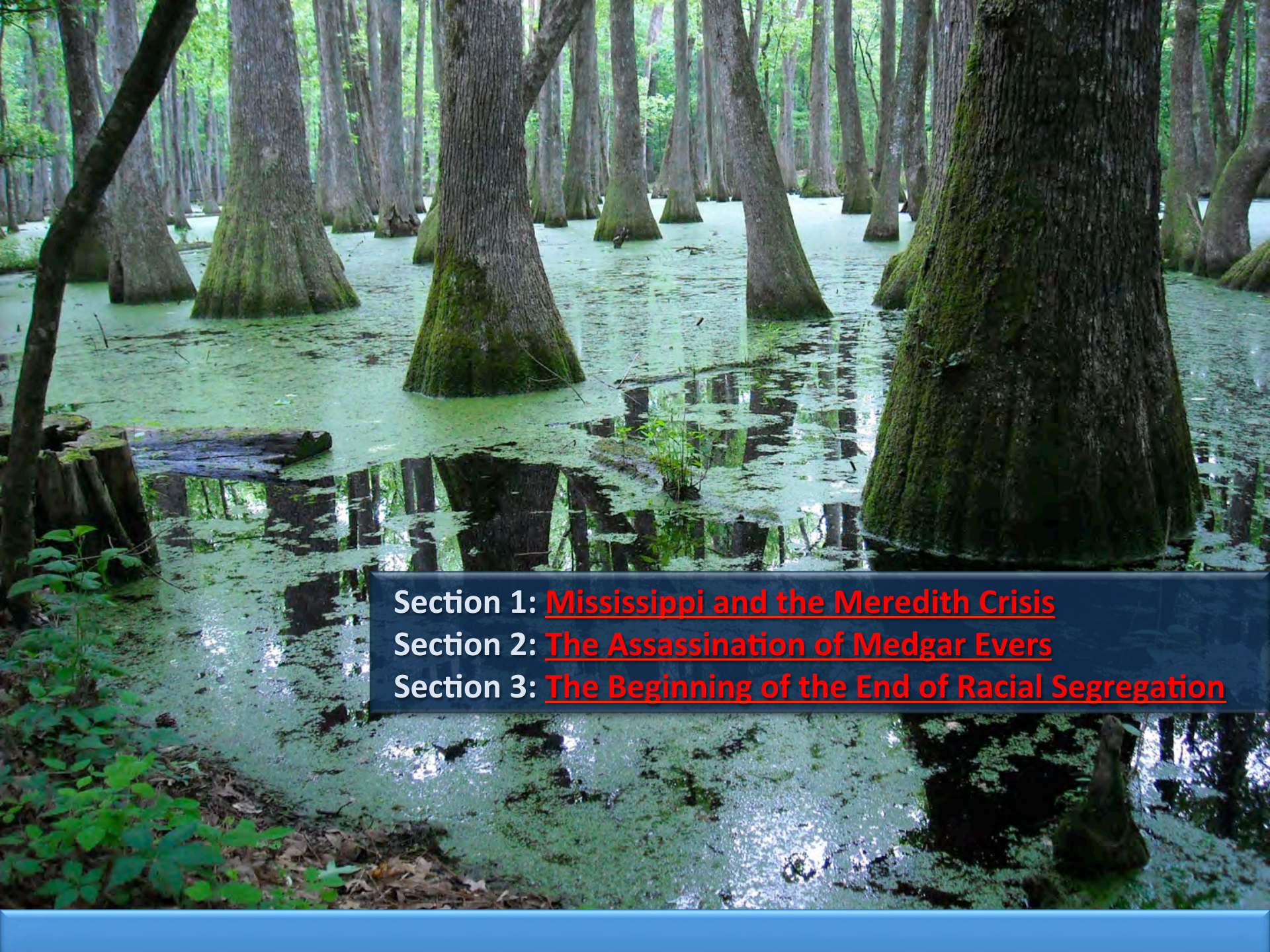


The image shows the Mississippi State Capitol building, a grand neoclassical structure with a prominent dome topped by a golden eagle. The building features a portico with tall columns and a pediment with a relief sculpture. The scene is set against a clear blue sky with some green foliage in the foreground.

