

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

THE UNTOLD STORIES

Y V E T T E L O N G

8th grade

MP1

CHAPTER 1

ROSA PARKS SPEAKS

The best things in life often are planned. History has painted me as some tired old woman who one day just got fed up and decided to make a scene, rather than give up my seat to a white man.

In actuality, I was a Chapter Secretary of the Montgomery, Alabama branch of the NAACP. I would like to say I worked with others behind the scenes to pick the right time and place to do what I did, and pre-plan many of the nonviolent activities to follow, including the Montgomery bus boycott, but much of what happened just happened by accident, and one thing snowballed into another that winter.

That day I refused to give up my seat to a white passenger - December 1, 1955 - also wasn't the first time I clashed with that particular bus driver, James Blake. In 1933, I paid my fare in the front, then refused to get off the bus and re-enter through the back door, as our race was required to do back then. I resisted until he got so angry that he attacked me and nearly yanked off my coat sleeve. I didn't give him the satisfaction and instead left the bus. But I would remember him, he would remember me, and I think somehow we both knew this fight between us was not over.

It helps to have an education when having to deal with stubborn, ignorant people like that bus driver, and education was important to me and my family. My mother was a teacher and valued education. I attended the Alabama State Teachers' College for Negroes, in a high school "laboratory program" there,

from which I got my high school degree. No question my education helped me deal with all kinds of challenges, including the institutionalized racism and inequality we faced on a daily basis.



As I said in my autobiography, "People always say that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired, but that isn't true. I was not tired physically... No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in." All the seats in the "white" section were taken, so that same driver told those of us in the four seats of the first row of the "colored" section to stand up, to add another row to the "white" section so this white guy could sit down. The other three obeyed the driver. I refused.

Within one year, this whole thing would escalate into an almost year-long Montgomery bus boycott, with thousands of African Americans joining together to force change. On November 13, 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled bus segregation was unconstitutional; the boycott ended December 20, one day after the Court's written order arrived in Montgomery.

I lost my job, but became known as "mother of the Civil Rights movement." Feels fitting that it was me, a seamstress, who wove the first thread that would string forward and become a national movement. I couldn't have been more pleased. I don't know what happened to that white bus driver.

SUMMING UP THE DECADES: 1900S TO 1960S

In the first 2/3 of the 20th century, the United States faced rapid industrialization, two World Wars, the Great Depression, the Cold War, and the Civil Rights Movement. These major events have continued to largely shape the United States and the lives of African Americans today. Violence, liberation, and struggle characterize this seventy-five year period in United States history.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

The beginning of the twentieth century was marked by a period known as the Progressive Era, for the advancements made in labor laws and white women's suffrage. This period was preceded by a time in American history known as the Gilded Age, due to the lavish spending of the upper classes driven by recent advancements in technology. The main concern of the Progressive Era was, therefore, to solve the problems of the Gilded Age, by advocating for legal protections of abused workers, and eliminating problems caused by industrialization, urbanization, immigration, and political corruption. During this time, African Americans raised their own plights of rampant segregation, violence, and economic difficulties, through the writings and organizations that they established during this period.

Happening fairly simultaneously, World War I began in Europe and occurred from 1914-1918. Although the United States was only involved in World War I for its final 19 months, that involvement had enormous impacts on the history and culture of the country. When the United States declared war, African American men enlisted. At first, many were turned away because of deeply entrenched racism. Once the government realized that their current numbers of soldiers were not sufficient, four all-black regiments were put into operation and became heroes in their communities.

Then the draft came, which required men to serve in the army, and allowed African American men to join in large numbers. By the end of World War I, over 350,000 African Americans had served in the war, honorably, and with freedom in Europe that contrasted to their experiences in America. On returning home from World War I in 1919, many were fed up with poor treatment compared to overseas, which encouraged many to join organizations and continue the fight for freedom and greater legal equality and equal rights.

The 1920s also were a time of rapid spending, with the widespread use of automobiles, the spread of speakeasies defying Prohibition, and parties defining the 1920s. Prohibition was a law that banned the sale and drinking of alcohol in the United States. This period was a time of artistic revival for African American communities and came to be known - through activities primarily held in New York City - as

the Harlem Renaissance. In this period, African American musicians and artists founded jazz music and were a dominant force in the artistic culture of the United States during this period.



To document and preserve this movement and the history of African Americans, Carter Godwin Woodson (1875-1950) founded a groundbreaking group titled the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASAALH). As the son of former slaves, Woodson became a pioneer in the study of African American history. He graduated from the University of Chicago and then Harvard University. As one of the very first scholars to ever exclusively study African American history, he is often called the “father of black history”.

Woodson later went on to found the *Journal of Negro History*, to foster scholarship and academic discussions around African American history. He eventually launched his idea for a black history week, which was eventually taken up as the inspiration for Black History Month, which will be explored in the 1975-present section.

