

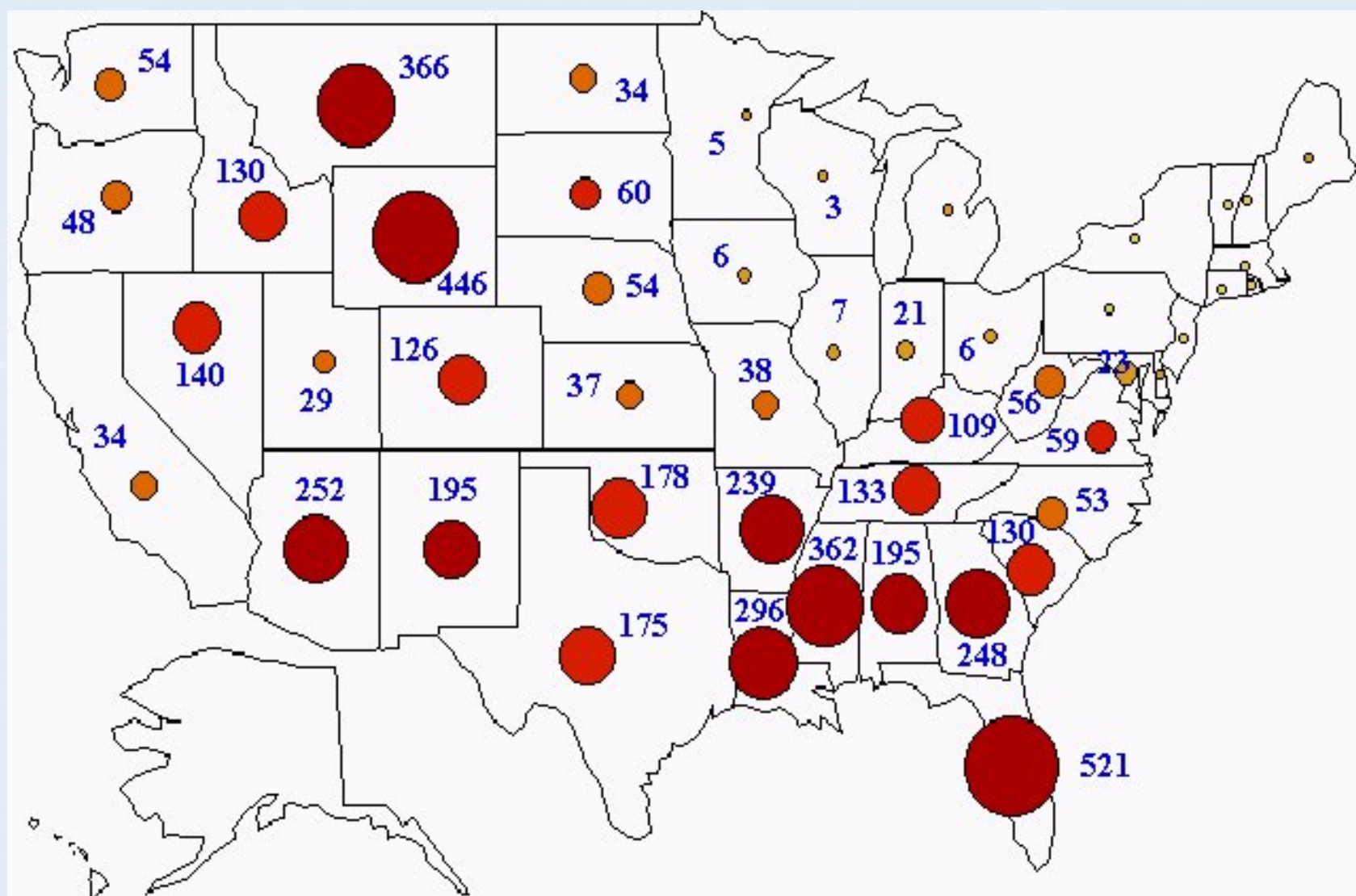
Introduction to American Studies II

African American Culture

End of Reconstruction

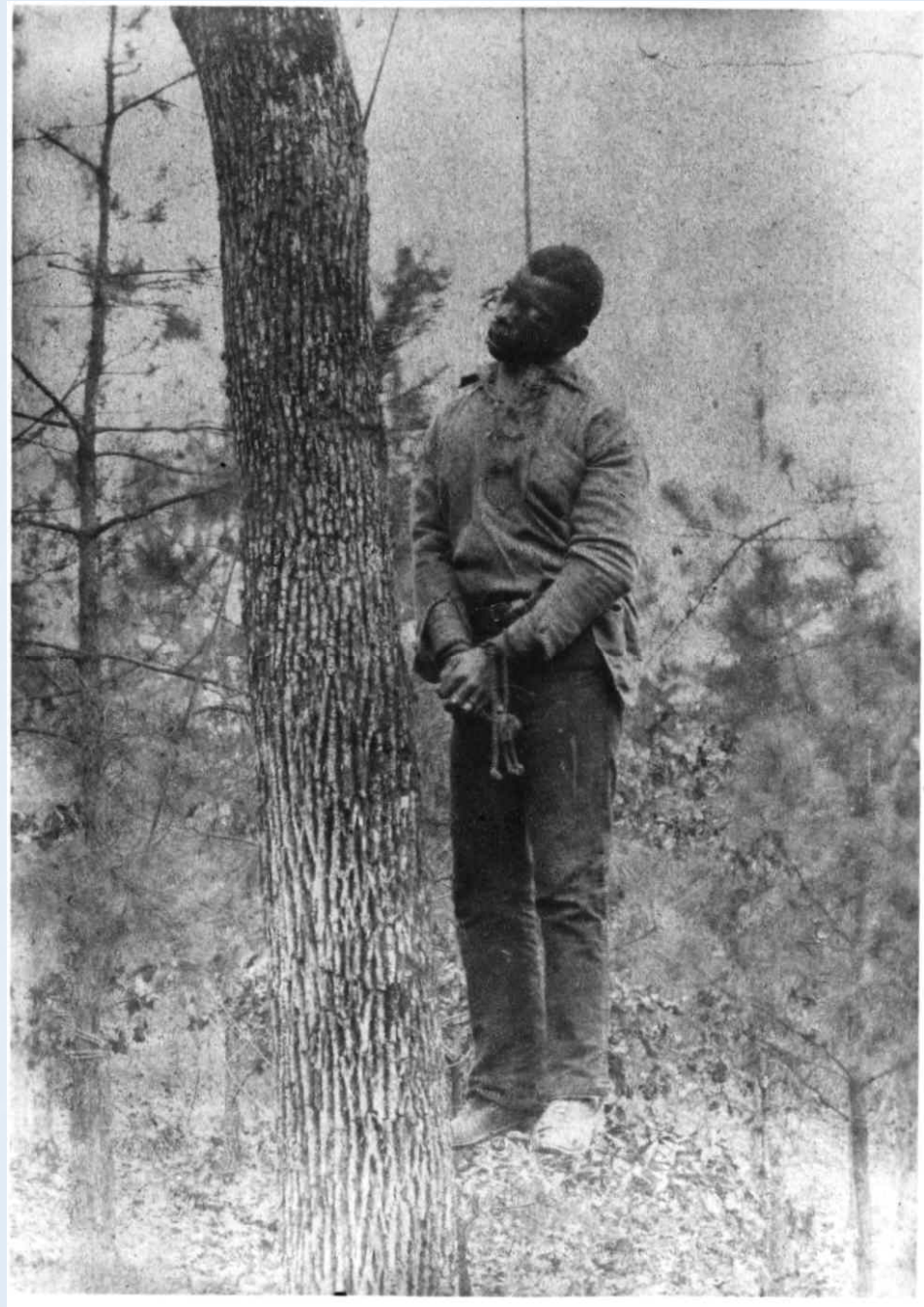
- End of Reconstruction in 1876
- Introduction of new system of segregation
 - "Jim Crow"
- Segregation in public facilities
- Denial of voting rights
 - Literacy requirements
 - Poll taxes
 - Complex voting systems
 - Gerrymandering
- *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896)
 - "Separate but equal facilities"

