

### 1: 10 "Must Watch" Black History Documentaries | PBS

*Black History Month. Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of blacks in U.S. history.*

Visit Website Did you know? She was elected in 1789, and represented the state of New York. After the American Revolution, many colonists particularly in the North, where slavery was relatively unimportant to the economy began to link the oppression of black slaves to their own oppression by the British. Many northern states had abolished slavery by the end of the 18th century, but the institution was absolutely vital to the South, where blacks constituted a large minority of the population and the economy relied on the production of crops like tobacco and cotton. Congress outlawed the import of new slaves in 1808, but the slave population in the U. The soil used to grow tobacco, then the leading cash crop, was exhausted, while products such as rice and indigo failed to generate much profit. As a result, the price of slaves was dropping, and the continued growth of slavery seemed in doubt. Around the same time, the mechanization of spinning and weaving had revolutionized the textile industry in England, and the demand for American cotton soon became insatiable. Production was limited, however, by the laborious process of removing the seeds from raw cotton fibers, which had to be completed by hand. In 1793, a young Yankee schoolteacher named Eli Whitney came up with a solution to the problem: The cotton gin, a simple mechanized device that efficiently removed the seeds, could be hand-powered or, on a large scale, harnessed to a horse or powered by water. The cotton gin was widely copied, and within a few years the South would transition from a dependence on the cultivation of tobacco to that of cotton. As the growth of the cotton industry led inexorably to an increased demand for black slaves, the prospect of slave rebellion—such as the one that triumphed in Haiti in 1791—drove slaveholders to make increased efforts to protect their property rights. Also in 1850, Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Act, which made it a federal crime to assist a slave trying to escape. Though it was difficult to enforce from state to state, especially with the growth of abolitionist feeling in the North, the law helped enshrine and legitimize slavery as an enduring American institution. Born on a small plantation in Southampton County, Virginia, Turner inherited a passionate hatred of slavery from his African-born mother and came to see himself as anointed by God to lead his people out of bondage. In early 1831, Turner took a solar eclipse as a sign that the time for revolution was near, and on the night of August 21, he and a small band of followers murdered his owners, the Travis family, and set off toward the town of Jerusalem, where they planned to capture an armory and gather more recruits. The group, which eventually numbered around 75 blacks, murdered some 60 whites in two days before armed resistance from local whites and the arrival of state militia forces overwhelmed them just outside Jerusalem. Some slaves, including innocent bystanders, lost their lives in the struggle. Turner escaped and spent six weeks on the lam before he was captured, tried and hanged. Oft-exaggerated reports of the insurrection—some said that hundreds of whites had been killed—sparked a wave of anxiety across the South. Several states called special emergency sessions of the legislature, and most strengthened their slave codes in order to limit the education, movement and assembly of slaves. While supporters of slavery pointed to the Turner rebellion as evidence that blacks were inherently inferior barbarians requiring an institution such as slavery to discipline them, the increased repression of southern blacks would strengthen anti-slavery feeling in the North through the 1840s and intensify the regional tensions building toward civil war. Though the lofty ideals of the Revolutionary era invigorated the movement, by the late 1840s it was in decline, as the growing southern cotton industry made slavery an ever more vital part of the national economy. Antislavery northerners—many of them free blacks—had begun helping fugitive slaves escape from southern plantations to the North via a loose network of safe houses as early as the 1790s. Known as the Underground Railroad, the organization gained real momentum in the 1830s and eventually helped anywhere from 40,000 to 100,000 slaves reach freedom. On numerous risky trips south, she helped some other slaves escape before serving as a scout and spy for Union forces in South Carolina during the Civil War. Supreme Court handed down its decision in *Scott v. Sandford*, delivering a resounding victory to southern supporters of slavery and arousing the ire of northern abolitionists. During the 1850s, the owner of a slave named Dred Scott had taken him from the slave state

of Missouri to the Wisconsin territory and Illinois, where slavery was outlawed, according to the terms of the Missouri Compromise of 1820. Upon his return to Missouri, Scott sued for his freedom on the basis that his temporary removal to free soil had made him legally free. Taney and the majority eventually ruled that Scott was a slave and not a citizen, and thus had no legal rights to sue. According to the Court, Congress had no constitutional power to deprive persons of their property rights when dealing with slaves in the territories. The verdict effectively declared the Missouri Compromise unconstitutional, ruling that all territories were open to slavery and could exclude it only when they became states. While much of the South rejoiced, seeing the verdict as a clear victory for the slave system, antislavery northerners were furious. One of the most prominent abolitionists, Frederick Douglass, was cautiously optimistic, however, wisely predicting that "This very attempt to blot out forever the hopes of an enslaved people may be one necessary link in the chain of events preparatory to the complete overthrow of the whole slave system. After assisting in the Underground Railroad out of Missouri and engaging in the bloody struggle between pro- and anti-slavery forces in Kansas in the 1850s, Brown grew anxious to strike a more extreme blow for the cause. John Brown was hanged on December 2, 1859; his trial riveted the nation, and he emerged as an eloquent voice against the injustice of slavery and a martyr to the abolitionist cause. Only the election of the anti-slavery Republican Abraham Lincoln as president in 1860 remained before the southern states would begin severing ties with the Union, sparking the bloodiest conflict in American history. Civil War and emancipation, In the spring of 1861, the bitter sectional conflicts that had been intensifying between North and South over the course of four decades erupted into civil war, with 11 southern states seceding from the Union and forming the Confederate States of America. Lincoln sought first and foremost to preserve the Union, and he knew that few people even in the North "let alone the border slave states still loyal to Washington" would have supported a war against slavery in 1861. By the summer of 1862, however, Lincoln had come to believe he could not avoid the slavery question much longer. By freeing some 3 million black slaves in the rebel states, the Emancipation Proclamation deprived the Confederacy of the bulk of its labor forces and put international public opinion strongly on the Union side. Some 180,000 black soldiers would join the Union Army by the time the war ended in 1865, and 38,000 lost their lives. The Post-Slavery South, Though the Union victory in the Civil War gave some 4 million slaves their freedom, significant challenges awaited during the Reconstruction period. Their growing influence greatly dismayed many white southerners, who felt control slipping ever further away from them. The white protective societies that arose during this period "the largest of which was the Ku Klux Klan KKK" sought to disenfranchise blacks by using voter fraud and intimidation as well as more extreme violence. By 1877, when the last federal soldiers left the South and Reconstruction drew to a close, blacks had seen dishearteningly little improvement in their economic and social status, and what political gains they had made had been wiped away by the vigorous efforts of white supremacist forces throughout the region. On May 18, 1896, the U. Supreme Court issued its verdict in Plessy vs. Ferguson. By an 8-1 majority, the Court upheld a Louisiana law that required the segregation of passengers on railroad cars. Many blacks looked to Booker T. Washington, the author of the bestselling *Up From Slavery*, as an inspiration. By 1900, peanuts had become the second cash crop in the South. Like Washington, Carver had little interest in racial politics, and was celebrated by many white Americans as a shining example of a modest, industrious black man. While Washington and Carver represented a philosophy of accommodation to white supremacy, another prominent black educator, the Harvard-trained historian and sociologist W. Du Bois, became a leading voice in the growing black protest movement during the first half of the 20th century. Du Bois met at Niagara Falls, Canada, sparking a new political protest movement to demand civil rights for blacks, in the old spirit of abolitionism. A wave of race riots "particularly one in Springfield, Illinois in 1892" lent a sense of urgency to the Niagara Movement and its supporters, who in 1909 joined their agenda with that of a new permanent civil rights organization, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People NAACP. One of its earliest programs was a crusade against lynching and other lawless acts; those efforts "including a nationwide protest of 1901" D. Garvey appealed to the racial pride of African Americans, exalting blackness as strong and beautiful. Their only hope, according to him, was to flee America and return to Africa to build a country of their own. After an unsuccessful appeal to the League of Nations to settle a colony in Africa and failed negotiations with Liberia, Garvey announced the formation of the Empire of Africa