Simultaneously, beginning in approximately 1916, African Americans began to migrate *en masse* out of the rural Southern United States, relocating to the Northeast, Midwest, and West. This migration, known as the Great Migration, was represented by a massive shift in African American communities northwards. For example, prior to 1910, approximately 90% of African Americans lived in the South. By the end of the Great Migration in the 1970s, 80% of African Americans either lived in the North and West or in an urban environment. In total, about six million African Americans left the South. This movement of millions of people completely reshaped the country politically and economically. The cities that they came to call home were widely impacted politically and socially by this new demographic.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

The 1930s brought in the Great Depression when the stock markets crashed in 1929 due to a lack of regulation and an over pouring of reckless spending on the U.S. stock market. The 1920s had been a time of rampant consumerism backed by credit, causing an unstable market. This period was marred by some of the worst unemployment in the history of the country, with African Americans often being laid off first and hired last. As many African Americans worked in low-skilled positions such as housekeepers, they often faced the first layoffs and had little to no economic cushion. African Americans were unemployed at approximately 50% by 1932, double or triple what their white counterparts experienced.

The Great Depression finally came to an end with the beginning of World War II in Europe (1939-1945). With Adolf Hitler's takeover of Europe, the United States was drawn into World War II as a result of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The United States joined the Allies, on the side of Great Britain and Russia, to fight the Axis, which included Germany, Italy, and Japan. The United States largely fought in Southern Europe, also known as the European Theatre, and in the Pacific Ocean, also known as the Pacific Theatre.

When African Americans joined the war effort, they still faced discrimination due to segregated units and second-class treatment at military parades, in transportation, training, and in canteens. However, African American women fought successfully to be included as nurses, with the first nurse enlisting into the Navy Nurse Corps in 1945. There were many African American heroes who served during WWII who saved lives and helped to end the war faster. The war finally ended in 1945 with the American nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The 1950s saw a time of relative calm, with the restoration of international peace and stability in economics. For African Americans, the Civil Rights Movement took off with renewed focus and vigor with the goal of making the country inclusive, fair, and equal. The middle class grew; white Americans saw greater access to transportation, technological advancements, and a higher standard of living.

Meanwhile, many African American communities still struggled to have access to suitable schools and safe employment.

The 1960s saw a period of the ongoing struggle for civil rights as well as the Vietnam War. The Vietnam War was fought between the opposing ideological regimes in the north and south of Vietnam, with the United States supporting the Democratic administration over the Communist regime, in order to continue their struggle with the Soviet Union during the Cold War. African American men were drafted, just as were white men, to serve during this conflict. However, Vietnam was significant because it was the first conflict where black and white soldiers were integrated into the same units. Many African Americans also took part in the anti-war protests. Although equal units and solidarity were a major gain, overall, the war distracted the goals of the Civil Rights Movement and pulled attention away from the cause of equality.

CHAPTER REVIEW

1. What marked the Gilded Age?
 - a. Ineffective and political corruption with conspicuous consumption
 - b. Unfettered capitalism
 - c. Rapid economic growth generating vast wealth for a few
 - d. All of the above
2. What was the main concern of the Progressive Era?
 - a. To end slavery
 - b. To solve the problems of the Gilded Age
 - c. To focus on advancements in technology
 - d. None of the above
3. What is true about World War I?
 - a. African Americans were allowed only after learning there was a shortage of soldiers
 - b. There was deeply entrenched discrimination and racism in the military
 - c. 350,000 African Americans serviced
 - d. All of the above
4. How many African Americans left the South during the Great Migration North for a better life?
 - a. 6,000
 - b. 60,00
 - c. 600,000
 - d. 6,000,000

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

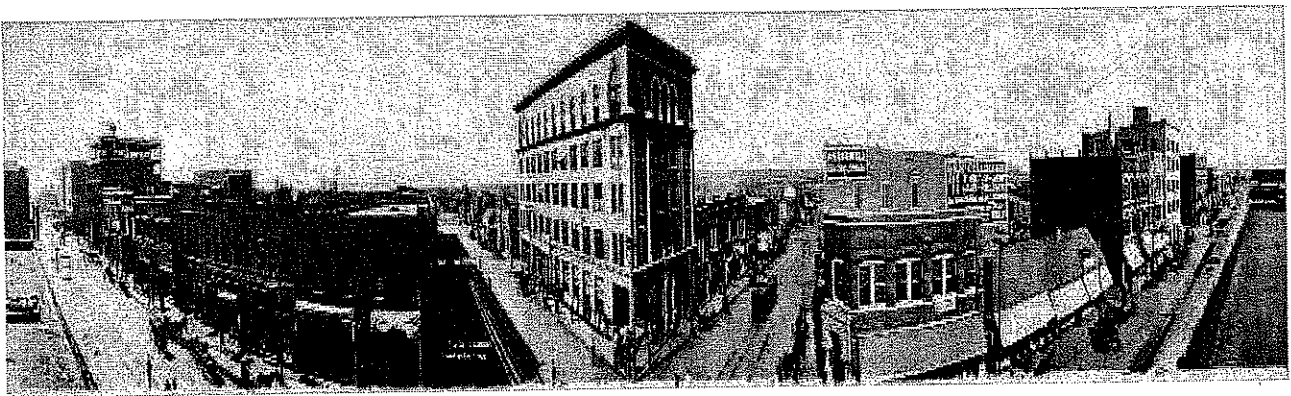
5. Why did many African Americans participate in the Great Migration?
- a. Labor shortages in the North
 - b. Vicious and violent racism in the South
 - c. Easier methods of transportation
 - d. All of the above
6. TRUE or FALSE: Vietnam was the first war where black and white soldiers fought in integrated units?
- a. True
 - b. False

