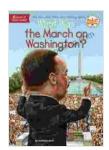
What Was the March on Washington? Its History, Significance, and Impact



What Was the March on Washington? (What Was?)

by Kathleen Krull

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The March on Washington was a pivotal moment in the civil rights movement in the United States. Held on August 28, 1963, the march brought together over 200,000 people from all over the country to demand equal rights for African Americans.

The march was organized by a coalition of civil rights groups, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). The march was led by Martin Luther King Jr., who delivered his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

The March on Washington was a watershed moment in the civil rights movement. It helped to raise awareness of the plight of African Americans

and to build support for the cause of civil rights. The march also helped to galvanize the movement and to lead to the passage of landmark legislation, such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The History of the March on Washington

The March on Washington was the culmination of years of activism and organizing by the civil rights movement. In the years leading up to the march, civil rights activists had been working to desegregate schools, buses, and other public facilities. They had also been working to register African American voters and to challenge discriminatory laws and practices.

In 1963, the civil rights movement was at a crossroads. The Kennedy administration had introduced a comprehensive civil rights bill in Congress, but the bill was facing stiff opposition from Southern lawmakers. Civil rights leaders decided to organize a march on Washington to put pressure on Congress to pass the bill.

The march was planned for August 28, 1963, the 100th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. Civil rights leaders hoped to bring together a massive crowd of people to demonstrate the strength and determination of the movement.

The March on Washington

On August 28, 1963, over 200,000 people gathered in Washington, D.C., for the March on Washington. The marchers came from all over the country, and they represented a wide range of backgrounds and experiences.

The march began at the Washington Monument and proceeded down the Mall to the Lincoln Memorial. Along the way, the marchers sang freedom songs and chanted slogans such as "We Shall Overcome" and "Freedom Now!"

At the Lincoln Memorial, Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech. In his speech, King called for an end to racism and discrimination and for the creation of a more just and equitable society.

The March on Washington was a powerful and moving event. It helped to raise awareness of the plight of African Americans and to build support for the cause of civil rights. The march also helped to galvanize the movement and to lead to the passage of landmark legislation, such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The Significance of the March on Washington

The March on Washington was a watershed moment in the civil rights movement. It was the largest civil rights demonstration in American history, and it helped to bring about major changes in the country.

The march helped to raise awareness of the plight of African Americans. It showed the world that African Americans were tired of being treated as second-class citizens and that they were determined to fight for their rights.

The march also helped to build support for the cause of civil rights. It showed that there were millions of Americans who were willing to stand up for justice and equality. This support helped to create a climate for change and to make it possible for Congress to pass landmark civil rights legislation.

The March on Washington was a turning point in the civil rights movement. It helped to create a new sense of hope and possibility and to inspire a generation of activists to fight for justice.

The Impact of the March on Washington

The March on Washington had a profound impact on the civil rights movement and on American society as a whole.

The march helped to lead to the passage of landmark civil rights legislation, such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. These laws outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

The march also helped to change public opinion about civil rights. It showed that the majority of Americans supported the cause of civil rights and that they were willing to fight for equality.

The March on Washington was a turning point in American history. It helped to create a more just and equitable society and to inspire a generation of activists to fight for justice.

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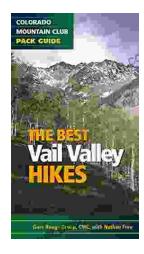
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