in , with himself as provisional president. Other African-American leaders, notably W. In , the U. After serving a two-year jail sentence, Garvey was pardoned by President Calvin Coolidge and immediately deported; he died in London in Harlem Renaissance, In the s, the great migration of blacks from the rural South to the urban North sparked an African-American cultural renaissance that took its name from the New York City neighborhood of Harlem but became a widespread movement in cities throughout the North and West. Also known as the Black Renaissance or the New Negro Movement, the Harlem Renaissance marked the first time that mainstream publishers and critics turned their attention seriously to African-American literature, music, art and politics. There was a flip side to this greater exposure, however: Its influence had stretched around the world, opening the doors of mainstream culture to black artists and writers. More than 3 million blacks would register for service during the war, with some , seeing action overseas. According to War Department policy, enlisted blacks and whites were organized into separate units. Frustrated black servicemen were forced to combat racism even as they sought to further U. West Virginia , carried wounded crewmembers to safety and manned a machine gun post, shooting down several Japanese planes. In the spring of , graduates of the first all-black military aviation program, created at the Tuskegee Institute in , headed to North Africa as the 99th Pursuit Squadron. Their commander, Captain Benjamin O. The Tuskegee Airmen saw combat against German and Italian troops, flew more than 3, missions, and served as a great source of pride for many blacks in America. Aside from celebrated accomplishments like these, overall gains were slow, and maintaining high morale among black forces was difficult due to the continued discrimination they faced. In July , President Harry S. Truman finally integrated the U. Army he earned an honorable discharge after facing a court-martial for refusing to move to the back of a segregated bus. His play caught the attention of Branch Rickey, general manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers, who had been considering bringing an end to segregation in baseball. Rickey signed Robinson to a Dodgers farm team that same year and two years later moved him up, making Robinson the first African-American player to play on a major league team. Robinson played his first game with the Dodgers on April 15, ; he led the National League in stolen bases that season, earning Rookie of the Year honors. Over the next nine years, Robinson compiled a. Despite his success on the field, however, he encountered hostility from both fans and other players. Members of the St. Louis Cardinals even threatened to strike if Robinson played; baseball commissioner Ford Frick settled the question by threatening to suspend any player who went on strike. His groundbreaking achievement transcended sports, however: As soon as he signed the contract with Rickey, Robinson became one of the most visible African Americans in the country, and a figure that blacks could look to as a source of pride, inspiration and hope. As his success and fame grew, Robinson began speaking out publicly for black equality. In , he testified before the House Un-American Activities Committee to discuss the appeal of Communism to black Americans, surprising them with a ferocious condemnation of the racial discrimination embodied by the Jim Crow segregation laws of the South: Supreme Court delivered its verdict in *Brown v. Constitution to any person within its jurisdiction. Oliver Brown, the lead plaintiff in the case, was one of almost people from five different states who had joined related NAACP cases brought before the Supreme Court since Ferguson , in which it determined that equal protection was not violated as long as reasonably equal conditions were provided to both groups. Emmett Till, August*

### 2: The Problem of Black History Month

*Ethiopian Freedom Fighters "Are ye not as children of the Ethiopians unto me, O children of Israel? saith the Lord. Have not I brought up Israel out of land of Egypt? and the Philistines from Captor, and the Syrians from Kir.*

January 16, As a Black Briton, I was always a little wary of explicit demonstrations of nationalism whilst growing up. All people should be taught some aspects of History that help them to have pride in who they are and where they have come from. Hence some focus should be given to Pre-European African history. Not only would a focus on the ancient empires of Africa create a greater sense of self-worth for young Blacks, it would also allow European children to have a more balanced view of Black people. The current social and economic status of Africa in the media only creates sympathy and unfortunately, ridicule of the role Black people have played in world history. On this note I would like to ask the European contributors whether their countries consider the role of Black people in their History curriculum?? For example, in Spain particularly, are the Moorish invasions of the middle Ages considered? On another thread I have raised the issue of cultural imperialism as it impacts on the working class. This is a far greater issue when looking at black history. Teachers have several opportunities to look at the role black people played in events that appear on the traditional history curriculum. For example, when looking at the struggle for equal rights you can study William Davidson and the Cato Street Conspiracy. He was also one of the first black man in Britain to be fitted up for a crime he probably did not commit and died a terrible death. When studying the struggle for the vote it is also important to look at the case of the Chartist William Cuffay. Like Davidson he was fitted up by the government and was deported to Tasmania for 21 years. When he was released he became involved in radical politics and trade union issues and played an important role in persuading the authorities to amend the Master and Servant Law in the colony. The First World War provides another opportunity to study black heroes. Walter Tull, joined Tottenham Hotspur in and therefore became only the second black man to play professional football in Britain. The first was Arthur Walton, the Preston goalkeeper. On the outbreak of the First World War Tull immediately abandoned his career and offered his services to the British Army. In he became first ever black officer in the British Army. I believe it is important that we should challenge the way that history has been represented in the past. For example, when studying Florence Nightingale we should also look at Mary Seacole. Nightingale is often used as a way of showing how women could make their mark in a male dominated society. However, her story also tells us a great deal about race and class. Mary Seacole, an expert on disease, travelled from Jamaica to England in when she heard about the cholera epidemic that had emerged during the Crimean War. Her offer of help was rejected by the British Army. Soon afterwards, Florence Nightingale, who had little practical experience of cholera, was chosen to take a team of thirty-nine nurses to treat the sick soldiers. Unwilling to accept defeat, Mary paid for her own trip to the Crimea and started up a business called the British Hotel, a few miles from the battlefield. Here she sold food and drink to the British soldiers. With the money she earned from her business Mary was able to finance the medical treatment she gave to the soldiers. It is very important that when studying black history they are not portrayed as victims. A classic example of this is the topic of slavery. Nearly all school textbooks feature the role played by William Wilberforce in this struggle. Very few of these authors point out that until just before he died Wilberforce was in favour of slavery he was a campaigner against the slave-trade which is not the same thing although most textbook authors think it is. As Wilberforce pointed out in a pamphlet that he wrote in They must first be trained and educated for freedom. In fact, Wilberforce had been converted to the campaign by Adam Smith who argued that capitalists could obtain higher profits from free workers than slaves Smith provided plenty of examples from the costs of production of sugar, etc. Although it is important to study Wilberforce when dealing with the slave trade it is also important to look at the role of others like Elizabeth Heyrick Wilberforce refused to allow women hold senior positions in the Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade , Olaudah Equiano, Ottobah Cugoana and Zamba Zembola. It is also worth looking at those freed slaves from the United States who travelled to England to campaign against slavery. For example, people like Frederick Douglass, a great role model for young blacks. I have produced a list of annotated websites on Black

History. These can be found at Other web links you might find useful include:

### 3: Black History Milestones - HISTORY

*The Black Exodus takes place, in which tens of thousands of African Americans migrated from southern states to Kansas. Spelman College, the first college for black women in the U.S., is founded by Sophia B. Packard and Harriet E. Giles.*

Tyrone Williams Why is black history celebrated during the month of February? This joke has circulated in black communities for several years, and the cynicism embedded in it is telling. It points to a web of frustration, resignation and resentment which rarely fails to ensnare the observant black. This bitterness is understandable. Black history month celebrations are supposed to make a difference in the perceptions and attitudes of blacks and whites. For both blacks and whites, black history offers a glimpse of the achievements of black culture in all its cultural forms-African, Caribbean, European, American. As such, it offers cultural touchstones as a corrective to prejudice and stereotyping. If one views black history month in the context of other ethnic celebrations and holidays-Oktoberfest, Hanukkah, St. In this respect, ethnic groups delude themselves when they believe their annual celebrations counter the annual holidays--e. For in many ways these holidays of the dominant ethnic group are redundant, overdetermined; they are "special" affirmations of what is already apparent everyday of every year in the media and cultural institutions of the predominant group: For example, two of the three majority culture holidays cited above--Christmas and Independence Day--celebrate consumerism in the guise of Christianity and Jingoism in the guise of patriotism. The themes of all three holidays are preached at us daily in the form of newspaper editorials, advertisements, political speeches, toys, games, public education, etc. Because the issue of black solidarity represented by black history month is related to problems of integration and segregation, civil rights and nationalism, the black intelligentsia, the bourgeoisie and working classes, I want to discuss the implications of black history month by way of the work of Harold Cruse. I refer specifically to his controversial landmark study, *The Crisis of the Negro Intellectual: From the point of view of the disenfranchised black working classes, the question put to the black bourgeoisie--which includes but is not the same as the black intelligentsia--is not only what have you done for us lately but also what have you ever done for US. I begin with a quotation from the foreword to the edition of the Crisis: Allen and Ernest T. Wilson III--mean by this gloss on Cruse is that although there are more opportunities than ever for the ambitious black intellectual though the Reconstruction period might be the exception that proves the rule, these opportunities seem to entail alienation from the working classes. But what Allen, Wilson and Cruse fail to sufficiently emphasize is this: This is why the black intelligentsia, like all intelligentsia, often finds itself adrift between the bourgeois and working classes. What unites the black bourgeoisie and black working classes is their capitulation to the marketplace; the bourgeoisie embodies the values to which the working classes aspire. In so far as the marketplace is dominated by white capitalists, this capitulation explains in part why black nationalism has failed consistently. As Cruse shows, the history of black leadership is the history of black leaders selling out the black working classes while they the leaders reap the partial benefits of integration into a predominantly white culture. The black working classes--industrial or service oriented, Northern or Southern, small town or big city--also desire to integrate into the predominant culture. Thus their "nationalism" is often a result of their inability to make the "leap" into the predominant society. This nationalism--much like the nationalism of the early Malcolm X--is defensive, reactive. It spends more energy damning whiteness than it does affirming blackness because it secretly longs for the approval of white society. Thus, both the black bourgeoisie and black working classes can be viewed as two moments in a movement toward assimilation into the predominant culture. Both have a great deal of investment in the "melting pot" strategy of integrationism. But Cruse argues persuasively against integration as a strategy for group achievement, though not against integration as a value per se: However, it is important to emphasize here that racial integration is not being criticized as a social philosophy on purely moral or ethical grounds as a human condition. It is being criticized on sociological grounds, because its methodology is open to question, in terms of means to achieve an end. It is the means that are under attack here, because the ends that are sought could very well be defeated by faulty means. Cruse thus argues that the Civil Rights Act*