CHAPTER 2

RESILIENCE

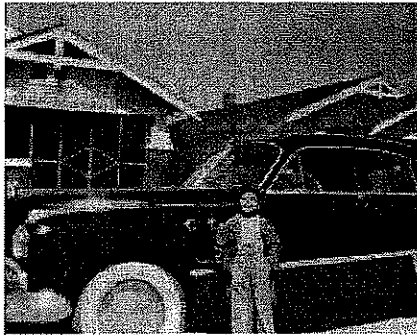
To better appreciate African American resilience, it's good to zero in on the depth and level of hatred that has existed in America, and the kind of situations that African Americans faced. There are many egregious examples in American history, but one of the worst was the Tulsa race riot of 1921.

Very few incidents of American history, as late as the 20th century, have been so systematically wiped from history that some question their very existence. Such was the case of the Tulsa race riot of 1921. Researchers had been challenged by police records that have been destroyed, published news articles that had been removed from archives, and (at the time) the severing of telephone and telegraph lines to the outside world, so no one could be made aware of, or assist the African-American community, as the event was happening. Thanks to one eyewitness who lived to tell what he saw, and the work of further



researchers in years since, we now have a portrait of some of the darkest moments in African-American

history beginning to a lesser extent towards the end of the 19th century and growing in intensity in the early 20th century.



The Greenwood community – the African-American neighborhood within Tulsa, Oklahoma, which was home to about 10,000 – was called Black Wall Street because of its prosperity. Black Wall Street had 600 businesses, 21 churches, 30 grocery stores, 2 movie theatres, 6 private planes, a hospital, a bank, a post

office, schools, libraries, law offices, and even a bus system. Since African-Americans often could not shop in white-owned stores, the money they made often went into the African American-owned businesses in their own neighborhood. When Oklahoma got its first oil wells that wealth spread into the African-American community. African-American owned businesses thrived, as did many of the residents. Many living in Greenwood were considered to be of middle or upper-class. They owned their own residential homes and were able to provide well for their families. Greenwood was a tight-knit community where everyone supported each other, which gave them all greater access to health, education, jobs, housing, savings, and resources. Despite all this, Oklahoma at the time was a segregated state, and it's fair to say that several in the white community were threatened by and envious of the financial success within the African-American neighborhood, and in some cases, were not happy with their own lack of prosperity in comparison.



On May 31 into June 1, 1921, whites – led by an estimated 2,000 Ku Klux Klan members – decided to thoroughly destroy the Greenwood neighborhood. In one of the largest massacres of African-Americans in U.S. history, over 60% of citizens in the Greenwood neighborhood were arrested by police in 16 hours, and

many of the remainders were killed or injured by rampaging mobs, which aimed to destroy everything in their paths. Overnight, almost all African-American businesses and churches were destroyed, along with many residential homes, in a systematic and successful effort to obliterate the neighborhood. The neighborhood was given little money to rebuild afterward, and never returned to the level of prosperity and success it had prior to the riot. It has been estimated that, in today's dollars, the damage done to Greenwood in that one 16-hour rampage was over \$30 million.



While what happened in Greenwood was especially horrific, it was far from the only incident in the 20th century. Incidents of this kind were often triggered by a false accusation, which caused white mobs already seething with hatred and jealous to unite

and rally against African-Americans. Here are some other riots that preceded Tulsa, Oklahoma in the

20th century, which often were conducted against African Americans as “revenge” for their success and prosperity:

- 1906 – Little Rock, Arkansas, and Atlanta, Georgia
- 1907 – Bellingham, Washington
- 1908 – Springfield, Illinois
- 1910 – Slocum, Texas
- 1917 – East St. Louis, Illinois; Chester, Pennsylvania; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 1919 – The Red Summer of 1919 saw riots in various locations across the U.S. when white soldiers returning from World War I found in several cases that their jobs had been taken by African-American veterans.

