

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY BRIEF CHRONOLOGY SINCE EMANCIPATION

By Carol Hunter, PhD
Bob Hunter, Earlham College

Date	Event	Significance
1865	13 th Amendment-outlaws slavery	Ended slavery
1868	14 th Amendment-grants citizenship to former slaves; "due process"	Grants citizenship to African Americans Interpretation of the "due process" clause of the amendment results in little permanent benefit to African Americans until 1954 challenge to Plessy Vs Ferguson
1870	15 th Amendment non-racial voting rights	Grandfather clauses and fraudulent literacy test make this amendment ineffective in the south until the 1964 voting rights act
1873	African Americans elected to US Congress: John Lynch (MI) James Rapier (AL) Richard Caine (SC) Joseph Walls (FL) B.K. Bruce (MI)	Important victory that gets reversed by the end of reconstruction.
1875	Civil Rights Act	Declared unconstitutional because priority was given to the right of the individual and the states to discriminate. *
1875	Edward Bouchet, 1 st AA to receive PhD (physics at Yale)	important milestone
1883	Supreme Court in "Civil Rights Cases" declares Civil Rights Act unconstitutional	Brings an end to the advances of reconstruction. Promotes white supremacy and encourages racial violence. Signals to blacks the importance of the supreme court.
1895	Booker T. Washington gives his Atlanta Compromise Speech W.E.B. Du Bois receives his PhD from Harvard	Booker T advances the idea that civil rights laws are not necessary and that blacks will progress through hard work. Du Bois disagrees and predicts that the problem of the 20th century will be the problem of the "color line".
1896	Plessy vs. Ferguson	Supreme court case that established segregation as legal. Blocked any laws based on the 14th amendment that sought to end segregation.
1898	9 th and 10 th Negro Cavalry make T. Roosevelt's attack on San Juan hill successful	Black citizens sought respectability by joining and fighting for their country. Their bravery and patriotism was ignored by T. Roosevelt
1901	Alabama follows MS in creating new state constitution that include literacy tests and grandfather clause; other states follow.	The final end to reconstruction that establishes the final tools for white supremacy.
1905	Du Bois, Wm Trotter et.al form Niagara Movement precursor to NAACP (1909)	Part of the beginning of a second reconstruction that takes final form as the modern civil rights movement.
1908	Springfield, Ill. 2 day riot over alleged rape...8 killed; 2 lynched; 2000 flee city.	Evidence of the result of weak laws

1910	Urban league formed; AA begin to move north	A second wing of the new reconstruction movement.
1912	new stories of lynchings appear nearly every week; Ida B. Wells investigative reporter had been writing the "Truth about Lynchings" since 1892.	Ida B. Wells demonstrates the importance of the black free press and the realities of lynching.
1913	NAACP desegregates NYC theaters; Woodrow Wilson segregates federal employees	Some progress some loss.
1916	Carter Woodson begins publication of J. of Negro History	Establishes the importance of black history as a tool for racial progress.
1919	French govt. gives croix de guerre to entire 369 th unit for bravery in WWI; in 6 months 76 AA are lynched and 25 race riots occur in US.	Black units receive respect from Europe and are ignored at home. The enduring legacy of racial strife
1920	Marcus Garvey establishes Black Star Line; back to Africa movement	Substantial portion of the black population become discouraged that any further racial progress is possible in the US
1920s	Harlem Renaissance: arts, music literature	African American creativity and intelligence and resistance are displayed and celebrated. Harlem becomes the center of Black cultural expression.
1924	Gov. and mayor of Indy members of KKK; largest membership outside Chicago	The midwest develops a "new strain" of racism, antisemitism and anti immigrant sentiment masquerading as family values concern.
1930s	Farrad Mohammed begins Black Muslim movement; calls for an AA state in 1960	Christian racism leads to a growing distrust in Christianity and discouragement about the possibility of reconciliation.
1931	Scottsboro Boys Case: 9 AA charged with raping 2 whites	A case that gains nation wide attention because of its obvious miscarriage of justice.
1934	Mary Bethune organizes National Council of Negro Women	Largest black women's organization. Determined to fight stereotypes leveled against black women and men and to lobby for quality education for black children.
1937	Thurgood Marshall argues for equal salaries for public school teachers. Wins in MD.	The beginning of a series of court challenges that start to unravel the doctrine of separate but equal.
1938	Supreme Court order Lloyd Gaines admitted to U of MO law school	A shift in the court opinion toward an admission that separate is not always equal. One of the first blows against segregation.
1941-45	Segregated troops like 99 th and 332 nd Fighter Squadrons receive citations for service "Double V"	Blacks fight for democracy while their black rights are constantly abridged.
1942	Congress of Racial equality formed in Chicago; James Farmer director	Another important group in the second reconstruction. CORE institutes challenges to segregated interstate travel and growing out of FOR a nonviolent group.
1944	Smith V. Allwright outlaws white primaries	Another important blow to white supremacy.