- Violation of laws and customs was punished
 - Legal
 - Non-legal
 - Ku Klux Klan (KKK)
 - Lynching
- Between 1889 and 1918, a minimum of 2,522 black Americans were lynched, 50 of them women.
- They were hanged, burned alive, or hacked to death.
 - According to the mythology popular at the time, black men were lynched because they had raped white women, yet historians find that in eighty percent of the cases there were no sexual charges alleged, let alone proved.
 - People were lynched for petty offenses such as stealing a cow, arguing with a white man, talking “fresh” to a white woman or attempting to register to vote.
- Lynchings continued across the United States through the 1960s.
 - One of the most infamous was the lynching of 14-year old Emmett Till in Mississippi in 1955



1882-1927: LYNCHINGS PER MILLION POPULATION (CALCULATED BY MURRAY STRAUS)

- Lynching victim George Meadows, described as a “murderer & rapist,” circa 1889



- The lynching of Laura Nelson in 1911 in Okemah, Oklahoma
- She had tried to protect her son
- She was hanged from a bridge alongside him



1919 lynching William Brown in Douglas County (Omaha), Nebraska



A lynching that took place in Duluth, Minnesota in 1920.



The lynching of Thomas Shipp and Abraham Smith in Marion, Indiana on August 7, 1930



The lynching of Rubin Stacy, July 19, 1935, Fort Lauderdale, Florida



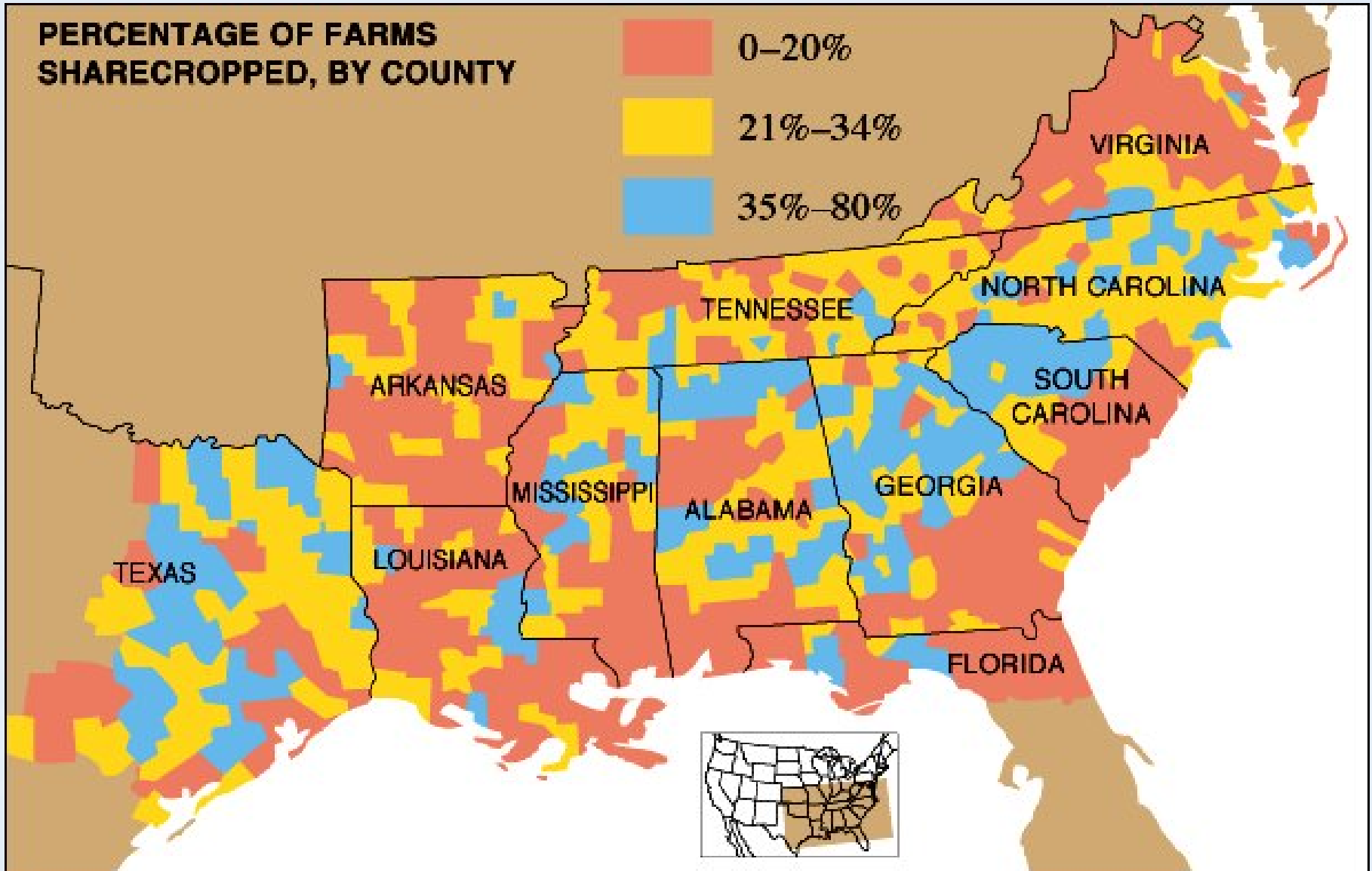
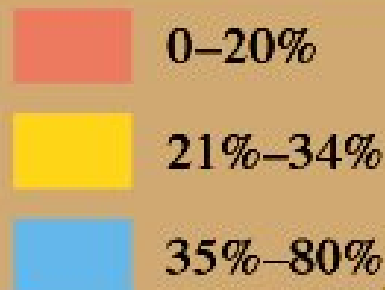
Emmett Till