of implies the impotency of the 14th and 15th amendments as applied to blacks. Indeed, Cruse reminds us that those opposed to the Civil Rights Act cited the Constitution on their behalf since the Act violated the rights of individuals and private property. But as most blacks, like most Hispanics and whites, live in segregated communities, the Civil Rights Act meant very little for the majority of blacks. The Act helped the bourgeoisie and those aspiring to be bourgeois. To this extent, the Act is fundamentally reformist as opposed to radical. And it is this facet of the Civil Rights Act that makes it constitutionally valid: Because the Constitution is geared toward individual rights, it can never, in its present form and this includes all past, present and future amendments, protect the rights of groups. Thus, critics of the ERA also cited the Constitution to argue against the proposed amendment which, they claimed, sought to protect the rights of a group women. But the point is that even if the ERA is passed one day, it will never protect the rights of women in general since its very wording is geared to the protection of individual women in their interactions with the dominant gender. In short, whether an oppressor subjugates an "other" from fear of contamination or self-discovery, the fact remains that the "other" is subjugated. The cruel irony, as Cruse shows, is that the Constitution itself was formulated for the political, cultural and economic interests of a particular ethnic group: Given this entrenched power, integrationism is perforce assimilationism since it is incapable of offering a critique of current institutions, values and practices that reflect majority interests without undermining its strategic function. Those who thus propose to change the system from "within" rarely understand that radical systemic changes would mean the abolition of the processes that allowed them to get into the system. The truth is, most "activists" within the system work for, and sometimes accomplish, "mere" reforms. These "mere" reforms are not unimportant; however, their limits are always made devastatingly apparent. Consider, as one example among many, the recent rollbacks in rights for women, blacks, criminals, etc. As such, it was unabashedly nationalist since it concentrated black achievements into a separate limited context. Precisely because it defies the integrationist strategy that would see it subsumed under American history, black history month would seem to be a positive nationalist gesture. Nationalism is not equivalent to segregationism. Now this does not mean that segregation is not an important movement within nationalist strategies but it does mean the two do not coincide. Black nationalism concerns the consolidation of economic, cultural and political resources for the purpose of providing clout during the inevitable negotiations with the predominant culture and its institutions, practices, values, etc. Segregation within nationalism concerns only these resources: Such separatism is self-defeating, intellectually crippling, and morally bankrupt since it is in these conditions that stereotypes and prejudices about the "other" calcify into indelible "truths. A nation of nationalities equally represented across cultural, political and economic lines is only possible if each nationality--or ethnic group--deals from strength. Thus black history month represents a tacit capitulation to racism since it does not challenge the ghettoization of black achievements but in fact gives in to it. Within the limited context of civil rights, affirmative action doctrines represent another movement forward from the Civil Rights Act since affirmative action proposes to redress past inequities by arbitrarily--if temporarily--suspending market forces. But these strategies soon run up against their limits when opposing forces cite that old bugaboo of liberalism: If affirmative action is simply the belated child of integrationism, affirmative action without quotas is integrationism without civil right laws. Quotas frighten supporters of affirmative action because the suspension of market forces makes whites confront the peculiarly American ahistorical legacy of privilege without responsibility. This line of argument and its variants are quite familiar to affirmative action proponents. The usual answer the young white gets is that he, in fact, does have to pay. The young white may become bitter, and in America this bitterness readily finds its expression in bigotry. But if one must respond to the young white in this manner, and thus accept the capitalist premise of competition in the workforce, one should at least explain the connection between privilege and responsibility, a connection the young white must discount at all cost. For the brutal truth is that anyone who argues against his responsibility to the past of his race has already accepted and made use of the privilege of that race. Privilege without responsibility in order to benefit from the privilege--that is what it comes down to for the young white who is not at "fault" for the past of his race. This privilege has been so naturalized, so deeply entrenched into the fabric of American culture, that the young white is often quite sincere in his belief that his skin color has not played a role in his

success. He cannot see that the very fact that his skin color has never been an issue is precisely the issue which is why he detests affirmative action quotas: For blacks, of course, skin color has always been an issue, a factor, good or bad. Inasmuch as it makes blacks and whites race-conscious, affirmative action is sometimes seen by blacks and whites as a backward, misery-loves-company, policy. But it does not follow then that we can pretend things are otherwise by not thinking in terms of race. When a black says that he never thinks of himself as black, that the fact of his blackness is "accidental" and thus "unimportant," that he just wants to be known as an "American," one can be certain that this person has internalized what he thinks--what he desperately hopes--is the viewpoint of whites. Though this person is invariably a member of the bourgeoisie in fact or value, he is rarely a member of the left black intelligentsia though he may be a liberal or conservative: Consequently the black intelligentsia, right or left, often finds itself living out the civil rights dream: The black intelligentsia thus tends to elevate class over race as its socializing determinant; its conflict with the bourgeois-working classes alliance often assumes the form of a conflict between intellectualism and anti-intellectualism. This anti-intellectualism has a direct relationship with the anti-historicism I cited earlier. Thus class conflict is only evident when integrationism is at work, which is why poor blacks, and poor whites in the same neighborhood often share specific contempt for the intelligentsia though not the bourgeoisie in general. But the race factor is never fully suppressed, for poor blacks understand their situation as a consequence of both race and class bias. Only at the middle-class plane can blacks and whites attempt to fully suppress race as a factor in social, political, cultural and economic ambition. Integrationism thus blinds poor whites and middle-class blacks to the effects of race more thoroughly than it does middle-class whites and poor blacks. Given the consumerist orientation of the bourgeoisie and working classes, Cruse plants his hope for salvation of the black race in the soil of the black intelligentsia. Thus his essay is an ongoing critique of the failure of black intellectuals to seize leadership roles at critical moments in history. Cruse departs from conventional wisdom, however, when he criticizes the cult of personality that makes us think in terms of the individual--as opposed to a group--leader: On the other hand, even when a reformist organization such as the OAAU is established by a strongman leader like Malcolm X, it collapses if the leader is removed. This reveals an almost incurable Messiah complex, characteristic of Negro emotionalism. There must always be the great Individual Leader--the Messiah, the Grand Deliverer, the cult of the Irreproachable Personality who, even if he does not have all the answers to the problem, can never be wrong. What the Afro-American Nationalists need is a collective leadership, a guiding committee of political, economic and cultural experts to tackle an agreed upon set of social goals. For even if Cruse proposes a "collective leadership" to circumvent the "cult of the Irreproachable Personality" so common to "Negro emotionalism," he has only dealt with one of the problems of leadership in general. The notoriety of vanguard parties--in different countries, at different historical moments, to be sure--is well-deserved. Once a people places the responsibilities for its political, economic and cultural affairs into the hands of representatives--elected or imposed--that people tends to absolve itself of responsibility for the conduct of its representatives. And so the representatives never simply represent the interests of his constituents. As a constituent himself he also represents his interests. But in America--and here is the rub--because he is no longer a member of the same class as the majority of his constituents, much less a member of the same geographical area even when he deigns to keep a "residence" or "office" in the old neighborhood, his interests no longer coincide with those of his constituents. He has become a constituent of a different class, area, etc. Even if one cites--as counter examples--King and Gandhi and thus imply that politicians should never be construed as leaders, one still has not confronted the problem of what I will call collective responsibility. And it goes without saying that collective responsibility presupposes individual responsibility. We need collective functionaries, not collective leadership.

