Obama's second inauguration was a lower-key affair as compared to the first inaguarion. For one thing, the president's oath of office was taken in a private Sunday ceremony, before Monday's festivities. But overall, the event was less lavish than it was four years ago. The Second Obama Presidential Inaguaration coincided with Martin Luther King's Official National Holiday on Monday January 21, 2013. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr (January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968) was an American clergyman, activist, and prominent leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement. He is best known for being an iconic figure in the advancement of civil rights in the United States and around the world, using nonviolent methods following the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. King is often presented as a heroic leader in the history of modern American liberalism.

A Detail of the Memorial to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. at the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

"I Have a Dream" is a 17-minute public speech by Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered on August 28, 1963, in which he called for racial equality and an end to discrimination.

President Obama called for equality for gay and lesbian Americans in his inaugural address: Our journey is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law – for if we are truly created equal, then surely the love we commit to one another must be equal as well. He also referenced the Stonewall riots with other civil rights battles, tying it into the legacy of MLK Jr.: We, the people, declare today that the most evident of truths – that all of us are created equal – is the star that guides us still; just as it guided our forebears through Seneca Falls, and Selma, and Stonewall; just as it guided all those men and women, sung and

unsung, who left footprints along this great Mall, to hear a preacher say that we cannot walk alone; to hear a King proclaim that our individual freedom is inextricably bound to the freedom of every soul on Earth. This was the first use of the word "gay" ever by a President in an inaugural address.

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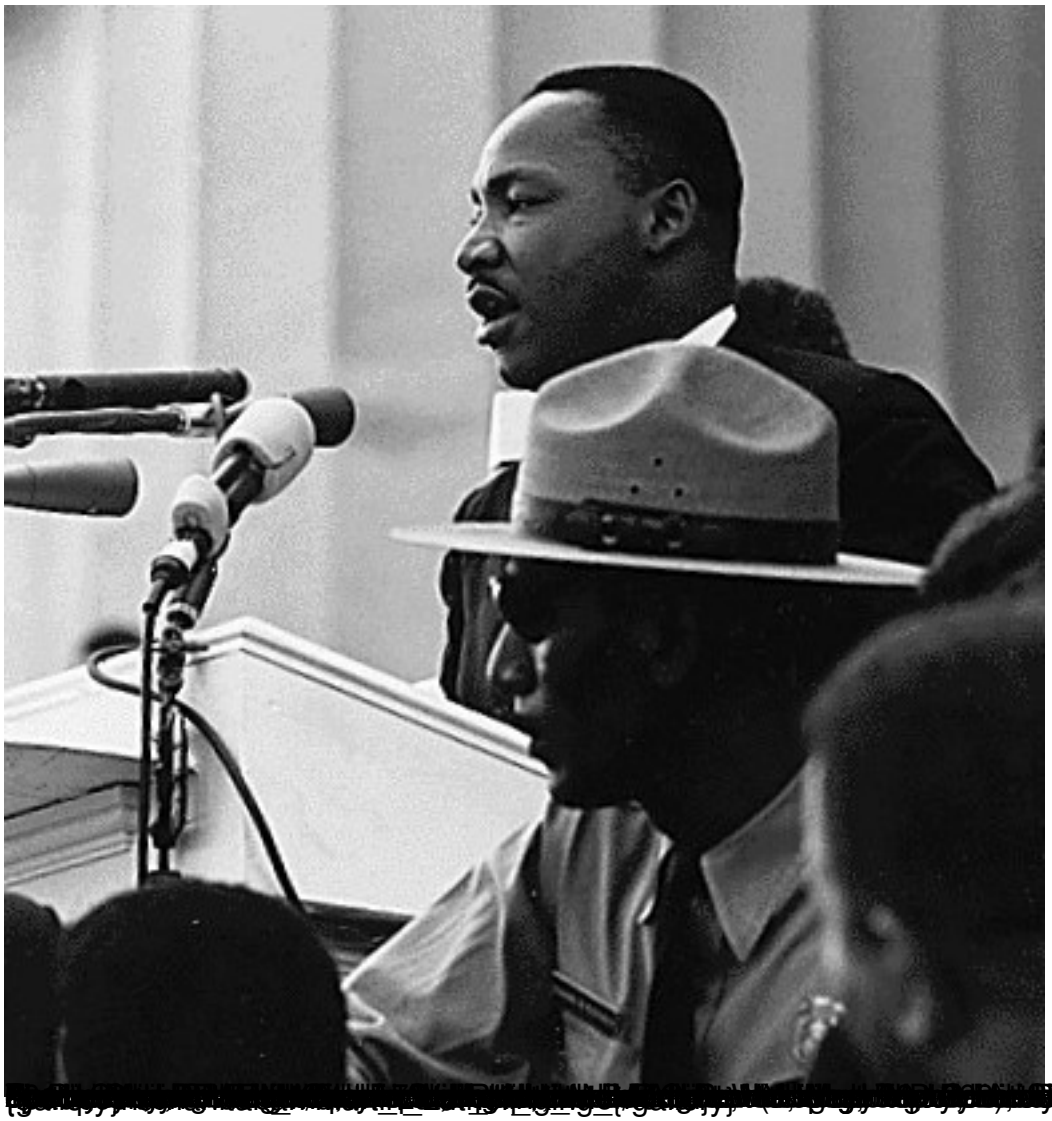
The speech, from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, was a defining moment of the American Civil Rights Movement. Delivered to over 200,000 civil rights supporters, the speech was ranked the top American speech of the 20th century by a 1999 poll of scholars of public address.