Similar riots against African Americans followed Tulsa, before the start of the Civil Rights movement:

- 1923 - Rosewood, Florida
- 1927 – Little Rock, Arkansas
- 1927 – Poughkeepsie, New York
- 1930 – Watsonville, California
- 1935 – Harlem, Manhattan, New York
- 1943 – Detroit, Michigan; Los Angeles, California; and Harlem, Manhattan, New York (again)

While it is shocking to see this ongoing cycle of violence, it is important to recognize and acknowledge it when exploring American history in general, and African American history in particular. Individually and collectively, these riots set back the African American community – whether through people being killed or injured, or businesses or churches being destroyed or damaged. Moreover, this cycle didn’t just happen in the 20th century.



THE HAMBURG RIOT, JULY, 1876

This cycle was *preceded* with riots in the 1700s and 1800s and followed with *additional* ones in the 1900s and 2000s. This continuous thread of intolerance and violence has shaped our history and our nation, and to a large extent, was successful – by bringing down the African American community and

its spirit. Because later generations weren't taught or didn't know this history of assault and attack, they couldn't appreciate the struggle of their ancestors and how they had to frequently restart and rebuild, as part of living in America. Lasting poverty and despair, without fully understanding this past history of destruction and recovery, remains the lingering after-effect.

Estimates are that African American established anywhere from eighty eight to two hundred black incorporated towns throughout the United States during the 19th and early 20th centuries. These towns were all or mostly self-governing, having their own independent governments and commercial economies. The African Americans were looking for not only political freedom but economic opportunities. As it became increasing difficult to secure land in the post Confederate states, so like many whites, the African Americans sought a better life and greater opportunity in the West. The Twin Territories in Oklahoma became the most important black town centers in the nation, as thirty-two all-black towns emerged in this territory.

A list of towns founded by African American by state, not all are listed;

Alabama: Cedarlake; Greenwood Village, Hobson City, Plateau, Shepherdsville; Arkansas; Edmondson, Thomasville; California, Abila, Allensworth, Bowles, Victorville; Colorado; Dearfield, Florida;

Eastonville, New Monrovia, Richmond Heights, Illinois; Brooklyn, Robbins, Iowa; Buxton, Kansas; Nicodmus, Kentucky; New Zion, Louisiana; Grambling North Shreveport, Maryland; Fairmont Heights, Glenarden, Lincoln City, Michigan; Idlewind, Marlborough, Mississippi; Expose, Mound Bayou, Renova, Missouri; Kinloch, New Jersey; Gouldtown, Lawnside, Springtown, Whitesboro, New Mexico; Blackdom, North Carolina; Columbia Heights, Method, Oberlin: Ohio; Lincoln Heights, Urbancrest, Oklahoma; Arkansas Colored, Bailey, Boley, Booktee, Canadian Colored, Chase, Clearview, Ferguson, Forman Gibson Station, Grayson, Langston City, Louisville, Liberty, Lima, Lincoln City, Mantu, Marshalltown, North Folk Colored, Overton, Porter, Redbird, Rentiesville, Summit, Taft, Tatum, Tullahassee, Vernon, Wellston Colony, Wybark, Two unnamed towns in Seminole Nation, Tennessee; Hortense; New Bedford, Texas, Andy Board House, Booker, Independence Heights, Kendleton, Mill City, Oldham, Roberts, Union City, Virginia; Ocean Grove Titustown, Truxton, West Virginia; Institute.

At the same time, this cycle of violence also strengthened the determination of many individuals to contribute what they could, to try to bring it to an end.



In response to the flagrant inequality that they still experienced in nearly every facet of their lives, African Americans began to campaign for their own equality in the eyes of the law. Philosophical movements flourished during this period, and

Civil Rights activists began to train and prepare for the ensuing decades of struggle. There were many areas that became focal points for the Civil Rights Movement, such as integrating schools and transportation systems, stopping lynchings, and securing fair housing, as well as making voting accessible. African American leaders founded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

(NAACP) to consolidate their focus.



Early on in the movement, desegregating school systems received attention because civil rights leaders wanted to provide greater equal opportunity for black children. In a landmark case in 1954, named *Brown V. Board of Education*, black students

had begun a protest to call attention to their overcrowded and failing schools. This led to the NAACP filing five different court cases challenging the Jim Crow laws, a systematic legal basis for segregating and discriminating against African Americans. In 1954, the Supreme Court ruled on behalf of the NAACP, ruling that segregating schools violated the constitutional rights of the students. Therefore, in 1957, nine brave students from Little Rock, Arkansas, enrolled in a white school. They were harassed by angry whites, denied by the governor, and even had the state National Guard called to bar them access to their right. In the end, the Little Rock Nine, as they came to be called, were the first students to integrate into a white school. To do so, President Eisenhower was forced to call in the Federal National Guard to escort the students inside and out, each day. These nine students led the way for the integration of others.