- Emmett Till of Chicago was lynched in the summer of 1955 in Money, Mississippi by Roy Bryant and J.W. Milan for “flirting” with the former’s wife in the store where she worked
- The men were tried and found innocent.
- They later sold their story of the events for \$4000 to *Look Magazine*, where they admitted killing Till.



- Blacks in the South subjected to new labor system
 - Sharecropping
 - Resolved problem of land and labor
 - Essentially became a form of debt slavery
- Many still lived in the slave cabins they had occupied before the Civil War
- Cotton prices in the late 19th decline continuously
 - This further lowers Black income and standards of living

PERCENTAGE OF FARMS SHARECROPPED, BY COUNTY



1882 Sharecropper Contract (Grimes Plantation, Pitt County, North Carolina)

- To every one applying to rent land upon shares, the following conditions must be read and *agreed to*.
- To every 30 or 35 acres, I agree to furnish the team, plow, and farming implements, except cotton planters, and I *do not* agree to furnish a cart to every cropper. The croppers are to have half of the cotton, corn and fodder (and peas and pumpkins and potatoes if any are planted) if the following conditions are complied with, but – if not – they are to have only two-fifths.

- Croppers are to have no part or interest in the cotton seed raised from the crop planted and worked by them. No vine crops of any description, that is no watermelons...squashes or anything of that kind...are to [be] planted in the cotton or corn. All must work under my direction. All plantation work to be done by the croppers....
- All croppers must clean out the stables and fill them with straw,...whenever I direct. All the cotton must be manured, and enough fertilizer must be brought to manure each crop highly, the croppers to pay for one half of all manure bought, the quantity to be purchased for each crop must be left to me.

- No cropper to work off the plantation when there is any work to be done on the land he has rented, or when his work is needed by me or other croppers....
- Every cropper must be responsible for all gear and farming implements placed in his hands, and if not returned must be paid for unless it is worn out by use.
- Croppers must sow and plow in oats and haul them to the crib, but must *have no part of them*. Nothing to be sold from their crops, nor fodder, nor corn to be carried out of the fields until my rent is all paid, and all amounts they owe me and for which I am responsible are paid in full

....

- The sale of every cropper's part of the cotton to be made by me when and where I choose to sell, and after deducting all they may owe me and all sums that I may be responsible for on their accounts, to pay them their half of the net proceeds. Work of every description, particularly the work on fences and ditches to be done to my satisfaction, and must be done over until I am satisfied that it is done as it should be