### 4: Civil Rights Movement - HISTORY

*Links to information about African Americans in the U.S. Army including artwork and photography, and information about specific units. From the U.S. Army Center for Military History. Black Men in Navy Blue during the Civil War A history of black sailors in the Navy during the Civil War.*

Middle Passage Before the Atlantic slave trade there were already people of African descent in America. A few countries in Africa would buy, sell, and trade other enslaved Africans, who were often prisoners of war, with the Europeans. The people of Mali and Benin are known for partaking in the event of selling their prisoners of war and other unwanted people off as slaves. On the ships, the slaves were separated from their family long before they boarded the ships. The women on the ships often endured rape by the crewmen. This gave crewmen easy access to the women which was often regarded as one of the perks of the trade system. Male slaves were the most likely candidates to mutiny and only at times they were on deck. In order for the crew members to keep the slaves under control and prevent future rebellions, the crews were often twice as large and members would instill fear into the slaves through brutality and harsh punishments. The English settlers treated these captives as indentured servants and released them after a number of years. This practice was gradually replaced by the system of race-based slavery used in the Caribbean. Additionally, released servants had to be replaced. Massachusetts was the first colony to legalize slavery in Other colonies followed suit by passing laws that passed slavery on to the children of slaves and making non-Christian imported servants slaves for life. In all, about 10–12 million Africans were transported to the Western Hemisphere. The vast majority of these people came from that stretch of the West African coast extending from present-day Senegal to Angola; a small percentage came from Madagascar and East Africa. The vast majority went to the West Indies and Brazil, where they died quickly. Demographic conditions were highly favorable in the American colonies, with less disease, more food, some medical care, and lighter work loads than prevailed in the sugar fields. They avoided the plantations. With the vast amount of good land and the shortage of laborers, plantation owners turned to lifetime slaves who worked for their keep but were not paid wages and could not easily escape. Slaves had some legal rights it was a crime to kill a slave, and a few whites were hanged for it. Generally the slaves developed their own family system, religion and customs in the slave quarters with little interference from owners, who were only interested in work outputs. Before the s, the North American mainland colonies were expanding, but still fairly small in size and did not have a great demand for labour, so the colonists did not import large numbers of African slaves at this point. Some had been shipped directly from Africa most of them were from s , but initially, very often they had been shipped via the West Indies in small cargoes after spending time working on the islands. Their legal status was now clear: As white settlers began to claim and clear more land for large-scale farming and plantations, the number of slaves imported directly from Africa began to rapidly increase between the s into the s and onward, since the trade in slaves coming in from the West Indies was much too small to meet the huge demand for the now fast-growing North-American mainland slave market. Additionally, most American slave-buyers no longer wanted slaves coming in from the West Indies - by now they were either harder to obtain, too expensive, undesirable, or more often, ruined in many ways by the very brutal regime of the island sugar plantations. As a result, freshly imported, young, and healthy Africans were now much more affordable, cheaper in price, and more readily available in large numbers to American slave buyers, who by now preferred to purchase them, even if it took some time for them to adjust to a new life as plantation slaves. From about to , the majority of slaves imported to the North American mainland came directly from Africa in huge cargoes to fill the massive spike in demand for much-needed labour to work the continually expanding plantations in the Southern colonies later to be states , with most heading to Virginia, South Carolina, and French or Spanish Louisiana. However, big Northern cities like New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, had relatively large black populations slave or free for most of the colonial period and thereafter. From the s, American-born slaves of African descent already began to outnumber African-born slaves. By the time of the American Revolution, a few of the Northern states had begun to consider abolishing and slavery, and some Southern states like Virginia had produced such large

and self-sustaining locally-born slave populations by natural increase, that they stopped taking in, direct imports of slaves from Africa altogether but still kept slavery, which continued in the South. However, other Southern states like Georgia and South Carolina still relied on constant, fresh supplies of slave labour to keep up with the demand of their burgeoning plantation economies, so they continued to allow the direct importation of slaves from Africa right up to , only stopping for a few years in the s, because of a temporary lull in the trade brought on by the American Revolutionary War. All legal, direct importation of slaves from Africa had stopped by , when the now, newly formed United States finally banned its citizens from participating in the international slave trade altogether by law. Despite the ban, small to moderate cargoes of slaves were occasionally being illegally shipped into the United States directly from Africa for many years, as late as . Slaves in the cities and towns had many more privileges, but the great majority of slaves lived on southern tobacco or rice plantations, usually in groups of 20 or more. The colony had about 56, slaves, who outnumbered whites 2: About slaves rose up, and seizing guns and ammunition, murdered twenty whites, and headed for Spanish Florida. The local militia soon intercepted and killed most of them. The Declaration of Independence , a document that would become a manifesto for human rights and personal freedom, was written by Thomas Jefferson , who owned over slaves. Other Southern statesmen were also major slaveholders. The Second Continental Congress did consider freeing slaves to disrupt British commerce. They removed language from the Declaration of Independence that included the promotion of slavery amongst the offenses of King George III. A number of free Blacks, most notably Prince Hall –the founder of Prince Hall Freemasonry , submitted petitions for the end of slavery. But these petitions were largely ignored. Many fought side by side with White soldiers at the battles of Lexington and Concord and at Bunker Hill. But when George Washington took command in , he barred any further recruitment of Blacks. Approximately free African-American men helped the American Colonists in their struggle for freedom. One of these men, Agrippa Hull, fought in the American Revolution for over six years. Lord Dunmore , the Governor of Virginia , recruited African-American men into his Ethiopian regiment within a month of making this proclamation. In South Carolina 25, slaves, more than one-quarter of the total, escaped to join and fight with the British, or fled for freedom in the uproar of war. The Americans eventually won the war. In the provisional treaty, they demanded the return of property, including slaves. Nonetheless, the British helped up to 4, documented African Americans to leave the country for Nova Scotia , Jamaica , and Britain rather than be returned to slavery. Peters was born in present-day Nigeria and belonged to the Yoruba tribe, and ended up being captured and sold into slavery in French Louisiana. Peters fought for the British throughout the war. When the war finally ended, he and other African Americans who fought on the losing side were taken to Nova Scotia. Here, they were given pieces of land that they could not farm. They also did not receive the same freedoms as white Englishmen. Peters sailed to London in order to complain to the government. Peters died soon after they arrived but the other members of his party lived on in their new home. The constitution set forth the ideals of freedom and equality while providing for the continuation of the institution of slavery through the fugitive slave clause and the three-fifths compromise. Most were denied the right to vote and were excluded from public schools. Some Blacks sought to fight these contradictions in court. In , Elizabeth Freeman and Quock Walker used language from the new Massachusetts constitution that declared all men were born free and equal in freedom suits to gain release from slavery. A free Black businessman in Boston named Paul Cuffe sought to be excused from paying taxes since he had no voting rights. Beginning in the s, there was widespread sentiment during the American Revolution that slavery was a social evil for the country as a whole and for the whites that should eventually be abolished. In Congress passed the Northwest Ordinance and barred slavery from the large Northwest Territory. By , that number had risen to , Most of these were in the North, but Revolutionary sentiments also motivated Southern slaveholders. Quakers and Moravians worked to persuade slaveholders to free families. In Delaware, three-quarters of all blacks were free by . Even so, many considered emigrating to Africa. Religion in Black America and Black church By a small number of slaves had joined Christian churches. Free blacks in the North had set up networks of churches and in the South the slaves sat in the upper gallery. Central to the growth of community among blacks was the Black church , usually the first community institution to be established. The Black church- was both an expression of community and unique