The year before, Rosa Parks, a brave and strategic activist, boarded a bus, refusing to give up her seat for a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama. In response, the black community boycotted the bus system, in what



became known as the Montgomery Bus Boycott. This boycott paved the way for the Freedom Rides in 1961, which were journeys undertaken by Civil Rights activists who traveled in buses in between Southern and Northern states to verify their right to desegregated travel between

states. Often, when these travelers would step off of their buses in search of food or restrooms, they encountered extreme violence. For example, in Birmingham, Alabama, the white terrorist organization named the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) attacked the Freedom Riders. The riders were severely beaten as police often refused to protect blacks. This story repeated itself for nearly each freedom ride occurring around the country, as protesters were beaten, arrested, and attacked. Black and many whites joined to show their support against the violence. Their efforts did succeed, however, when President John F. Kennedy issued a desegregation order for buses, and by 1961, passengers were allowed to sit wherever they chose on buses.

Civil Rights activists were trained in nonviolence, the primary method Dr. King employed and encouraged, where protesters refused to fight back and use violence, even when they were beaten, imprisoned, or killed. As one example, many activists traveled to the South to further test and eliminate segregation. Many of these groups would stage sit-ins, where they would sit at counters and tables reserved for whites. These groups would dress professionally, and were instructed to sit quietly and respectfully. In response, police and white mobs would attack those sitting-in, and arrest or beat them. Non-violence demanded that these protesters bear all of the physical, emotional, and verbal abuse, and even arrest, without complaint or returning any of the violence. In spite of this brutality, their methods eventually worked, leading to desegregation in parks, theatres, museums, and beaches.



After a series of ongoing protests, marches, and riots, Dr. King journeyed to Selma, Alabama in 1963. In Selma, Dr. King and his fellow activists planned to march to the capital to demonstrate their desire for equality. Nearly six blocks into the march, local authorities, state

troopers, and a white mob attacked the peaceful marchers with clubs, tear gas, barbed wire, and more. Many of the marchers were hospitalized and arrested. The evening of the second march, a white reverend who had traveled to Selma in solidarity with the marchers was attacked by white supremacists and died from his wounds. This demonstration of brutality horrified the country, and President Lyndon B. Johnson was compelled to respond.

Not all African Americans signed on to the non-violence approach, however. New and fresh voices, and approaches were added to these struggles, with the founding of the Black Power movement. Huey Newton (1942-1989) and Bobby Seale (1936) co-founded the Black Panther party to fight for the right of self-defense of African Americans as well as to foster social programs, such as the Free Breakfast for Children Programs and community health clinics. Newton and Seale learned about and experienced the ongoing struggle of African Americans, in particular in encounters with police and in poverty, and fought to create their own form of governance and self-protection.

Nevertheless, indisputable progress came. With Dr. King and his nonviolence approach on the one hand, and Malcolm X and others advocating violence on the other hand, Johnson and King worked

together behind the scenes to bring the violent confrontations between Americans to a close, and help ensure that good, solid Civil Rights legislation finally would become part of the American tapestry.

On July 2, 1964, President Johnson signed into law the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which "is a landmark civil rights and U.S. labor law in the United States that outlaws discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. It prohibits the unequal application of voter registration requirements, and racial segregation in schools, employment, and public accommodations." It did not, however, guarantee the right to vote for African Americans, which Johnson promised to Dr. King that he would champion for and sign the legislation, after the 1964 Presidential election.

Johnson kept his promise. On August 6, 1965, he signed into law the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which has been called "a landmark piece of federal legislation in the United States that prohibits racial discrimination in voting" and (per the U.S Justice Department) "the most effective piece of federal civil rights legislation ever enacted in the country."

CHAPTER REVIEW

1. How many race riots against blacks were there between 1906 and 1943, where homes and property were destroyed and innocent people were killed?
 - a. Three
 - b. None
 - c. More than ten
 - d. Eight
2. What was the ruling of *Brown V. Board of Education*?
 - a. That segregating bus system was unconstitutional
 - b. That the Jim Crow laws were unconstitutional
 - c. That segregating school system was unconstitutional
 - d. All of the above
3. What was life like for blacks and whites during segregation?
 - a. They knew very little about one another and therefore had little respect for each other
 - b. They focused on each other's differences
 - c. There was a great deal of hate and violence
 - d. All of the above