A Place Called Mississippi

Chapter 10: The Civil Rights Movement, 1960-1971
STUDY PRESENTATION



Section 1: [Mississippi and the Meredith Crisis](#)

Section 2: [The Assassination of Medgar Evers](#)

Section 3: [The Beginning of the End of Racial Segregation](#)

Section 1: Mississippi and the Meredith Crisis

- Essential Question: What challenges faced black Mississippians as they worked to end segregation?



Section 1: Mississippi and the Meredith Crisis

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- Navy V-12 Program
- College Board
- demonstration
- federal marshal
- tear gas



Origins of the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi

- The Civil Rights movement in Mississippi began on July 2, 1946 when Medgar Evers led a small group of World War II veterans to the courthouse to vote in the first election after the war.
- A group of armed white men chased them away from the polls.
- Senator Theodore G. Bilbo recommended “visiting blacks the night before” the polls opened to discourage them from voting.
- Young African Americans believed college was the way to obtain the American dream.
- They were fiercely determined to reach this goal.
- College students played a major role in the Civil Rights Movement.



Administration of Ross R. Barnett, 1960- 1964

- In 1959, Ross Barnett, who promised to keep Mississippi segregated, was elected governor.
- He enacted two amendments during his third term in office to keep blacks from voting.
- The first allowed the governor to halt any school in the state that wished to integrate. He could close down all of the schools if that's what he wanted.
- The other was vague. It said people of "good moral character" were the only ones that could vote. Clerks were to use this to turn blacks away from the polls.



Presidential Election of 1960

- In the same year, Barnett ratified the two amendments to the Mississippi constitution, John F. Kennedy was elected president.
- After that, James Howard Meredith enrolled at Jackson State University.
- His goal was to eventually attend the University of Mississippi.



Early Attempts to Integrate Colleges and Universities

- Meredith was the first African American student admitted to a white college in Mississippi.
- He was the first to break the color barrier, but he was not the first one to try.



Early Attempts to Integrate Colleges and Universities: Harry S. Murphy

- During World War II, Harry S. Murphy attended school at Ole Miss under the V-12 Program with the Navy.
- This program allowed young officers to go to college so that they could become commissioned officers.
- His military information incorrectly recognized him as Caucasian, so his tenure was without incident.



Early Attempts to Integrate Colleges and Universities: Charles Dubra

- Charles Dubra, a black minister, applied to Ole Miss Law School.
- He already had two other degrees.
- Dubra told the dean he didn't want any trouble or publicity from his application to the University and that he would live off campus in a black neighborhood.
- After Dubra's application passed through many powerful hands, the dean eventually handed the application over to the college board.
- Dean Farley recommended that Dubra be admitted, but the Board of Trustees rejected his application.



Early Attempts to Integrate Colleges and Universities: Medgar Evers's Application to Ole Miss

- Medgar Evers applied to Ole Miss a few months after Charles Dubra. He was rejected because in 1954 two letters of recommendation from alumni were required with the application.
- The board was surprised that he had gotten the letters, so they changed the requirements. Evers was employed by the National Association for the Advancement for Colored People (NAACP).
- While he was getting the next two letters, the college board changed the number of required letters to five.
- During this time, he was offered the position of state field secretary for the NAACP. Evers abandoned admission to Ole Miss and accepted the position.



Early Attempts to Integrate Colleges and Universities: Professor Clennon King's Application to Ole Miss

- Professor Clennon King believed the College Board would find something “wrong” with his application and deny him on a technicality, so he decided to go to Oxford and make a personal application.
- The governor was informed that King was going to give his application in person. He realized he would need to prevent any violence that might occur when King tried to apply, so he sent a highway patrolman to Oxford.
- King was escorted to a room at the Lyceum and left for several hours.
- He believed he was in physical danger, so he began shouting for help.
- The Governor termed him mentally unstable and sent him to a hospital. He left the state after he was released.



Early Attempts to Integrate Colleges and Universities: Clyde Kennard and the University of Southern Mississippi

- Clyde Kennard was discharged as a U.S. Army sergeant in 1952, and he applied to the University of Southern Mississippi in 1959.
- After he applied, his poultry farm was foreclosed and his car insurance was cancelled. The local bank refused to release his bank records.
- A \$25 bag of chicken feed was stolen from the Forest County Cooperative. A young black man admitted to stealing it and said he sold it to Kennard. Kennard was sentenced to seven years in prison.
- He was released early from his sentence when he developed cancer. He died in July 1963.
- In December 2005, Johnny Roberts admitted that his testimony had been fabricated and that he was pressured into framing Kennard.



