

# February is Black History Month



2013 Theme:

At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality:

The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) chose this theme to celebrate the anniversary of two important African American turning points, the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation and the 1963 March on Washington. Read more at ASALH website: [www.asalh.org/index.html](http://www.asalh.org/index.html).



President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, as the nation approached its third year of bloody civil war. The proclamation declared "that all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are, and henceforward shall be free."

#### RESOURCES:

National Archives & Records Administration:  
[http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured\\_documents/emancipation\\_proclamation/](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured_documents/emancipation_proclamation/)



Bayard Rustin (left) and Cleveland Robinson (right), organizers of the March, on August 7, 1963.

The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom took place in Washington, D.C., on August 28, 1963. The march is widely credited with helping to pass the Civil Rights Act (1964) and the Voting Rights Act (1965). Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his historic "I Have a Dream" speech advocating racial harmony during the march.

