

**Impact of the Civil Rights Movement on American Policies, Laws and Procedures
Document 1-4**

Song Lyrics for We Shall Overcome¹

Lyrics derived from Charles Tindley's gospel song "I'll Overcome Some Day" (1900), and opening and closing melody from the 19th-century spiritual "No More Auction Block for Me" (a song that dates to before the Civil War). According to Professor Donnell King of Pellissippi State Technical Community College (in Knoxville, Tenn.), "We Shall Overcome" was adapted from these gospel songs by "Guy Carawan, Candy Carawan, and a couple of other people associated with the Highlander Research and Education Center, currently located near Knoxville, Tennessee. Royalties from the song go to support the Highlander Center."

We shall overcome
We shall overcome
We shall overcome some day

We are not alone
We are not alone
We are not alone some day

CHORUS:

Oh, deep in my heart
I do believe
We shall overcome some day

CHORUS

The whole wide world around
The whole wide world around
The whole wide world around some day

We'll walk hand in hand
We'll walk hand in hand
We'll walk hand in hand some day

CHORUS

We shall overcome
We shall overcome
We shall overcome some day

CHORUS

We shall all be free
We shall all be free
We shall all be free some day

CHORUS

We are not afraid
We are not afraid
We are not afraid some day

CHORUS

¹ Eileen Southern, *The Music of Black Americans: A History*, Second Edition (Norton, 1971): 546-47, 159-60.