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

- Why was there a need for the NAACP?
- There was flagrant inequality
 - Lynching was a common practice
 - Voting was not allowed or inaccessible to blacks and poor whites
 - All of the above
- What did the freedom riders seek to accomplish?
- The desegregation of schools
 - The desegregation of public transportation
 - More involvement of African Americans in politics
 - The abolition of the Jim Crow Laws
- Why were the Jim Crow Laws put into place?
- To provide a legal and systematic methods by which to discriminate and segregate against African Americans
 - To replace the Black Codes
 - To provide equality for African Americans
 - To aid African Americans during the draft
7. What did the violence at Selma against civil rights activists lead to?
- The passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965
 - The desegregation of schools
 - The desegregation of transportation
 - Protection for discrimination in the workplace against African Americans
8. What is the estimated number of towns established and governed by African Americans during the 19th and 20th Centuries?
- Four or Five
 - Over a thousand
 - Eighty eight to more than two hundred, not including municipalities.
 - None

CHAPTER 3

HEROISM

When thinking of African American heroism in the early 20th century, the Tuskegee Airmen are often among the first group to come to mind. They were the first African American aviators in the U.S. Army Air Corps (AAC), a precursor of the U.S. Air Force. Trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama, they flew more than 15,000 individual sorties in Europe and North Africa during World War II. They earned over 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses and helped encourage the eventual integration of the U.S. Armed Forces.



The Triple Nickle 555th Parachute Infantry was the nation's first all-black parachute infantry platoon, company, and battalion. They served in more airborne units in peace and war than any other parachute group in history. One of the elements in their success was that, unlike other Black infantry units officered by Whites, they were entirely Black, including the commanding officer.

In 1945, they were assigned away from combat in Europe, partly due to racism and fears that these highly

trained black paratroopers wouldn't mix well with elements in Europe and could be targeted, secondly, the Japanese were bloated explosives with the intent to ignite mass fires in the forest throughout the Northwestern United States.



Heroism by African Americans took many forms in the first 2/3 of the 20th century, not only by group but by individual achievement. Ida B. Wells (1862-1931) was an investigative journalist, a leader in the Civil Rights Movement, and an educator who also helped to found the NAACP. Wells was born into slavery in Mississippi and was freed by the Emancipation Proclamation. She was orphaned early on but went to work to support her grandmother and her siblings. She went on to work as a teacher, and then became a co-owner of *The Memphis Speech and Headlight*. Through this newspaper, she began to document the ongoing lynchings in the United States and published many articles exposing lynching for the barbarous and horrific violence it was. Because of her writings, she was subject to many threats and had her newspaper attacked by a white mob. She eventually moved to Chicago, where she became very involved with the Women's Suffrage movement, as well as the Civil Rights movement. Today, Wells is remembered as a strong advocate for African Americans and for justice.



Then there is the extraordinary life of Josephine Baker (1906-1975). Baker was born in Missouri to parents who were entertainers. Baker became a celebrated entertainer, activist, and dancer. Her costumes were world-famous for their risqué nature and uniqueness. Baker originally traveled to France for her dancing career, where she was received with acclaim. However, when Germany invaded France, she assisted the Resistance by furnishing those fleeing with visas, gathering information and passing it along to the Allies, and using her

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

job as an entertainer to gather insight into the many different countries entangled in the war. She received the Croix de Guerre by the French military for her incredible service as a spy for the French resistance. In the United States, she continued her activism, as Baker refused to perform for segregated audiences.

Henry Johnson received the Medal of Honor posthumously for his service during WWI. Johnson was born in North Carolina and joined the all-black National Guard in New York City. He was eventually sent to France, where he was put on patrol in the Argonne Forest. It was there in 1918 that he fought off a German raid in hand-to-hand combat. He sustained twenty-one wounds but saved the lives of countless fellow soldiers. For his service, he was recognized by France and was the first U.S. soldier to receive the Croix de Guerre in WWI. He overcame the racism of the army and served nobly.

Bessie Coleman (1892-1926) was another ground-breaking African American: the first African American woman to hold a pilot license, which she earned in 1921. Her early interest in flight guided her through studying in segregated schools before she moved to France to become a licensed pilot since African Americans were not allowed to become pilots in the U.S. at that time. Her dream was to open a school for African American pilots but tragically died in a plane crash.

In terms of ideology, there were many voices that described how African Americans could find liberation. One such example, is Marcus Mosiah Garvey (1887-1940), a Jamaican-born political leader and writer. Early on, he moved to the United States and became a strong voice for black political organizing when he founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA). The UNIA aimed to found a black nation in Africa and believed in racial pride, economic self-sufficiency, and racial separation. Garvey's ideas were somewhat contentious, but they did lead to consolidation of black political power, especially for urban and poor communities.

His belief in the importance of black pride was the foundation for the idea of Pan-Africanism, which sought to unite all of the indigenous communities of Africa into a cultural and political utopia. Garvey and his followers created the pan-African flag (shown above) in response to a violently racist song

declaring that African Americans had no flag. The pan-African flag is comprised of red, black, and green stripes, representing the blood of liberty, the color of the "noble and distinguished race" of African Americans, and the color of the "luxuriant vegetation of our Motherland." The flag became a symbol of Black pride and worldwide liberation.