African-American spirituality, and a reaction to discrimination. The church also served as neighborhood centers where free black people could celebrate their African heritage without intrusion by white detractors. The church also the center of education. Since the church was part of the community and wanted to provide education; they educated the freed and enslaved Blacks. Seeking autonomy, some blacks like Richard Allen bishop founded separate Black denominations. History of the United States and Origins of the American Civil War As the United States grew, the institution of slavery became more entrenched in the southern states , while northern states began to abolish it. Pennsylvania was the first, in passing an act for gradual abolition. One of these events was the Haitian Revolution , which was the only slave revolt that led to an independent country. Many slave owners fled to the United States with tales of horror and massacre that alarmed Southern whites. The industrial revolution in Europe and New England generated a heavy demand for cotton for cheap clothing, which caused an exponential demand for slave labor to develop new cotton plantations. They were overwhelmingly concentrated on plantations in the Deep South , and moved west as old cotton fields lost their productivity and new lands were purchased. Unlike the Northern States who put more focus into manufacturing and commerce, the South was heavily dependent on agriculture. In , at the urging of President Thomas Jefferson , Congress abolished the international slave trade. While American Blacks celebrated this as a victory in the fight against slavery, the ban increased the demand for slaves. Changing agricultural practices in the Upper South from tobacco to mixed farming decreased labor requirements, and slaves were sold to traders for the developing Deep South. In addition, the Fugitive Slave Act of allowed any Black person to be claimed as a runaway unless a White person testified on their behalf. A number of free Blacks, especially indentured children, were kidnapped and sold into slavery with little or no hope of rescue. By there were exactly 11 free and 11 slave states, which increased sectionalism. Fears of an imbalance in Congress led to the Missouri Compromise that required states to be admitted to the union in pairs, one slave and one free. Henry Clay, the man behind the compromise of , once more rose to the challenge to craft the compromise of In this compromise the territories of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Nevada would be organized but the issue of slavery would be decided later. C would abolish the slave trade but not slavery itself. California would be admitted as a free state but the South would receive a new fugitive slave act which required Northerners to return slaves who escaped to the North to their owners. The compromise of would maintain a shaky peace until the election of Lincoln in

### 5: Blog Roll | The Black Past: Remembered and Reclaimed

*Black Men of Amherst* was published posthumously and reviewed in *The New York Times*, which called it "really two books, both fascinating." On one level, the review said, "it is the history of a series of extraordinary men" of the past.

To make matters worse, laws were passed in some states to limit voting rights for blacks. Moreover, southern segregation gained ground in when the U. Supreme Court declared in *Plessy v. Ferguson*. They were also discouraged from joining the military. After thousands of blacks threatened to march on Washington to demand equal employment rights, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order on June 25, 1941. It opened national defense jobs and other government jobs to all Americans regardless of race, creed, color or national origin. Black men and women served heroically in World War II, despite suffering segregation and discrimination during their deployment. Yet many were met with prejudice and scorn upon returning home. This was a stark contrast to why America had entered the war to begin with—to defend freedom and democracy in the world. As the Cold War began, President Harry Truman initiated a civil rights agenda, and in 1948 issued Executive Order to end discrimination in the military. These events helped set the stage for grass-roots initiatives to enact racial equality legislation and incite the civil rights movement. Segregation laws at the time stated blacks must sit in designated seats at the back of the bus, and Parks had complied. Parks refused and was arrested. It lasted days until segregated seating was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. Little Rock Nine In 1957, the civil rights movement gained momentum when the United States Supreme Court made segregation illegal in public schools in the case of *Brown v. Board of Education*. In 1957, Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas asked for volunteers from all-black high schools to attend the formerly segregated school. On September 3, 1957, nine black students, known as the Little Rock Nine, arrived at Central High School to begin classes but were instead met by the Arkansas National Guard on order of Governor Orval Faubus and a screaming, threatening mob. The Little Rock Nine tried again a couple weeks later and made it inside but had to be removed for their safety when violence ensued. Finally, President Dwight D. Eisenhower intervened and ordered federal troops to escort the Little Rock Nine to and from classes at Central High. Still, the students faced continual harassment and prejudice. Their efforts, however, brought much-needed attention to the issue of desegregation and fueled protests on both sides of the issue. Civil Rights Act of 1957 Even though all Americans had gained the right to vote, many southern states made it difficult for blacks. They often required them to take voter literacy tests that were confusing, misleading and nearly impossible to pass. Wanting to show a commitment to the civil rights movement and minimize racial tensions in the South, the Eisenhower administration pressured Congress to consider new civil rights legislation. On September 9, 1957, President Eisenhower signed the Civil Rights Act of 1957 into law, the first major civil rights legislation since Reconstruction. It allowed federal prosecution of anyone who tried to prevent someone from voting. It also created a commission to investigate voter fraud. Over the next several days, hundreds of people joined their cause. Their efforts spearheaded peaceful demonstrations in dozens of cities and helped launch the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee to encourage all students to get involved in the civil rights movement. March on Washington Arguably one of the most famous events of the civil rights movement took place on August 28, 1963. It was organized and attended by civil rights leaders such as A. More than 250,000 people, black and white, congregated in Washington, D. Kennedy before his assassination—into law on July 2 of that year. King and other civil rights activists witnessed the signing. The law guaranteed equal employment for all, limited the use of voter literacy tests and allowed federal authorities to ensure public facilities were integrated. Bloody Sunday On March 7, 1965, the civil rights movement in Alabama took an especially violent turn as peaceful demonstrators participated in the Selma to Montgomery march to protest the killing of a black civil rights activist by a white police officer and encourage legislation to enforce the 15th amendment. As they neared the Edmund Pettus Bridge, they were blocked by Alabama state and local police. Refusing to stand down, protestors moved forward and were viciously beaten and teargassed by police and dozens of protestors were hospitalized. The new law banned all voter literacy tests and provided federal examiners in certain voting jurisdictions. It also allowed the attorney general to contest state and local poll taxes. As a result, poll taxes were later declared unconstitutional in *Harper v. Virginia State Board of*

Elections in Civil Rights Leaders Assassinated The civil rights movement had tragic consequences for two of its leaders in the late s. Emotionally-charged looting and riots followed, putting even more pressure on the Johnson administration to push through additional civil rights laws. It prevented housing discrimination based on race, sex, national origin and religion. It was also the last legislation enacted during the civil rights era. The civil rights movement was an empowering yet precarious time for blacks in America. The efforts of civil rights activists and countless protestors of all races brought about legislation to end segregation, black voter suppression and discriminatory employment and housing practices. Sources Civil Rights Act of Civil Rights Digital Library. Document for June 25th: Prohibition of Discrimination in the Defense Industry.

### 6: best Black History/Issues images on Pinterest in | Black, Black men and Black people

*Because the issue of black solidarity represented by black history month is related to problems of integration and segregation, civil rights and nationalism, the black intelligentsia, the bourgeoisie and working classes, I want to discuss the implications of black history month by way of the work of Harold Cruse.*