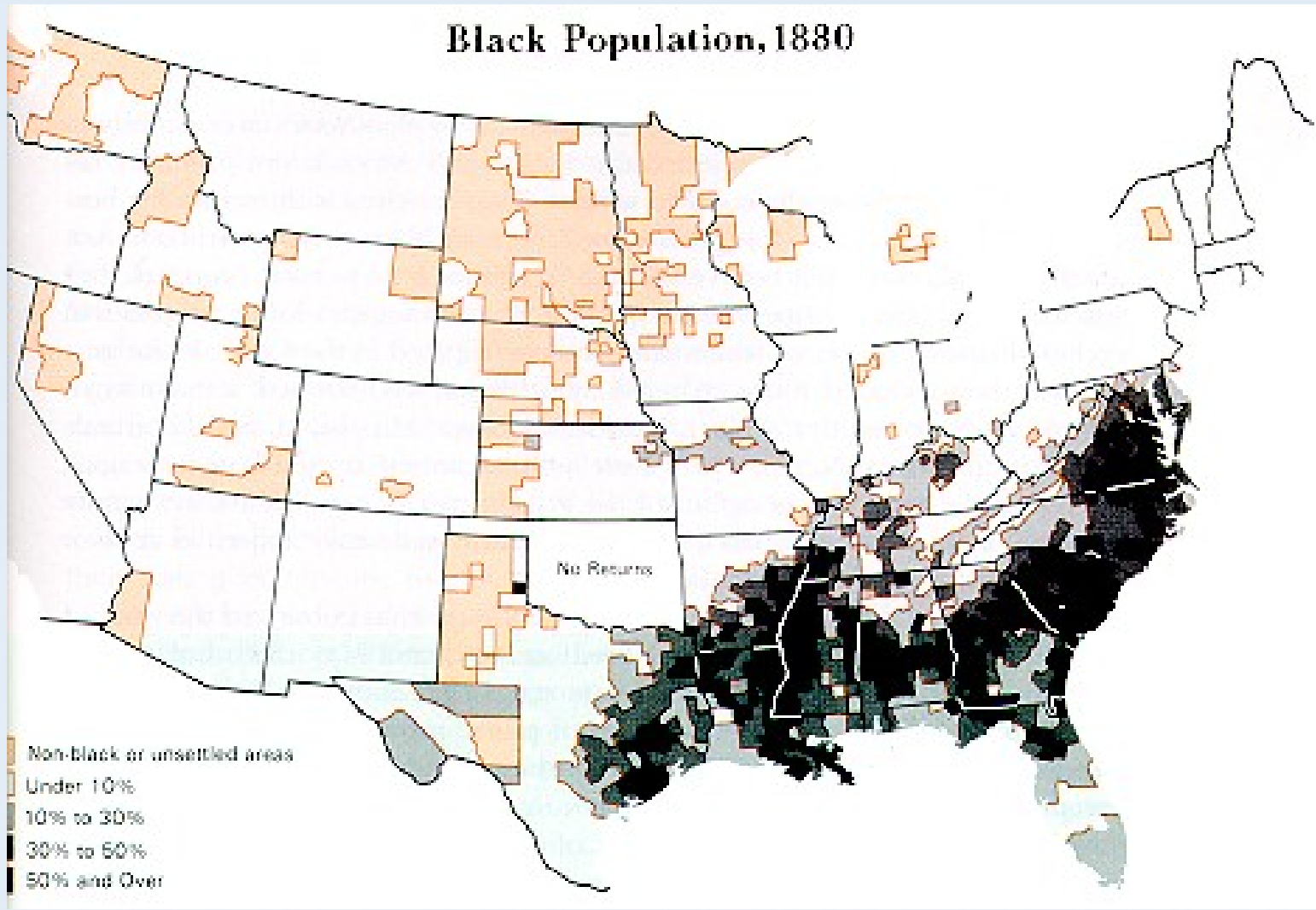
Great Migration

- Beginning in late 19th century
- Blacks begin to move out of the south
 - Taking jobs in new factories springing up in the North
 - From 1910 to the mid-1920s between 300,000 and 1,000,000 Blacks migrated North
- The African American media, led by newspapers such as the *Chicago Defender*, actively encourage this internal immigration
- Establishment of large, urban populations in the North
 - New York City (Harlem)
 - Detroit
 - Chicago
 - Cleveland

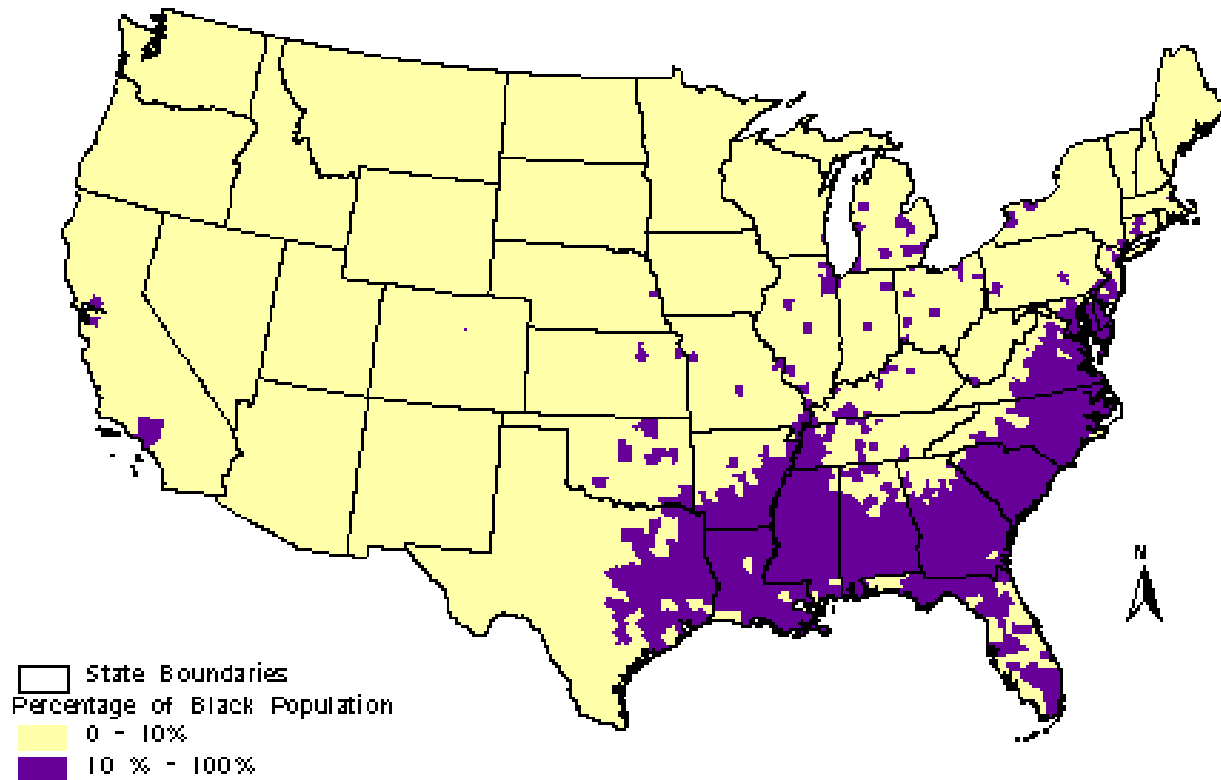
Change in the structure of African American population in the US

Black Population Trends		
	1890s	1960s
Southern	90.3%	10%
Rural	90%	5%
Northern	9.7%	90%
Urban	10%	95%

Black Population, 1880



Percentage of Black Population by County



Source: 1990 US Census Data

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"Checking Migration," *Chicago*

Defender, v.14, n. 32, August 9, 1919.

- THE WORLD KNOWS the efforts put forth by the South to retain our labor. We were made the victims of unjust home-made laws, picked up by the police for no reason at all except that some contractor had sent in a call for more convict labor, and the grafting public officials proceeded to supply the demand. In this respect the South is an enigma. It wants us and it doesn't want us. The truth is it wants us as serfs and vassals, but not as men and citizens. The conditions upon which it wants us never will be complied with.
- THE FACT is becoming apparent more and more every day that an enlightened and educated people of whatever race or nationality cannot be held as serfs and vassals. The South is destined to become a barren waste and a deserted wilderness if it persists in its indefensible methods to brutalize, humiliate and subjugate the members of our group residing there. As we advance in education and wealth we become more and more equipped to protect and defend ourself and family against injustice and wrong. The white South may as well realize now as later that the day is past when it can with impunity and with safety murder Colored men and brutalize our women. Migration will therefore continue to be one of the means employed to bring about the desired change.