Justice Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993) was the first African American judge on the U.S. Supreme Court. Marshall was born in Baltimore, was the descendant of slaves, yet went on to attend Howard's law school. He became a lawyer, where he argued several essential cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, such as *Brown v. Board of Education*. He also served as the Executive Director of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. In 1961, President Kennedy appointed Marshall to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Four years later, President Johnson appointed him to the U.S. Supreme Court. Justice Marshall served for 24 years on the bench. He fought against the death penalty and other possible forms of unfair treatment. He also stewarded many clerkships who went on to become famous judges themselves, such as Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan.

This period also saw the rise of some of the greatest, and most diverse, African American heroes in American history, such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Jessie Jackson, and Malcolm X, to name a few.

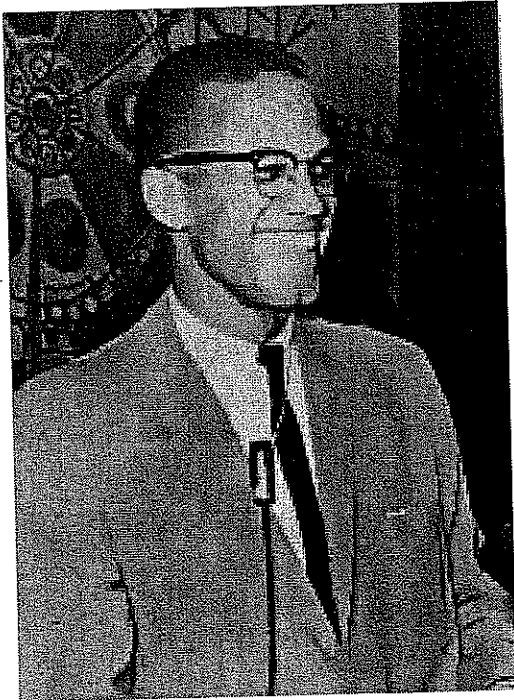


In terms of societal impact, Dr. King (1929-1968) was perhaps one of the greatest Americans to ever live. He was born in Atlanta, Georgia and went on to attend a historically black college. Early on, King became very interested in the ideas of nonviolent

resistance that had been used by Mohandas Gandhi to free India from British colonization in 1957. King

became a Baptist minister and joined the NAACP. He supported Rosa Parks and the Montgomery bus boycotts, and because he was such a visible leader, his house was bombed. King continued to lead marches, train young African Americans in the methods of nonviolence, take part in sit-ins, and organize for the freedom of African Americans. He was arrested several times, which was a tactic of nonviolence. During his Birmingham Campaign, King hoped to "create a situation so crisis-packed that it will inevitably open the door to negotiation" by organizing nonviolent action throughout the city. During these protests, the police would often use much greater force against the protesters, from letting dangerous dogs attack children, to power-spraying protesters with fire hoses, much of which was shown on national television, to the horror, shock, and revulsion of African Americans and many whites.

King was especially gifted and well-known as a speaker, or orator. He negotiated with the Federal government, led marches, and wrote some of the most well-known speeches in American history. His "I Have a Dream" speech, given on the Washington Mall, encompassed his beliefs in nonviolence, and riveted and galvanized much of the nation. After accomplishing many of his goals, King traveled to



Memphis, Tennessee, where he gave his final, and some would say most beautiful, speech, named "I've Been to the Mountaintop." Later that night, he was assassinated by James Earl Ray, a white supremacist. Also prominent in the 1960s, but taking a different approach to societal change was Malcolm X (1925-1965). Born Malcolm Little in Omaha, Nebraska, his family moved to Wisconsin after being harassed by the KKK. However, they still encountered severe racism and violence, to the point that many believe Malcolm X's father was murdered

by a white supremacist group. Although he intended to practice law, Malcolm was discouraged by his teachers from doing so, because of his race. He went on to join the Nation of Islam, which advocated for

black self-reliance and freedom from white supremacy, and he changed his last name to X, to symbolize the lack of the last name from his unknown ancestors (as opposed to a name given to his family by slave owners). Malcolm began to achieve fame when he stood up for a black man being beaten by police in New York City, called the Hinton Johnson incident. In the Nation of Islam, he began speaking up for African Americans, and proposing a series of radical teachings. He felt that nonviolence was too complacent a method for fighting white supremacy. He believed black communities would have to take care of themselves, solving the problems of extreme economic poverty and police brutality by defending themselves and forming their own societies. His opinions with the Nation of Islam began to diverge, and he left the organization. He was later assassinated by a member of the Nation of Islam, Talmadge Hayer, during a speech.