About Us History is often reduced to a handful of memorable moments and events. Martin Luther King, Jr. But these are only a few of the significant and important events to know and remember. But just as Black history is more than a month, so too are the numerous events and figures that are often overlooked during it. Before there was Rosa Parks, there was Claudette Colvin. Most people think of Rosa Parks as the first person to refuse to give up their seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. There were actually several women who came before her; one of whom was Claudette Colvin. Claudette had been studying Black leaders like Harriet Tubman in her segregated school, those conversations had led to discussions around the current day Jim Crow laws they were all experiencing. Arrested and thrown in jail, she was one of four women who challenged the segregation law in court. As an adult with the right look, Rosa Parks was also the secretary of the NAACP, and was both well-known and respected – people would associate her with the middle class and that would attract support for the cause. But the struggle to end segregation was often fought by young people, more than half of which were women. As Martin Luther King Jr. The night before the march, Dr. King began working on his speech with a small group of advisers in the lobby of the Willard Hotel. The original speech was more political and less historic, according to Clarence B. Jones, and it did not include any reference to dreams. King transformed his speech into a sermon. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. And while this improvised speech given on that hot August day in was not considered a universal success immediately, it is now recognized as one of the greatest speeches in American history. For more information on the March on Washington, visit pbs. Few details are known about the birth of Onesimus, but it is assumed he was born in Africa in the late seventeenth century before eventually landing in Boston. One of a thousand people of African descent living in the Massachusetts colony, Onesimus was a gift to the Puritan church minister Cotton Mather from his congregation in . Onesimus told Mather about the centuries old tradition of inoculation practiced in Africa. By extracting the material from an infected person and scratching it into the skin of an uninfected person, you could deliberately introduce smallpox to the healthy individual making them immune. Considered extremely dangerous at the time, Cotton Mather convinced Dr. Zabdiel Boylston to experiment with the procedure when a smallpox epidemic hit Boston in and over people were inoculated. The earliest recorded protest against slavery was by the Quakers in . But it was four Pennsylvania Friends from Germantown who wrote the initial protest in the 17th century. The Dublin Monthly Meeting reviewed the protest but sent it to the Quarterly Meeting, feeling it to be too serious an issue for their own meeting to decide. Over the centuries, this rare document has been considered lost twice. Most recently it was rediscovered in and is now at Haverford College Special Collections. In the late 15th century, the advancement of seafaring technologies created a new Atlantic that would change the world forever. As ships began connecting West Africa with Europe and the Americas, new fortunes were sought and native populations were decimated. With the native labor force dwindling and demand for plantation and mining labor growing, the transatlantic slave trade began. The Transatlantic Slave Trade was underway from , shipping more than 12 million African slaves across the world. Of those slaves, only . Over years, the majority of slaves 4. Brazil was also the last country to ban slavery in . By the time the United States became involved in the slave trade, it had been underway for two hundred years. The majority of its , slaves arrived between and , representing a much smaller percentage than most Americans realize. While Jewish and African American communities have a tumultuous shared history when it comes to the pursuit of civil rights, there is a chapter that is often overlooked. In the s when Jewish academics from Germany and Austria were dismissed from their teaching positions, many came to the United States looking for jobs. Due to the Depression, xenophobia and rising anti-Semitism, many found it difficult to find work, but more than 50 found positions at HBCUs in the segregated South. Originally established to educate freed slaves to read and write, the first of

the Historically Black Colleges and Universities was Cheyney University in Pennsylvania, established in 1837. At a time when both Jews and African Americans were persecuted, Jewish professors in the Black colleges found the environment comfortable and accepting, often creating special programs to provide opportunities to engage Blacks and whites in meaningful conversation, often for the first time. In the years that followed, the interests of Jewish and African American communities increasingly diverged, but this once-shared experience of discrimination and interracial cooperation remains a key part of the Civil Rights Movement. Melrose Cottage, built in 1837, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania. One in four cowboys was Black, despite the stories told in popular books and movies. Reeves had been born a slave but escaped West during the Civil War where he lived in what was then known as Indian Territory. He eventually became a Deputy U. Marshal, was a master of disguise, an expert marksman, had a Native American companion, and rode a silver horse. His story was not unique however. In the 19th century, the Wild West drew enslaved Blacks with the hope of freedom and wages. When the Civil War ended, freedmen came West with the hope of a better life where the demand for skilled labor was high. These African Americans made up at least a quarter of the legendary cowboys who lived dangerous lives facing weather, rattlesnakes, and outlaws while they slept under the stars driving cattle herds to market. While there was little formal segregation in frontier towns and a great deal of personal freedom, Black cowboys were often expected to do more of the work and the roughest jobs compared to their white counterparts. Loyalty did develop between the cowboys on a drive, but the Black cowboys were typically responsible for breaking the horses and being the first ones to cross flooded streams during cattle drives. The iconic cartoon character Betty Boop was inspired by a Black jazz singer in Harlem. Introduced by cartoonist Max Fleischer in 1930, the caricature of the jazz age flapper was the first and most famous sex symbol in animation. When Betty Boop was introduced, Kane promptly sued Fleischer and Paramount Publix Corporation stating they were using her image and style. Born in Atlanta, Texas in 1915, Bessie Coleman grew up in a world of harsh poverty, discrimination and segregation. She moved to Chicago at 23 to seek her fortune, but found little opportunity there as well. Wild tales of flying exploits from returning WWI soldiers first inspired her to explore aviation, but she faced a double stigma in that dream being both African American and a woman. She set her sights on France in order to reach her dreams and began studying French. In 1921, Coleman crossed the ocean with all of her savings and the financial support of Robert Abbott, one of the first African American millionaires. Wildly celebrated upon her return to the United States, reporters turned out in droves to greet her. Coleman performed at numerous airshows over the next five years, performing heart thrilling stunts, encouraging other African Americans to pursue flying, and refusing to perform where Blacks were not admitted. When she tragically died in a plane accident in 1926, famous writer and equal rights advocate Ida B. Wells presided over her funeral. An editorial in the "Dallas Express" stated, "There is reason to believe that the general public did not completely sense the size of her contribution to the achievements of the race as such. Bessie Coleman and her plane in 1926, Monash University Interracial marriage in the United States was banned in 1862 and not overturned until 1967. During the seventeenth and early eighteenth century, the growing number of interracial marriages also known as miscegenation between Blacks and whites led to the passage of this new law. The first anti-miscegenation law enacted was in the colony of Maryland in 1681 and additional colonies quickly followed suit. These marriages were prohibited and penalties included the enslavement, exile or imprisonment of the white perpetrators. These laws grew and evolved over the years and attempts were even made to modify the Constitution to ban interracial marriage in all states. It would take three hundred years for this law to be overturned. They each faced a year in jail and their case went to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court found in favor of the Lovings in the famous trial *Loving v. Virginia*. In 1967, Alabama became the last state to officially legalize interracial marriage by removing the unenforceable ban that was still contained in their state constitution. Read more famous cases about interracial relationships that changed history.

### 7: African-American history - Wikipedia

*Mass Incarceration Slavery is something people agree to be a blight on America's history, but even a century and a half after the Civil War, its legacy is still with www.enganchecubano.coming to the Equal.*

Enslaved, oppressed, and dehumanized for much of American history, members of the black community, such as Carter G. The black press was instrumental in documenting black history and giving voice to blacks, who were, at best, ignored in the larger press. Russwurmâ€™the first black man to graduate from collegeâ€™the paper reported on current events and contained editorials against slavery, lynchings, and other injustices. Colonial Times African slaves and indentured servants were brought to the U. It also became increasingly rare for African Americans to be treated as indentured servants and freed; instead, they were treated as slaves for life, their children born into slavery with no hope of escaping the condition. Most masters treated their slaves as they would their livestock, interested only in the work they could do. Separated from their families and their culture, blacks were forced to adapt to extremely difficult working and living conditions. Some slaves ran away or organized rebellions, most of which were brutally put down. Crispus Attucks, a tradesman of African and Wapanoag descent, was among the first casualties of the Boston Massacre on March 5, , which foreshadowed the Revolutionary War. Petitions from freed blacks, including Prince Hall, the founder of African American freemasonry, to end slavery were ignored by the Second Continental Congress. When George Washington took command of the Continental Army in , he recommended to the Continental Congress, which agreed, that freed African Americans should no longer be recruited into the army. Freed blacks who were already in the army were allowed to continue fighting; some African Americans, like Agrippa Hull, fought in the war for over six years. By November , the manpower required to continue the war forced a reversal in the policy of exclusion and the Congress authorized the enlistment of any Negro, the term used at the time, be he free or slave. This had come incrementally. Free men of color were accepted if they had prior military experience January and later January recruitment was extended to all free blacks. Among Southern states, only Maryland permitted black troops to serve, so the story of black troops in the Continental Army was that of northern blacks almost exclusively. In almost all cases, they fought in integrated units, the notable exception being the men of the First Rhode Island Regiment, comprised of black men and their white officers. It earned laurels in its first engagement, defeating three assaults by veteran Hessian units at Newport Battle of Rhode Island on August 29, In contrast, almost from the beginning, the British and the Loyalists offered emancipation to any slave willing to join them in fighting the Patriots. Slaves escaped their masters in all colonies to join the British or flee for freedom amid the chaos of the war. At the end of the war, colonists demanded the return of their property, including slaves, although the British helped many about 4, documented cases leave the country. He fought throughout the war and at the end, was taken to Nova Scotia with other Loyalists and African Americans who fought for the British. The British gave the blacks land that could not be farmed and denied them the same freedoms as their white counterparts. Peters traveled to England to protest their treatment before Parliament, arriving at a time when English abolitionists were pushing through the bill the would create the Sierra Leone Company. Peters and about 1, other Loyalist African Americans left for Sierra Leone in , and although Peters died shortly after their arrival, the group successfully established Freetown, Sierra Leone, a British colony on the West African coast. Black History in the Old West Black history in America includes the stories of those who helped to settle and civilize the western United States. Blacks were a part of the western expansion and the western frontier from the beginning of European colonization in the mids. Freeman and escaped slaves pushed westward as the United States expanded beyond the Mississippi to the Pacific. Their roles in westward expansion included colonizing, farming, building railroads, prospecting, establishing their own businessesâ€™in short, they could be found in virtually all walks of life. In addition, race had much less significance in California society, where Afro-Latinos were equal members of society, acquiring large tracts of land, holding military and political positions, and intermarrying with Spanish, Mexican, and native people. The California Constitution, ratified in November , voted to disenfranchise all but white male U. Vagrancy laws were adopted that essentially