The Meredith Crisis

- On March 27, 1961, a group of Jackson State University students were demonstrating because another group of black students had been jailed for trying to use the Jackson public library.
- James Howard Meredith was enrolled at Jackson State at the time.
- In May of 1961, he filed a lawsuit in federal court to seek admission at the University of Mississippi.



The Meredith Crisis:

James Meredith's Master Plan

- Born in 1933, Meredith moved to Florida when he was 16.
- After graduating high school, he returned to Mississippi and attended Jackson State University. Meredith sought admission to Ole Miss because he believed breaking the color barrier was extremely important.
- When his application was denied, he filed suit, claiming he had been rejected solely on the basis of race.
- For months, his case was in federal court. Eventually, the campus was ordered to allow him to register as an undergraduate student.
- The governor of Mississippi, Ross Barnett, refused to accept the decision. Twice, he physically refused Meredith entry. He even promised the people of Mississippi that he would close the school if needed to prevent integration.



The Meredith Crisis:

The Graduation of James Meredith

- Mississippi officials had reached the legal limits of resistance.
- The black community was strongly united behind him. The white community's fervor for resistance was waning fast.
- Many leaders realized that if the resistance continued, widespread violence could break out. The governor was charged with contempt of court for blocking Meredith.
- Large numbers of students and non-students were gathered when Meredith checked into his dorm on September 30, 1962.
- Federal marshals guarded Meredith in his dormitory that night.
- On the night he arrived at the school, a riot broke out. Federal marshals, the National Guard, and eventually, U.S. Troops had to be called in to stop it.
- Meredith is still an active alumnus at the University.



Section 2: The Assassination of Medgar Evers

- Essential Question: What effect did the assassination of Medgar Evers have on integration in Mississippi?



Section 2: The Assassination of Medgar Evers

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- sit-in
- boycott
- hung jury
- mistrial



Section 2: The Assassination of Medgar Evers

- While Meredith was at the University of Mississippi, Evers was organizing peaceful protests in Jackson.
- Evers announced he and other young blacks would use every legal method possible to produce racial and social justice in Mississippi.
- He became the face of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement.



Assassination and Arrest

- Three weeks after his announcement, Evers was shot to death on June 12, 1963.
- Jackson police and FBI officials managed to trace the gun to Byron De Le Beckwith. He was arrested 10 days after the shooting.
- Beckwith was vain. He handed out pictures that he wanted reporters to use in the newspapers.
- He had a strong desire to be quoted and discussed in the media.



***The Clarion-Ledger* of Jackson**

- *The Clarion-Ledger* newspaper was vehemently hostile to any social changes in Mississippi.
- One columnist for the *Ledger* believed blacks had murdered Evers as a martyr for the cause.
- Mississippi and *The Clarion-Ledger* are both very different today.
- An African-American, Ronnie Agnew served as its editor from 2002 to 2011.



Beckwith's Racial Theories

- While he was awaiting trial, Beckwith wrote letters detailing his racial theories.
- These letters were used as evidence of his racist tendencies in court.



Beckwith's First Two Trials

- January-February 1964: Beckwith's first trial was held; the jury was unable to agree on a verdict.
- April 1964: Beckwith's second trial also ended in a hung jury.
- Circuit Judge Leon Hendrick declared a mistrial and dismissed Beckwith on a \$10,000 bond.
- One attorney present at the trials said "I think it never occurred to Beckwith that he would be found guilty..."
- District Attorney Bill Waller was determined to serve justice to Beckwith.



The Conviction of Byron De La Beckwith

- In October of 1989, a journalist for *The Clarion-Ledger* reported that the state may have influenced some of the jurors in the second trial.
- Myrlie Evers called for a new trial.
- The Hinds County District Attorney and the Assistant District Attorney went in search of new evidence that could bring about a retrial.
- Beckwith had been bragging about the murder for over 20 years.
- The new jury found Beckwith guilty and sentenced him to life in prison.



Section 3: The Beginning of the End of Racial Segregation

- Essential Question: How were Mississippians able to bring about the end of racial segregation?



Section 3: The Beginning of the End of Racial Segregation

- What terms do I need to know?
 - Council of Federated Organizations (COFO)
 - Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)
 - Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)
 - Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)
 - Freedom Schools
 - Freedom Democratic Party
 - loyalists
 - regulars
 - firebomb



Administration of Paul B. Johnson Jr., 1964- 1968

- The 1963 governor's election was the first time since Reconstruction that a Republican had made significant progress in Mississippi.
- It was discovered that the number of Republicans in Mississippi was more than people expected.