Images of the Great Migration

- Jacob Lawrence (1917-2000) series *The Migration of the American Negro*
- Begun in 1940
- Consists of 60 paintings with captions



- “In every town Negroes were leaving by the hundreds to go North and enter into Northern industry.”



- “And the migrants kept coming.”



- “During the World War there was a great migration North by Southern Negroes.”



- “They arrived in Pittsburgh, one of the great industrial cities of the North, in large numbers.”



- Another of the social causes of the migrants' leaving was that at times they did not feel safe, or it was not the best thing to be found on the streets late at night. They were arrested on the slightest provocation.



- “In many cities in the North where the Negroes had been overcrowded in their own living quarters they attempted to spread out. This resulted in many of the race riots and the bombing of Negro homes.”

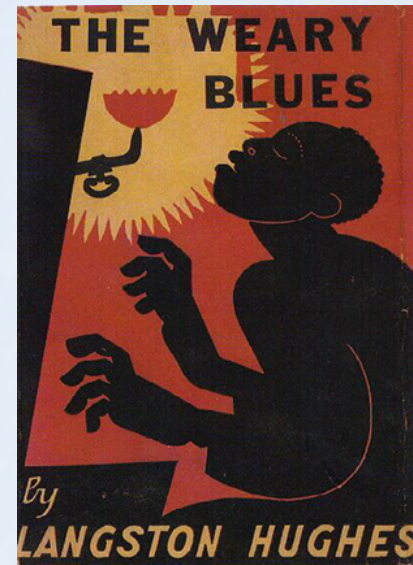
Harlem Renaissance

- Artistic movement of the 1920s based in Harlem
- Marked first major impact of Black artists in a number of artistic fields
- Conscious use of African symbols and imagery
- Impact far beyond American borders
 - Africa, Europe (Paris)
- Literature
 - Langston Hughes (1902-1967), Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960), Countee Cullen (1903-1946), Claude McKay (1889-1948), Jean Toomer (1894-1967)
- Music
 - Jazz (Jazz Age) and Blues
 - Louis Armstrong (1901-1971), Duke Ellington (1899-1974), Billie Holliday (1901-1959)
- Fine Arts
 - Aaron Douglas (1898-1979), Sargent Johnson (1888-1967)
- Theater
 - Paul Robeson (1898-1976), Josephine Baker (1906-1975)

Langston Hughes: "The Negro Speaks of Rivers"

- 1 I've known rivers:
- 2 I've known rivers ancient as the world and
older than the
- 3 flow of human blood in human veins.
- 4 My soul has grown deep like the rivers.
- 5 I bathed in the Euphrates when dawns were
young.
- 6 I built my hut near the Congo and it lulled
me to sleep.
- 7 I looked upon the Nile and raised the
pyramids above it.
- 8 I heard the singing of the Mississippi when
Abe Lincoln
- 9 went down to New Orleans, and I've seen
its muddy
- 10 bosom turn all golden in the sunset.
- 11 I've known rivers:
- 12 Ancient, dusky rivers.
- 13 My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

First published in *The Crisis* (1921) and then in
his collection *The Weary Blues* (1926)





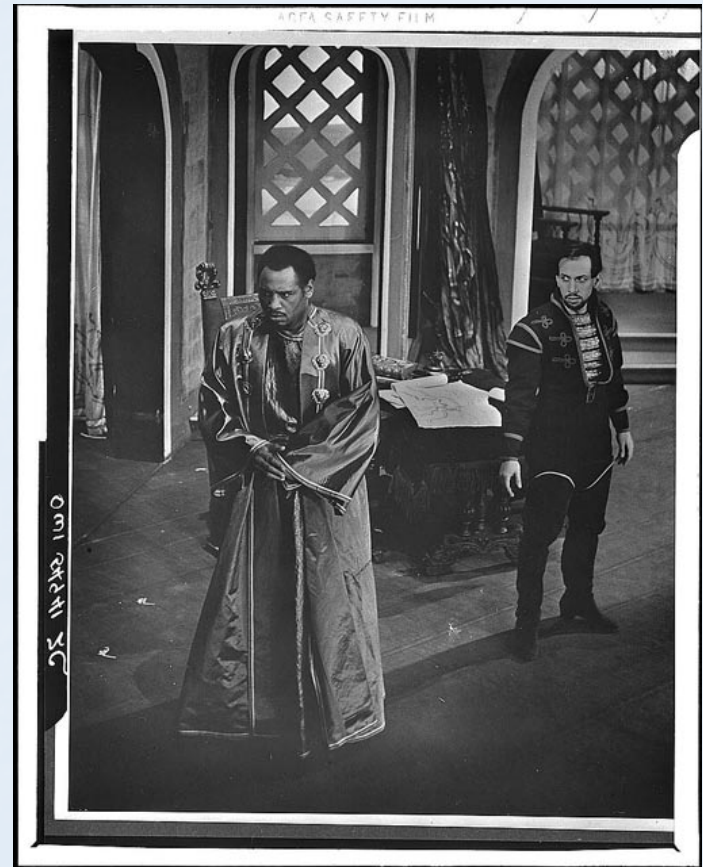
- Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
- Countee Cullen, "The Incident"
- Claude McKay, "If We Must Die", *Home to Harlem*
- Jean Toomer, *Cane*



- Louis Armstrong and the Hot Five, Hot Seven
- Duke Ellington
- Billie Holliday, "Strange Fruit" (1939)
 - This song is based on a poem written by a Jewish school teacher from the Bronx named Abel Meerpol in 1936 about the 1930 lynching in Marion, Indiana

Paul Robeson

- Actor, singer, political activist
- In the 1950s the US government confiscated his passport
- Here shown playing Othello in 1943



L: Paul Robeson sings at a meeting attended by DuBois, New York, N.Y., ca. 1959

R: Paul Robeson at an Anti-Lynch Rally in Washington, D.C., 1946



Josephine Baker

- Josephine Baker electrified Paris in the 1920 and 30s with her “exotic” dancing and her voice