enslaved Native Americans until the end of the Civil War. Other laws were enacted that allowed anyone claiming a black person as an ex-slave to detain and, essentially, re-enslave that person. Thousands lost their land in U. Freeman of Color and Slaves Migrate West to the Interior In the late 18th and early 19th century, other free blacks—freed and escaped slaves—migrated west into the interior from colonies on the Atlantic coast, mainly working in the fur trade. They were slaves, free trappers, camp keepers, traders, and entrepreneurs. One man, Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, was a very successful trader of African descent—his early life is not well-documented though it is likely that he was born into slavery—who settled near the mouth of the Chicago River in the s and is widely regarded as the first resident and founder of Chicago. When Point du Sable sold his farm in , it included a house, two barns, a horse-drawn mill, a bakehouse, a poultry house, a dairy, and a smokehouse. Louis, where the Mississippi and Missouri rivers meet, to explore the newly acquired Louisiana Territory, look for a water route to the Pacific, and explore the Pacific Northwest. He risked his life to save Clark in a flash flood in present-day Montana, and as the journey wore on and the Corps coalesced into a true team he was treated as an equal, voting member. On their return to St. Louis, Clark expected York to return to slavery, refusing to free him. Sometime after Clark either relented and freed York or York managed to finally escape. His ultimate fate is unclear—Clark claimed York hated freedom and died trying to return. Contrary to this claim, a fur trapper reported seeing him in an Indian village in the s, content and respected in his old age. Before the Civil War, black slaves fled the South not just to freedom in the North but to freedom in the West. Escaped slaves and free blacks were drawn to the west for the same reasons whites were: Several acted as guides, Moses Harris and Edward Rose among them. One man, Moses Rodgers, arrived in California during the Gold Rush, eventually purchased mines in California, and became one of the wealthiest men in the state. Freed slave Clara Brown made her way to Colorado just before the Civil War began and became a prominent business woman and community leader, helping countless former slaves make new homes and find jobs in the West. In the years following the Civil War, as with whites, there was a great migration of blacks to new western states—between and about , migrated. As Jim Crow laws were put on the books and widespread discrimination was sanctioned by law, many blacks moved west to claim land via the Homestead Act. Most chose to migrate to Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, and California, with migration to Oklahoma picking up in the s after Indian lands were opened for settlement. All-black communities formed around the promise of land ownership and escape from racial persecution. Bidley Mason was a slave and midwife who obtained her freedom by petitioning the court in California. She was able to buy a significant amount of land in Los Angeles and make her family one of richest in California. Along with crop cultivation, herding and ranching grew in the s, creating demand for skilled herders and ranch hands: Some black men, including some who had fought in the Civil War, became lawmen and Buffalo Soldiers. Bass Reeves became the first black U. Some others—among them, Ned Huddleston aka Isom Dart , Cherokee Bill, and Ben Hodges—became outlaws choosing to rustle cattle, and rob or swindle banks, stores, and railroads. In , the federal ban on importing slaves became effective, ending the international slave trade while allowing domestic slavery to continue and driving prices for slaves up. It became profitable for smaller farmers to sell their slaves further south and west. Although most farmers in the South had small- to medium-sized farms with few slaves, the large plantation owners needed many slaves to cultivate and harvest crops, and their wealth afforded them considerable prestige and political power. Slaves in the U. They also planned open rebellions, risking everything for freedom. One of the bloodiest rebellions in U. About 60 whites were killed and, after the rebellion was put down, the state executed 56 slaves accused of being part of it. Militias and mobs formed in the paranoid chaos that followed and anywhere from to innocent slaves were killed in the aftermath. Former slaves themselves, they were able to give vivid, first-hand accounts of its horrors. The first black institutions for higher learning were established during the Antebellum Period. Graduates of Lincoln went on to found seven other historically black colleges. Some were spies and scouts for the Union Army, providing valuable information about Confederate resources and troop movements. Blacks were also part of the Confederate Army, although they were the exception—they were needed more as slaves and Southerners were extremely hesitant to arm them for fear they would rebel. The Fifteenth Amendment granted black men the right to vote and gave Congress the power to enact laws protecting that right. During Reconstruction, some strides were

made toward equality in the South, as long federal troops remained there as an occupying force protecting the rights of freedmen. Blacks were able to vote and run for office, and helped establish public school systems in most Southern states, although funding was difficult to find. Blacks established their own churches, businesses, and towns. The last Union troops withdrew from the south in as part of the unwritten Compromise of following the contentious election. Southern Democrats agreed to not contest the close election of Rutherford B. Hayes—they were so incensed they threatened to march on Washington—if Republicans withdrew federal troops from southern states and if Hayes appointed a Democrat to his cabinet. Southern Democrats once again had political power and began a campaign of intimidation, terror, and fraud to prevent blacks from voting. They began passing laws that made voter registration and elections more complex to disenfranchise blacks, which incidentally disenfranchised many poor whites. Segregation The Jim Crow laws, which were state and local segregation laws enacted from , were passed to separate blacks and whites in as many aspects of life as possible. White supremacist organizations began to form, including the Ku Klux Klan in , with the specific intent of terrorizing the black community. Estimates of the number of people killed in lynchings vary from 5, to 20, Washington, founder of the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama in , counseled the black community not to agitate for full equality as long as their economic needs were met and they received due process. To promote equality of rights and to eradicate caste or race prejudice among the citizens of the United States; to advance the interest of colored citizens; to secure for them impartial suffrage; and to increase their opportunities for securing justice in the courts, education for the children, employment according to their ability and complete equality before law. It initially focused on using the courts to overturn Jim Crow laws and fighting against lynchings by working to pass laws that would make it illegal and by educating the public. Segregation in Professional Sports Segregation and discrimination extended to all areas of the country and of life, including the nascent professional sports, like football and baseball, although individual black athletes—Joe Lewis and Jesse Owens are two examples—were able to forge success. Baseball was originated in New York with teams that included blacks and whites, and was popularized by the Civil War. However, the National Association of Base Ball Players NABBP , which turned professional in , relegated most blacks to the minor leagues, although a handful were on professional teams. With the widespread racism among whites in both the South and the North, the Compromise of , and the refusal of some whites to play against blacks, professional baseball was gradually segregated so that by the turn of the century, an all-white league had formed at the exclusion of blacks and other minorities. In response to this gradual segregation, black regional teams and leagues formed. By the end of World War I, baseball was one of the most popular forms of entertainment for urban black populations. The Negro Southern League formed the same year, although it was considered mainly to be a minor league. All three leagues prospered in spite of the depression, segregation, and discrimination to become one of the largest and most successful black enterprises of the time. Knowing that Robinson would face opposition both by the public and within the team, Rickey asked him not to retaliate or lose his temper, a strategy that won Robinson legions of fans, black and white. Robinson led the Royals to a league championship and was called up to the majors by the Dodgers six days before the start of the season. Over the next four years, most of the talented black players signed with integrated Major League teams.