INTERVARSITY®

1945	Johnson Publishing Company starts Ebony; Jet in 1950	Beginning of an important media outlet for disseminating middle class black values and culture.
1947	Jackie Robinson joins Brooklyn Dodgers	Beginning to the end of segregation in baseball
1948	Truman bans racial segregation in US Armed Forces	Another milestone in ending segregation
1950	Ralph Bunche, UN mediator in Palestine receives Nobel Peace Prize; Gwendolyn Brooks Nobel Prize literature	More and more black people move to positions of general prominence in the society.
1954	Brown v. Bd of Education overturns "Plessy."	Final blow to legalized segregation.
1950s	Montgomery Bus Boycott, SCLC/ Little Rock desegregation; ACMHR	The beginning of post "Brown vs. board" specific challenges to segregation and white supremacy.
1960s	SNCC, Greensboro Sit-ins, Freedom Rides, March on Washington, Freedom Summer, Watts, Detroit, Newark and 100 city riots, Black Panthers, many Assassinations	The organizing of student activism against white supremacy. The frustration of people in the North. The backlash against integration drives some back to a philosophy that reconciliation is impossible. The cry of black power signals a new awareness of power dynamics in race relations.
1964	Civil Rights Act	Re institutes what was lost in 1883 with the overturn of the first Civil rights Act and includes women.
1965	Voting Rights Act Moynihan Report	First time in US history that democracy is a legal reality. *
1968	Kerner Commission Report (Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders)	Report finds that reason for northern city riots is inequality between black and white communities -- they remain separate and unequal.
1970s	Congressional Black Caucus organized PUSH, Jesse Jackson; Andrew Young(GA) and Barbara Jordan (TX), 1st southern AA since Reconstruction elected to Congress; Shirley Chisholm runs for President; Maynard Jackson mayor of Atlanta, Coleman Young mayor of Detroit	A large movement toward political organization and blacks moving into politics
1971	Supreme Court upholds bussing to achieve racial balance in Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenberg	Signals a debate about the methods to be used to achieve racial equality.
1970s	Nixon ends OEO; conservative judicial appointments; "southern strategy" oil embargo, Watergate, US pulls out of Vietnam	The beginning of a judicial approach that signals the end to vigorous challenges to civil rights. Failure of the executive branch to follow through in enforcing civil rights laws.
1980s	Reagan appoints Clarence Thomas and Clarence Pendelton to the EEOC; Antonin Scalia and Anthony Kennedy to Supreme Court; cuts funding of EEOC; increases military spending	Reagan's appointments further fears of losing the Supreme court to pre Brown vs. Board philosophies of the court. Scalia publicly declares such a view though he denies it will overturn civil rights laws. Thomas who replaces Marshall as the second black person on the court agrees with Scalia.

INTERVARSITY.

1990s	Bush appoints Clarence Thomas to Supreme Court; vetoes Civil Rights Act of 1990	Out cry at the placing of a black man on the court who criticizes the judicial philosophy of the "Brown vs. Board" court.
1996	Proposition 209 in California	Affirmative Action laws are challenged in California and in Washington
1998	Initiative 200 in Washington	
2000	DOJ report on Racial Discrimination to the UN	First admission that civil rights violations are human rights issues and therefore in the jurisdiction of the UN