A. Douglas: *Song of the Towers*



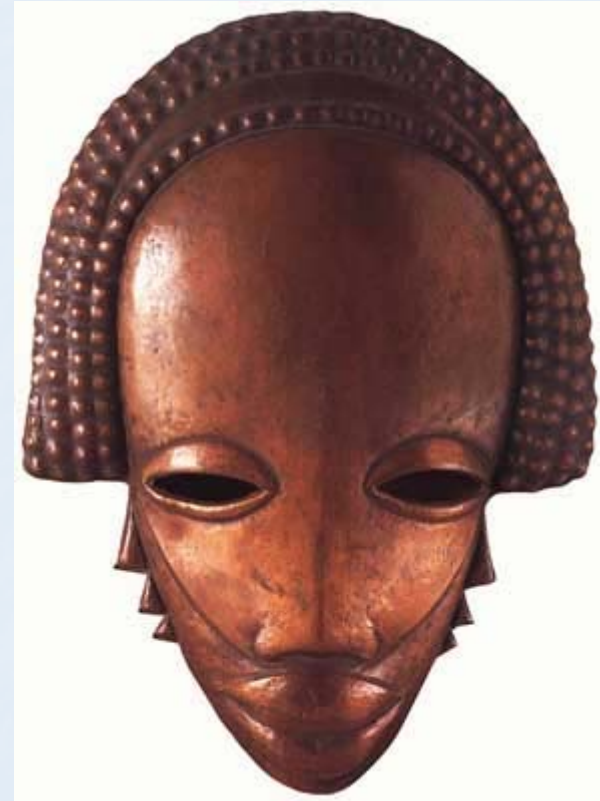
A. Douglas: *Aspects of Negro Life: From Slavery Through Reconstruction*



A. Douglas: *Aspects of Negro Life: The Negro in Africa*



Sargent Johnson

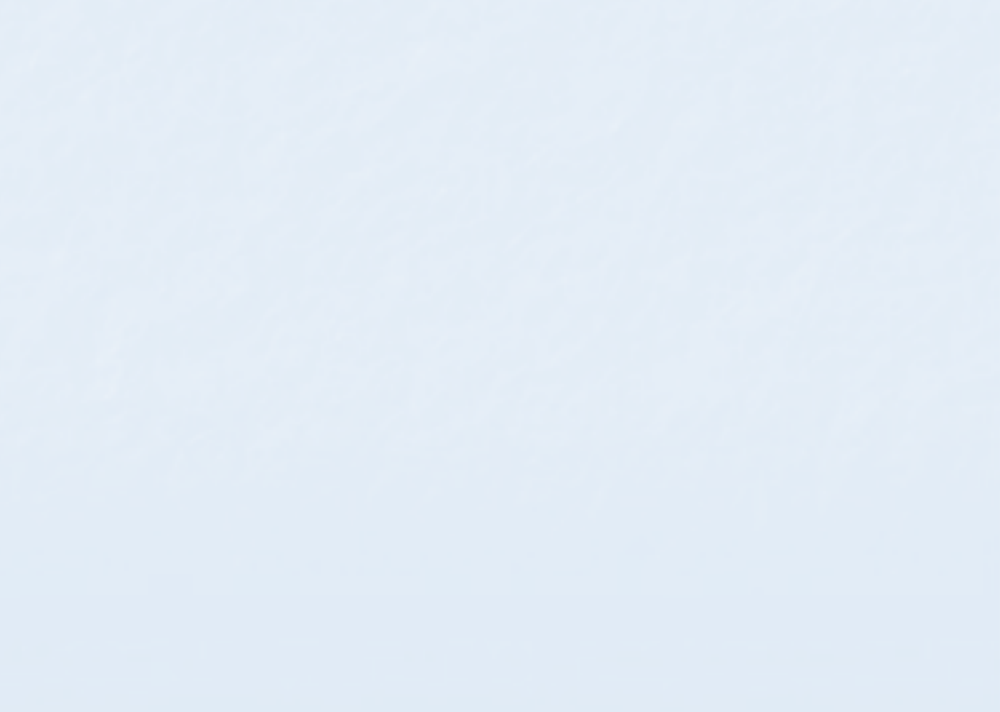
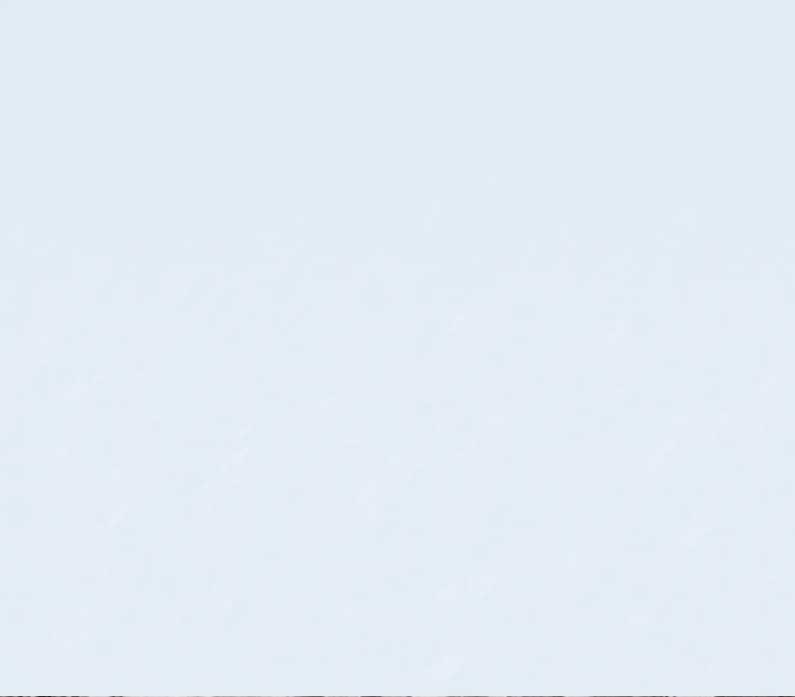


Black Civil Rights Movement

- NAACP
 - National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
 - Established 1909
 - Had many Black and white members, most funding came from rich white sympathizers
 - W. E. B. DuBois (1868-1963) was the leading Black member in the first half of the 20th Century
 - Led legal challenges to segregation and attempted to have a Federal anti-lynching law passed (unsuccessfully)
 - During the 1940s/50s, Chief Counsel Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993) led the federal court cases that culminated in *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954)
- SCLC
 - Southern Christian Leadership Conference
 - Established 1957
 - Made up of ministers from predominately Black churches
 - First leader was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - Best known for organizing “non-violent” resistance to segregation across the South

