
Handout 1: Andrew Young



Source: United States National Archives

Born in 1932 in New Orleans, Louisiana, Andrew Young was a leading figure in the Civil Rights movement. Like Martin Luther King Jr., with whom he shared a close friendship, Young was trained as a minister and became a follower of the teachings of nonviolence promoted by the Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi.

Young was an important figure in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which led many of the most important protests of the Civil Rights era. Like many other leaders of the Civil Rights movement, Young spent time in jail, and was with King when he was assassinated on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee.

Young was later elected to represent a district in Georgia in the United States House of Representatives, and was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to be the United States representative to the United Nations in 1977. In 1981, he was elected mayor of Atlanta, Georgia. In the years since, he has been active on behalf of many other political and social causes.