Administration of Paul B. Johnson Jr., 1964- 1968: Governor Johnson's Inaugural Address

- Johnson declared that “hate, prejudice, and ignorance [would] not lead Mississippi.”
- He won high praise for this remark in his inaugural address.
- He lead a positive and fruitful administration that allowed Mississippians to get used to new race relations.



Administration of Paul B. Johnson Jr., 1964- 1968: Balance of Agriculture with Industry Achieved

- In a ceremony in 1965, Governor Paul Johnson announced the state's effort to balance agriculture and industry had been achieved.



The Long Hot Summer of 1964

- Civil rights activity skyrocketed during the summer of 1964.
- Hundreds of college students from across the nation came to Mississippi to conduct Freedom Schools and voter registration drives to encourage blacks to exercise their rights as citizens.
- Some newspapers wrote that the “hippies” (northern students) were only in Mississippi to make trouble.
- The KKK reformed and violence broke out.
- There were 3 murders, 88 beatings, 35 shootings, and 1,000 arrests during this summer.
- 35 churches were burned; 31 other buildings were bombed also.
- The students and blacks launched a new force in politics despite this devastation.



The Long Hot Summer of 1964: The Philadelphia Murders

- Three students working with the COFO went to investigate the rumors that a church had been burned in Philadelphia.
- They were arrested and released later that night.
- While they were driving home, they were overtaken by the KKK who murdered them.
- When Mississippi refused to bring charges against the Klansmen, the federal government took over and filed charges against 18 suspects.
- Seventeen of them were found guilty.



The Long Hot Summer of 1964: Freedom Democratic Party

- In 1964, a group of civil rights leaders established the Freedom Democratic Party (loyalists).
- The party declared that the regular Mississippi Democrats (regulars) were not loyal to the national party.
- It was eventually decided on national television that both factions would represent Mississippi at the national convention.
- The regulars rejected this and left the convention.
- They were eventually forced to accept blacks into the party.
- When Bill Waller was elected governor in 1971, the two parties were merged indefinitely.



The Long Hot Summer of 1964: Fannie Lou Hamer (1917-1977)

- Hamer became famous because of the National Democratic Party Convention of 1964.
- She testified to the credentials committee that she was a good choice for congress by telling them about her life and family.
- She ran for U.S. Congress in 1964 on the Freedom Democratic Party ticket, but lost.
- She won the fondness of the thousands of Americans who had fought for racial equality.
- She spoke at many rallies and was best known for saying: “I’m sick and tired of being sick and tired.”
- She was one of the most loved civil rights activists in America in 1977.



Civil Rights Legislation

- Congress passed several laws in 1964 and 1965 that were major racial reforms.
- These laws made discrimination illegal in voting, hiring, housing, and in public places (restaurants, motels, pools, and parks).
- Governor Johnson told Mississippians that the law would be enforced, whether they liked it or not.

Civil Rights Act of 1964

Prohibited discrimination based on race, religion, national origin, and gender in public facilities (restaurants, hotels, theaters, public recreational areas, schools, and libraries) and in employment; set up the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)

Voting Rights Act of 1965

Outlawed literacy tests and poll taxes; identified counties in the South known to have kept blacks from registering to vote and sent registrars into southern states to register black voters



The Firebombing of Vernon Dahmer's Home

- In January 1966, a group of KKK members firebombed the home of Vernon Dahmer.
- His children and wife escaped, but Dahmer was shot multiple times and died the next day.
- Businesses and individuals helped Mrs. Dahmer rebuild their home.
- Several KKK members were caught and convicted, but Sam Bowers, who was tried 4 times, had 4 mistrials.
- Jerry Mitchell of *The Clarion-Ledger* was at it again, and in 1998, new evidence that he discovered helped to find Bowers guilty of murder.
- He was sentenced to life in prison and died on November 5, 2006.



The Election of 1967

- Congressman John Bell Williams was stripped of his seniority by the Democratic Party because he supported a Republican in the 1964 presidential campaign.
- The congressman resigned and came to Mississippi where he was elected governor.



Robert G. Clark of Ebenezer

- In 1967, 22 blacks were elected to public office.
- Robert G. Clark became the first black man in the state legislature since 1894.
- He was a teacher with two degrees and was a major player in the Education Reform Act of 1982.
- He received many honors for his dedication to education.