- Montgomery Bus Boycott
 - 1955/56
 - Rosa Parks, a Black woman refused to give up her seat to a white passenger and was arrested
 - Black citizens of Montgomery, AL organized a 381-day boycott
- Lunch-counter sit-ins
 - Organized by students to protest segregation in eating facilities
 - First held in Greensboro, NC in 1960
 - Led to the development of student-led civil rights movement
- Freedom Rides (1963)
 - Protested segregation in interstate bus transportation
- March on Washington (August 28, 1963)
 - Massive civil rights protest in Washington, D. C.
 - MLK delivers his famous speech "[I have a dream](#)"







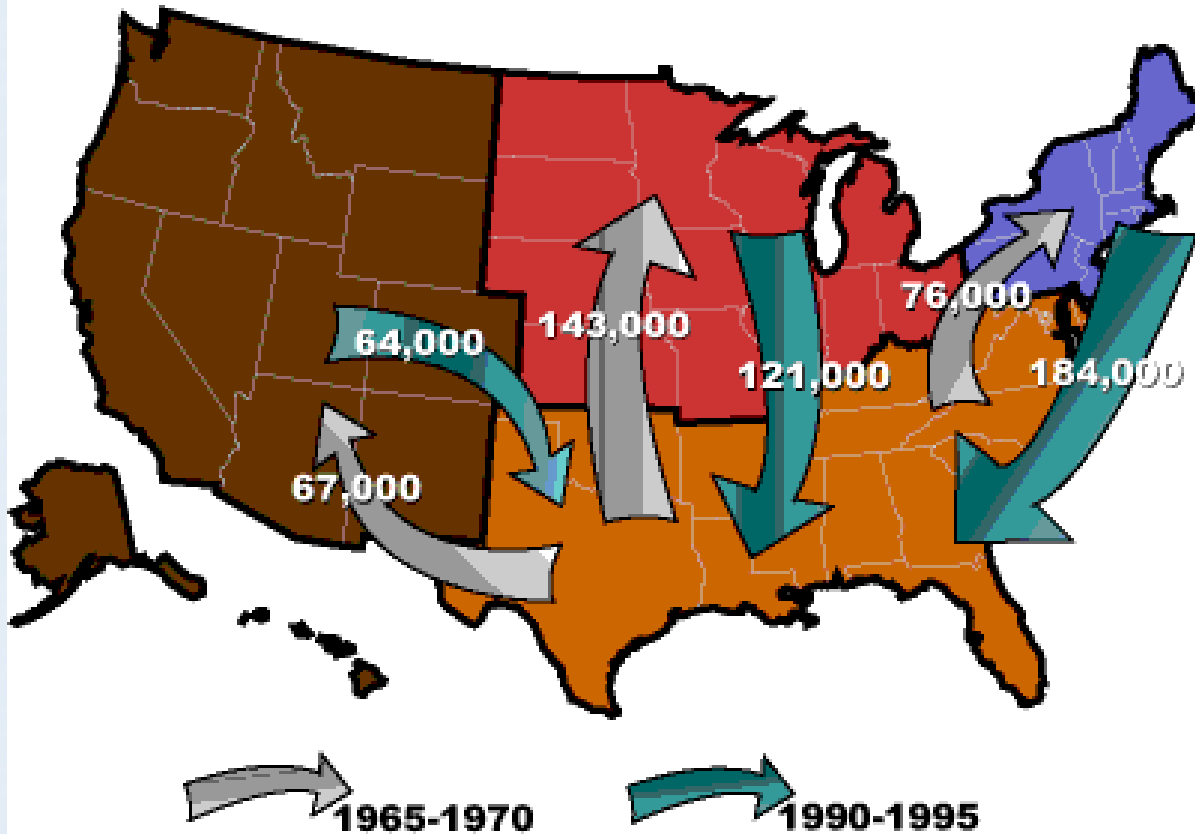
End to legal segregation

- Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - Based on 14th Amendment
 - Banned segregation in public facilities
- Voting Rights Act of 1965
 - Banned discriminatory practices in denying Blacks (and others) the right to vote
 - Literacy tests
- The 24th Amendment
 - Banned "poll taxes" that had been used to deny poor Blacks the right to vote
- Affirmative Action
 - 1965, President Johnson issues executive order
 - "take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, creed, color, or national origin."

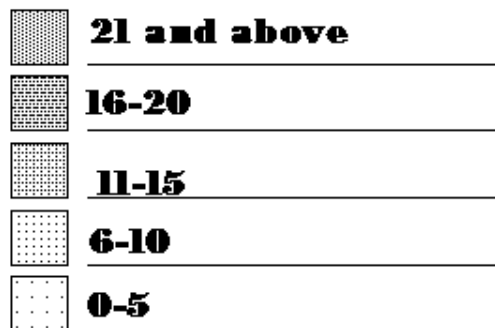
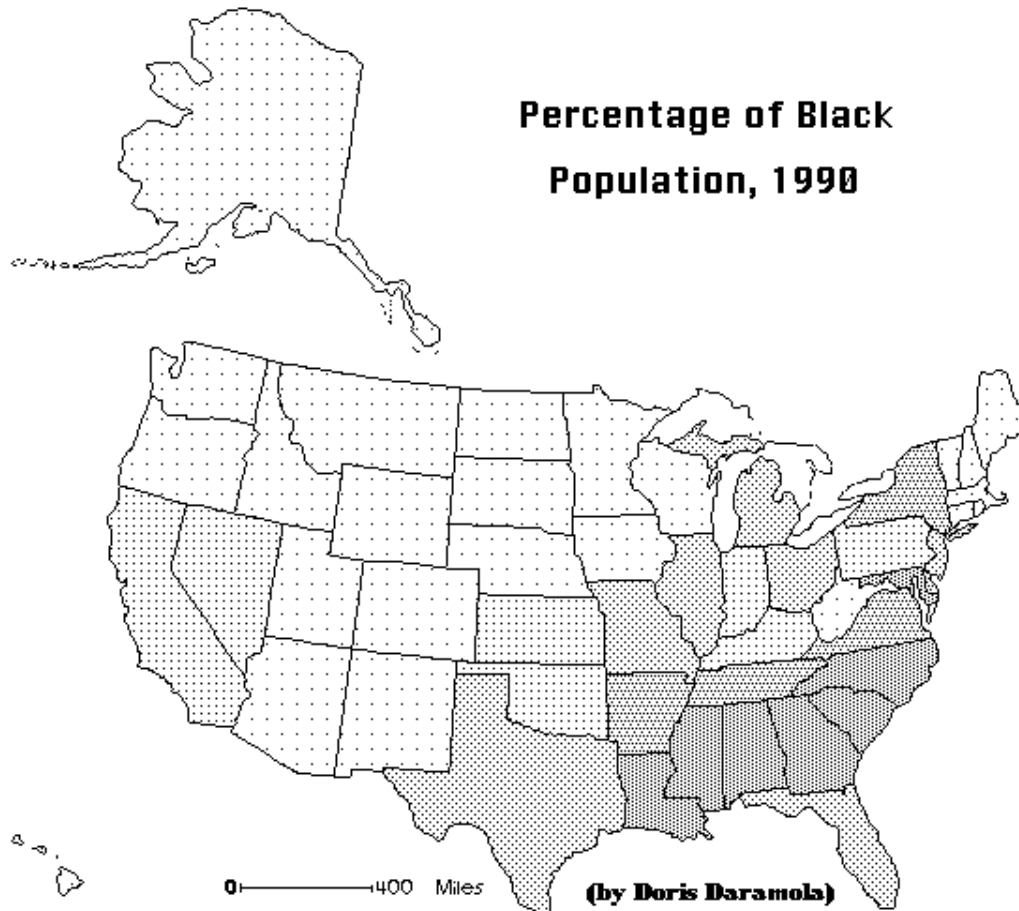
Post-1960s Developments

