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Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. He was an American activist who became the most visible spokesperson in the Civil Rights Movement from 1955 until his assassination on April 4, 1968. The Civil Rights Movement prohibited discrimination concerning the sale, rental, and financing based on race, religion, national origin, and since 1974, sex. It is because Martin Luther King Jr. and his supporters that America came to understand the power of nonviolent protest. He also played a major part in the passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 and the Voting Rights Act which protects African Americans' right to vote. Martin Luther King Jr. stood up for what he believed in with many speeches, protests, and his famous "I Have A Dream" speech and called for civil and economic rights and to end racism in the United States. He was a hero for doing this because he not only spoke up against racism but risked his life by getting assassinated for it.