While discrimination faced by African Americans was bad enough, it was multiplied significantly for LGBT African Americans, who faced double discrimination for their race and their sexuality. Homosexual and transgender communities faced enormous discrimination and extra policing. In New York City, it was not uncommon for individuals to be arrested due to anti-sodomy laws, and gay nightclubs were consistently raided, which is what occurred at the Stonewall Inn, a popular gay bar, in June 1969. The night that the riots began, police raided the bar and began handcuffing and arresting LGBT patrons. In response, transgender club-goers refused to be identified, and Stormé DeLarverie, a black lesbian, cried out that someone should "Do Something." Legend has it that Marsha P. Johnson (1945-1992) threw a shot glass at a mirror and declared "I got my civil rights," which may have sparked the escalation into what became known worldwide as the Stonewall Rebellion. The incidents that evening led to massive riots around New York City for several days, where members of the LGBT community demanded equal rights, better treatment, and accountability for homophobia and police violence.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

CHAPTER REVIEW

1. Who was Ida B. Wells?
 - a. An investigative journalist
 - b. A leader in the Civil Rights Movement
 - c. An educator
 - d. All of the above

2. What is Ida B. Wells most known for?
 - a. Documented and investigated lynching
 - b. Protested transportation discrimination
 - c. Boycotted racist publications
 - d. All of the above

3. Josephine Baker was:
 - a. An entertainer
 - b. A resistance fighter
 - c. A dancer
 - d. All of the above

4. Henry Johnson was a hero because he:
 - a. Was a member of the French resistance
 - b. Was a successful spy during WWII
 - c. Fought off a German attack using hand-to-hand combat
 - d. All of the above

5. What was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's major contribution to the Civil Rights Movement?
 - a. His development of the ideals of nonviolent protest
 - b. His relationships with Washington politicians
 - c. His willingness to be arrested
 - d. His legal degree

6. Which speech encompassed Dr. King's ideology for freeing African Americans?
 - a. "I've Been to the Mountaintop."
 - b. "I Have a Dream"
 - c. "The Ballot or the Bullet"
 - d. "Native Son"

7. Malcolm X was a prominent member of which organization?
 - a. The NAACP
 - b. The American Bar Association
 - c. The Nation of Islam
 - d. All of the above

8. TRUE or FALSE: Both Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X died by assassination.
 - a. True
 - b. False



African American History: The Untold Stories, was written to aid young men in America who could benefit from understanding and connecting with their history. An understanding of history helps us to understand who we are while providing direction for who we are capable of becoming. African American History: The Untold Stories was written for African American boys with the interest of providing them insight into a narrative of their forefathers and a more accurate perception of themselves and their potential.

African American History: The Untold Stories is also valuable to educators, individuals who rely upon the events of the past to serve as a guide in preventing repeated past mistakes, and those needing to find the missing gaps to their identity and purpose. The popular and currently told version of American history is missing large segments of the true American History story.

This book connects young African American boys and others to the true history of African Americans here in America. It's the true American History story – untold stories will inspire the reader to achieve to their fullest potential and to work towards a more united, equitable and just America. Our nation has lived in the shameful shadows of the past, in this book the truths are unveiled which will allow us to live more peaceful and harmoniously while demonstrating our greatness in leadership.



Yvette Long is the Founder and Executive Director of Platinum Minds, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization focused on working with boys and young men from challenged communities. The organization, founded in 2009, provides educational and leadership development skills to boys in sixth through twelfth grades. Platinum Minds also has a reading and mentoring component for younger boys in kindergarten to fifth grades.

As part of the educational and leadership component, the older boys are provided support to stay on a high academic track and to develop leadership skills, community consciousness, and entrepreneurial skills to help foster self-confidence and self-esteem. Yvette's twelve years of experience working with boys and young men have taught her a deeper understanding of what motivates, inspires, and also disenfranchises young men from excelling to their fullest potential.

Yvette holds certifications in counseling and teaching. She holds additional certifications to teach psychology and meditation. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and Psychology from Thomas Edison State College and a Master's degree in Student Guidance Services from Montclair State University.

Yvette is passionate about the issues preventing individuals from achieving their true potential in life. She has spent a great deal of time volunteering for various organizations as her way of helping to ensure that those with the desire for a better life have the opportunity to realize their dreams. Yvette is the proud recipient of a number of awards, including the Boy Scouts of America Tribute to Women Award (recognized for excellence in working with boys), the Model Citizen Award for New Jersey, and the Outstanding Professional Counselor award from Montclair State University. Yvette lives in Morris County with her husband and their two daughters.

Yvette is also the Founder of Aspire, a counseling and life coaching service aimed at helping young men and individuals acquire the self-esteem and self-awareness they need to be successful on personal and professional levels.

This is her second book, following her earlier one titled "Aspire to Excellence: "Helping Young Men Make Better Choices," available on Amazon.com.



www.africanamericanuts.com

