

Highlights in African American History Colonial Era Through Early Republic

African Slave Trade – Established by **Spanish and Portuguese** in tandem with **Western African groups**, becomes part of **Triangular Trade, Middle Passage** was the movement of Africans to the Americas to be sold into slavery. This is **forced migration** of peoples.

1619 – First slaves arrive in **Jamestown** but **labor mainly indentured servitude** through the 1600s. All colonies had slaves eventually, although much more in the **South** due to **demand for labor on tobacco, rice, and indigo plantations**. Slave knowledge helped improve agriculture, culture mixed with Christianity.

1676- Bacon's Rebellion leads to turning point from **indentured servitude to slavery**. By this point there are **slave codes** defining slavery as racial, as "**chattel**" (property), and as permanent status.

1731, 1739 – Nat Turner's Rebellion and the Stono Rebellion... two examples of **failed rebellions resulting in harsher Slave Codes**. Other methods of protest included sabotage or running away.

1776 – Slavery clause omitted from **Declaration of Independence**, sacrificed for unity. However, "**all men are created equal**" becomes foundation of American ideals.

1787 – **Northwest Ordinance** – AOC; slavery banned in new states (Ohio Valley) Also... **Northern state constitutions in this Critical Era outlaw slavery**.

1789 – **Three-Fifths Compromise**—Once it was decided that representation in the House of Representatives as to be based on population, delegates from Northern and Southern states had a difference of opinion on how slaves should be counted. Delegates for the Northern states where the economy did not rely heavily on slavery felt that slaves should not be counted towards representation. This would provide the South with a greater number of representatives. On the other hand, Southern states fought for slaves to be counted in terms of representation. The compromise between the two became known as the three-fifths compromise because every five slaves would be counted as three individuals in terms of representation. And **Slave Trade Compromise**—Those who opposed slavery in the northern states wanted to bring an end to the importation and sale of slaves. On the other hand, southern states felt that slavery was vital to economy and did not want the government interfering in the slave trade. In the end, the North agreed to wait until 1808 before Congress would be able to ban the slave trade in the US. **Again a cause for liberty sacrificed for unity and ratification of new Constitution**.

1793 – **Eli Whitney invents cotton gin** leading to **King Cotton** across the **Deep South** and **increase demand for slavery, Southern states become dependent on Cotton and on slavery**.

1803 – **Louisiana Purchase** doubles the size of country... more slave states...

1809 – No more slave importation (Slavery Compromise)

Highlights in African American History Reconstruction Through Roaring Twenties

(RECONSTRUCTION AMENDMENTS)

Amendment #13- Abolishes slavery

Amendment #14- Provides equality and due process of the law for all citizens including African Americans; state governments must follow previously passed amendments,

Amendment #15- All males have the right to vote

Reconstruction Acts – military occupation of South to enforce new laws

Force Acts – President Grant goes after the KKK

Black Codes – slave owners trap many slaves with new laws

Exodusters – Blacks leaving South for Kansas, but most stay in the South

Civil Rights Acts – mostly found unconstitutional (10th Amendment)

Compromise of 1877 – troops leave and Jim Crow begins; along with **sharecropping** and crop lien... slavery continues under a different name

Plessy v. Ferguson (1896). "separate but equal." Jim Crow **segregation** legitimized.

Booker T. Washington – Atlanta Compromise, Tuskegee Institute, seeks cooperation with Whites to help Blacks gain vocational training and the ability to become economically self-sufficient, fights for gradual equality

W.E.B. DuBois – Talented Tenth, helps found the NAACP, *The Crisis*, fights for immediate equality

Great Migration begins during WWI, Blacks leaving South for jobs in the North, leads to growth of Black neighborhoods in cities like Chicago and New York. Slows during Great Depression then surges again in WWII.