Administration of John Bell Williams, 1968-1972

- Governor Williams was known for his encouragement of states' rights and segregation.
- Under his administration, the largest integration in Mississippi history took place.
- Public schools were consolidated by 1970.
- Many whites enrolled in private schools during this time.
- Although Williams was not happy about the federally mandated integration, he did not get in the way of it.
- Most whites also accepted the desegregation of the school system.



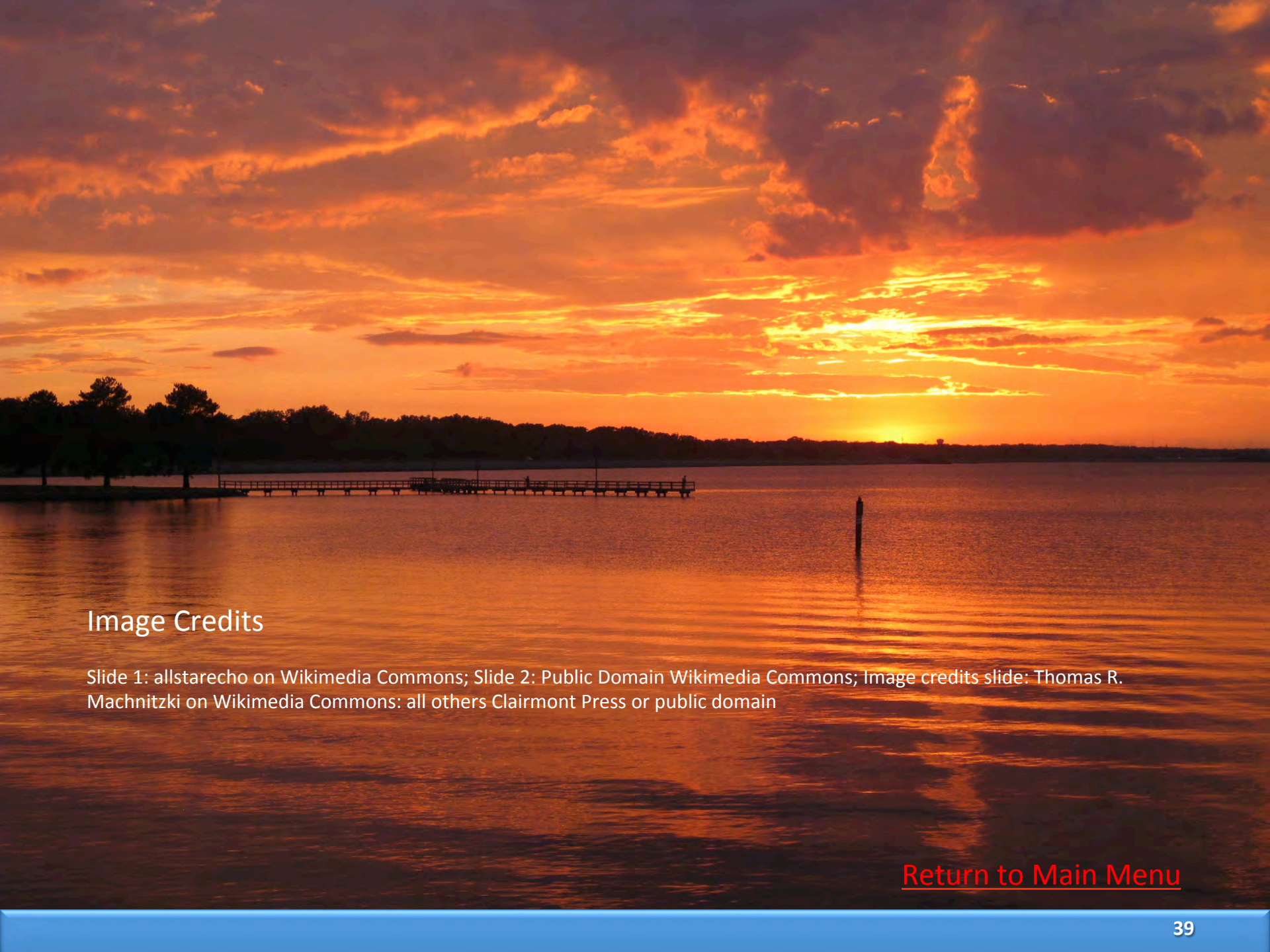


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