### 8: Black Voices - Black News, Entertainment, Style and Culture | HuffPost

*Black History Month is a moment to look backwards, but also to assess how what's come before influences where we are now. For proof that the past lives in the present, look no further than the.*

Supreme Court in *Grutter v. Bollinger*. However, in the simultaneously heard *Gratz v. Bollinger*, the university is required to change a policy. On October 15, Rosa Parks died at the age of 92 on October 25, ; she was a noted civil rights activist who had helped initiate the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955. As an honor, her body lay in state in the Capitol Rotunda in Washington, D. C. Seattle School District No. 5 Jefferson County Board of Education, ruled that school districts could not assign students to particular public schools solely for the purpose of achieving racial integration; it declined to recognize racial balancing as a compelling state interest. On June 3, 2008, Barack Obama received enough delegates by the end of state primaries to be the presumptive Democratic Party of the United States nominee. Obama was elected 44th President of the United States of America on November 4, 2008, opening his victory speech with, "If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible; who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time; who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer. Postal Service issued a commemorative six-stamp set portraying twelve civil rights pioneers in 2009. Obama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on October 9, 2009. On July 19, 2009, Shirley Sherrod was pressured to resign from the U. S. Department of Agriculture because of controversial publicity; the department apologized to her for her being inaccurately portrayed as racist toward white Americans. Political representation[ edit ] In 2003, Douglas Wilder became the first African American to be elected governor in U. S. In 2003 there were 8, black officeholders in the United States, showing a net increase of 7, since 1993. In 2003 there were black mayors. The appointment of blacks to high federal offices— including General Colin Powell, Chairman of the U. S. In 2004 Michael S. Steele was elected as the first African-American chairman of the national Republican Party. He was elected as the 44th President of the United States on November 4, 2008, and inaugurated on January 20, 2009. At least 95 percent of African-American voters voted for Obama. Obama won big among young and minority voters, bringing a number of new states to the Democratic electoral column. He also received overwhelming support from whites, a majority of Asians, and Americans of Hispanic origin. But the child poverty rate has increased among African Americans and their unemployment is disproportionately high in comparison to other ethnic groups. African Americans are underrepresented in the rapidly expanding and lucrative fields related to computer programming and technology, where innovations have led to some people making huge new fortunes. BET founder Bob Johnson briefly joined her on the list from 1980 to 1985 before his ex-wife acquired part of his fortune; although he returned to the list in 1990, he did not make it in 1995. Blacks currently comprise 0. Rate for African Americans is shown in purple. Prior to 2000, nonmarital births among African Americans were included with other minority groups as "Non-White". Contributing factors have been the drug war waged by successive administrations, imposition of sentencing guidelines at the federal and state levels, cutbacks in government assistance, restructuring of industry since the mid-20th century and extensive loss of working-class jobs leading to high poverty rates, and government neglect, a breakdown in traditional family units, and unfavorable social policies. African Americans have the highest imprisonment rate of any major ethnic group in the United States and the world, and are sentenced to death at a rate higher than any other ethnic group.

### 9: Post-civil rights era in African-American history - Wikipedia

*On another thread I have raised the issue of cultural imperialism as it impacts on the working class. This is a far greater issue when looking at black history.*

An Obama, but much more savvy about how to deal with people who hate you no matter what you do for them. Like Frank Motley, former assistant dean of students: Or, to come at it sideways, you could have met up with one of the 21 Wade Fellows, African-American alumni representing the Wade Memorial Fellowship, who have come back to Amherst these past four decades to help students ponder potential careers, possible lives. Some of you watched Wade become a rising star on the political stage. In fact, when he died in , Wade was working as an aide to Paul Gibson Jr. Unlike the rest of us, you have the privilege of being able to conjure him whole in your mind, this tall, fearless, talkative, funny, astute, politically progressive, jazz-loving, change-making diehard Mets fan. But whether you knew Harold Wade in reality or by reputation, it turns out there is more to learn about who he was, what he stood for and how his legacy refuses to fade away. The Opinionator Harold Wade Jr. His parents divorced during his childhood, and he was raised mostly by his mother, a Jamaican immigrant who worked for the postal service. He dedicated Black Men of Amherst to her. The Wades lived in Queens, in the Springfield Gardens neighborhood, a middle-class enclave that drew in many African-Americans from Brooklyn and Harlem after World War II, enticing them with its newer homes, its greater space. He arrived at Amherst a few months after he turned 17, a product of Andrew Jackson High School, whose name Wade, had he lived into our time, presumably would have winced at. Wilson, a Quaker who pushed to bring more black men here as the civil rights movement deepened, at the behest of President Calvin Plimpton. When Wade arrived on campus in the fall of , he had a handful of friends from Jackson High, which eased the various shocks of the transition. Wade joined a class that then boasted the highest number of African-American students of any class in Amherst history. Today, the actual figure underwhelmsâ€”it seems there were 11â€”but it was a leap from previous years. The two were simpatico: After he mailed in his acceptance, Amherst sent Glass the standard questionnaire about housing arrangements which, to modern ears, sounds decidedly coded. Would you like us to arrange such an experience for you? Meanwhile, he grew even more confident academically, gamely challenging professors from his freshman year on up. He is the son of William H. Wade did not fence his outspokenness inside the classroom. But not all the time: Out went the song. Tuffy Simpkins spells out this moment of change, around , as enrollment of students of color hit a new tipping point: And that was because the whole idea was to integrate yourself. We were going to sit and enjoy ourselves, and be with each other. That was not where we were coming from. He and Wade, and several friends, connected over their working-class roots. At some point, African-American students planned a protest and President Calvin Plimpton got wind of it. He told Simpkins he did not approve; it was too rogue. Simpkins went to Wade, trying to figure out the next move. It only has a president. And the president is really functioning off-campus. But if we all join, we could just ask the president to leave. We would have a mailbox, we would have a budget, we would be within a structure right away. And, indeed, the initially mostly white SRE became the placeholder until a more robust organization could launch. Using history as motivator, as explainer, as justifier: He knew how much heritage and context mattered and, as such, decided to back Simpkins over Johnson to become the first president of the Afro-American Society. It was a calculated move, or maybe it was par for the course, picking the more mainstream candidate. Yet Simpkins, who went on to become a physician and surgeon who also specialized in violence prevention, came from a family that had sacrificed much. Wade understood the heft of that personal history, and he always had the continuum in mind. It could also enrich on a more accessible plane. The Black Student at Amherst. The Author In his senior year, the College recruited Wade to recruit others. The Black Student at Amherst was a bold piece featuring charismatic photos and candid reportage on what it was like to go here, with a bonus overview of standout alumni. Nor does the fact that sixteen men in the incoming class are black out of three hundred. But this college is moving and does not have to disown its past to do so. Wormley went on to be a Wade Fellow in â€” But the attraction was that it was a place where I would not be a newcomer, because it

had a long tradition of African-American students who had been there. Then he offers the punch line: For Black Men of Amherst, which he conceived at the College but researched and wrote mostly during his postgrad years at Harvard Law, Wade set to tracing the affiliation. Wade lionized the man in Black Men of Amherst: The result was phenomenal, as generation after generation of high achieving blacks came from Dunbar. Jackson spoke volumes to his classmates. Edward Brooke, a Dunbar alumnus. Another summer, he became a researcher with the nonprofit Resources for the Future, at which he wrote a report on the Model Inner City Community Organization led by civil rights activist and Dunbar alum Walter Fauntroy. It hired black architects and engineers to build homes and stores in D. While at Harvard, Wade also taught in its new Afro-American studies department. More internships, then a clerkship, then Wade laid into being an aide to the powerful. Parker would go on to preside over the trial of John Hinckley, the would-be assassin of President Reagan. Frost Library is working to make more copies of Black Men of Amherst, now out of print, available to the community. Wade also delved into the Amherst-Dunbar pipeline while he was in D. After graduating from Harvard, he came back to his old Springfield Gardens neighborhood, where he was asked to help chair the scholarship committee of his home parish, the Springfield Gardens United Methodist Church. Those six years after graduation, this opinionator-tactician-author-historian kept in solid touch with his Amherst friends. By , Wade was in love with a young woman he was thinking of marrying. His work was meaningful. He was making a name for himself. He was giving back to his community. To celebrate his upcoming birthday and mark this prime time in his life, Wade decided to take a vacation to Barbados, to visit his extended family and rest in the sun. Just before he left, in June of that year, he had lunch with David Glass, his Amherst classmate and fellow Queens native. Wade had finished the first draft of Black Men of Amherst. I truthfully had no awareness how many prominent black men had graduated from Amherst. What a brilliant idea for someone to take this on and research it. There had been a recent storm, as a friend later learned, which had knocked over a sign warning that the shallows gave way to a sudden drop-off. Like many African-Americans who, because of segregation and discrimination, had little access to pools or beaches, and who also bore the legacy of fear of the water from forebears who were never taught to swim, Wade too had never learned to swim. He drowned the day before his 26th birthday. It was a tragedy, and it is hard to stand even all these years later. On another, it is the story of Wade and his peers, caught between old and new philosophies of civil rights activism. But let us end with the words of the remarkable young man himself, writing in his hard-won book, his gift to the ages: One must deal with the Is and not the Ought, however; hence my black history.

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