Harlem Renaissance – explosion of jazz, art, literature from the African American community, during a decade where the **KKK surges** to its height, lynching increases, **Ida B. Wells-Barnett** still fighting for federal anti-lynching laws (won't happen until after WWII)

Marcus Garvey (activist) & Langston Hughes (poet) both speak of **Black Pride**, Garvey supports back to Africa movement while Hughes supports racial equality

Highlights in African American History Antebellum Era Through Civil War

Missouri Compromise 1820—Missouri would be admitted to the Union as a slave state. Maine would be admitted at the same time as a free state in order to maintain the balance between free and slave states. Slavery would be declared illegal north of the 36°30' parallel west of Missouri. This compromised settled the dispute over slavery in the Louisiana Territory and maintained balanced representation with equal number of slave and free states.

1833 – William Lloyd Garrison, *the Liberator*, one of many **abolitionist** leaders/movements calling for immediate and uncompensated end to slavery. Other approaches included compensation to slave owners for lost property, violence (John Brown), or back to Africa (Liberia).

The Compromise of 1850—After the Mexican War, the United States gained territory in the West, and the slavery issue ignited again over the question of whether slavery would be allowed to exist in the new states and territories. The Compromise of 1850 was a series of bills in Congress which sought to settle the issue, and it did postpone the Civil War by a decade. But the compromise, which contained five major provisions, was destined to be a temporary solution. Settled Texas border, ended slave trade in D.C., California entered as free state, and stronger fugitive slave law passed.

1852 – **Harriet Beecher Stowe, Uncle Tom's Cabin**, *abolitionism soars in the North*

The Kansas-Nebraska Act—The last major compromise that sought to hold the Union together, and it proved to be the most controversial. Engineered by Stephen A. Douglas the legislation inflamed conflict rather than quelling it. Newspaper editor, Horace Greeley, coined the term "Bleeding Kansas." to describe the outbreaks of violence in the territory and also in the Senate chamber (Brooks-Summer).

1854 – **Republican Party** forms, against the spread of slavery (not abolitionists)

Dred Scott v. Sanford (1857) -- Dred Scott not a citizen - Missouri Compromise of 1820 unconstitutional.

Election of 1860 – **Lincoln** elected, South begins to secede, **Civil War** begins in 1861.

1863 – **Emancipation Proclamation** – Lincoln declares slaves in the Confederacy to be free and allows Blacks to serve in Union army (slavery still in border states); this prevents Confederacy from gaining European ally by redefining war & making it about ending slavery... "all men are created equal" becomes part of Republican strategy.

1865 – **13th Amendment ratified, war and slavery officially ends.**

Highlights in African American History Great Depression Through Modern Times

Great Depression – Blacks have much higher unemployment than Whites, most New Deal programs help Whites but some do provide segregated jobs.

1941-FDR desegregates war industries following threatened March on Washington my A. Philip Randolph, many jobs available for Blacks

Tuskegee Airmen – Black pilots fighting **Double V campaign** (along with others) for victory abroad over fascism and victory at home over racism

1947 – **Jackie Robinson**, baseball desegregates; **Truman desegregates military**

1954 - Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas

"separate but equal" unconstitutional. This case reversed the Plessy decision of 1896. Many mark this event as the beginning of Civil Rights Era.

1963 – **MLK "I Have a Dream" March on Washington**

1957, 1960, 1964 Civil Rights Acts and the **1965 Voting Rights Act** address southern states political disenfranchising of Blacks. *64 Act also includes women and other forms of discrimination.*

64-68 – **LBJ's Great Society** creates many new welfare programs targeting the poor & African Americans disproportionately poor (**Medicare, Medicaid, Head Start, HUD, food stamps, public television, and many more**)... many blacks leave Republican Party and become **Democrat** in this decade due to the Great Society. The conservative resurgence in the 1960s and 1970s also leads to realignment in the South (Republican Party gains, Democratic Party loses)

1970s – Nixon supports affirmative action legislation, forced desegregation through busing stops