- Gradual improvement in educational, social and economic standings of Blacks
- Still lag behind overall population in almost all areas
 - Poverty rate for Blacks is 25%
 - U.S.: 12.4%
 - Whites: 8.9%
 - 72.3% completed high school, 14.3% have completed college
 - U.S.: 80.4% and 24.4%
 - Whites: 83.6% and 26.1%
- Many major Northern cities remain heavily segregated

Net Domestic Migration Flows for Blacks Between the South and Other Regions, 1965 to 1970 and 1990 to 1995



Percentage of Black Population, 1990



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

■ Music

- Rock-and-roll, Soul, R&B, Rap

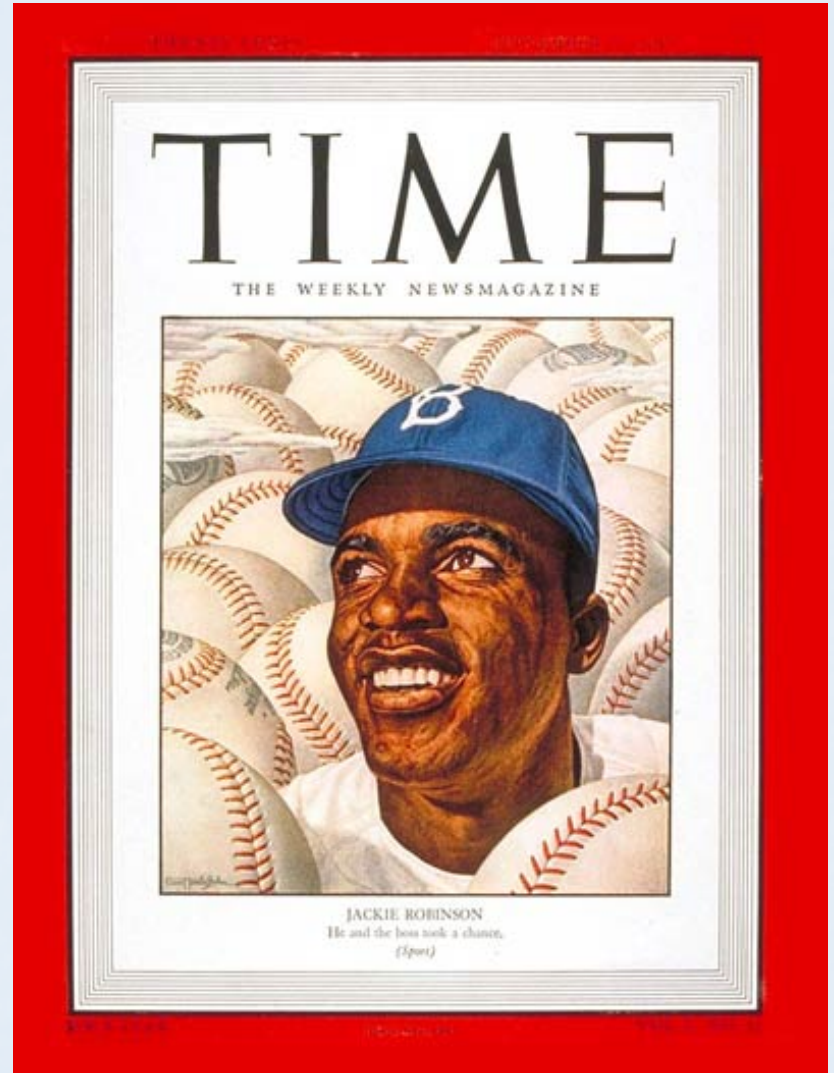
■ Literature

- Toni Morrison (1993 Nobel Prize winner)
 - *The Bluest Eye, Beloved, Jazz*

- Ishmael Reed, Alice Walker, Ralph Ellison

■ Sport

- Baseball segregation ends in 1947 when Jackie Robinson plays for the Brooklyn Dodgers (now L.A.)
- Football and basketball follow



■ Film and Television

■ Sidney Poitier

- First Black to win an Oscar for a leading role (1963 in *Lilies of the Field*)

- Hattie McDaniel had won an Academy Award in 1940 for her supporting role in *Gone With the Wind*

- Bill Cosby, Eddie Murphy, Denzel Washington, Oprah Winfrey, Halle Berry

■ Politics

■ Thurgood Marshall

- First African American to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court (1967-1991)

- Represented and won more cases before the Supreme Court than any other American.

- Colin Powell, Condoleezza Rice



