arrive in Mississippi and face hostility from most local residents when they investigate the disappearance of three civil rights activists (based on a true story).

"Selma" (2014) A chronicle of Martin Luther King's campaign to secure equal voting rights via an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in 1965, focusing on his efforts to hold together the civil rights coalition and negotiate a working partnership with President Johnson.