

Some Significant Dates in Black American History

- 1502 First Africans arrive in the New World.
- 1619 Twenty Africans arrive on Dutch man-of-war at Jamestown, Va.
- 1619–1803 Legal slave trade: 400,000 to 1 million of the 10 to 50 million Africans forcibly transported to America arrive. Others smuggled in illegally until 1860.
- 1662 Virginia enacts a statute making slavery hereditary, following the status of the mother.
- 1770 Crispus Attucks, first of five men killed in the Boston Massacre.
- 1787 Richard Allen and Absalom Jones found the Free African Society, precursor of the Bethel AME Church, founded in 1794.
- 1800 Gabriel Prosser, a Virginia slave, hanged together with a number of his followers, for plotting to lead a slave attack on Richmond, Va.
- 1815 Free Negro battalion fights in the Battle of New Orleans against the British.
- 1815 Paul Cuffee carries thirty-eight Negro immigrants to Africa at his own expense.
- 1817–1842 Blacks and Indians fight against federal troops in the First and Second Seminole wars.
- 1816–1817 American Colonization Society organized by Bushrod Washington, Henry Clay, and other whites to take blacks to Africa.
- 1820 Missouri Compromise enacted prohibiting slavery north of Missouri.
- 1822 Denmark Vesey's slave conspiracy takes place in Charleston, S.C.
- 1827 Samuel E. Cornish and John Russwurm found *Freedom's Journal* in New York.

- 1829 David Walker publishes *Walker's Appeal*, a militant antislavery pamphlet.
- 1831 William Lloyd Garrison founds the *Liberator*.
- 1831 Nat Turner's slave rebellion takes place in Southampton County, Va.
- 1833 Free Negroes and whites found the American Anti-Slavery Society, which meets in Philadelphia.
- 1834 Prudence Crandall's School for Negroes attacked by citizens and closed by local authorities in Canterbury, Conn.
- 1838 *Mirror of Liberty*, the first black magazine, begins publication in New York City.
- 1849 Benjamin Roberts loses court challenge to segregation in Boston schools.
- 1852 Publication of Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.
- 1853 Publication of *Clotel*, the first novel by a black American, William Wells Brown.
- 1857 The Supreme Court decides *Dred Scott v. Sanford*.
- 1858 William Wells Brown publishes the first American black-authored play, *The Escape*.
- 1859 Martin R. Delany and Robert Campbell lead the Niger Valley exploring party to explore possible settlements of American blacks in Africa.
- Oct. 1859 John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry.
- Jan. 1863 Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation.
- Mar. 1863 First National Draft Act passed; does not exclude blacks.
- Mar. 1865 Freedman's Bureau Act, including provision for land for the freedmen, passed.
- Apr. 1865 Opening of the government-chartered Freedmen's Bank; goes bankrupt after being milked by directors in June, 1874.
- Dec. 1865 Ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery.
- Apr. 1866 Civil Rights Act passed by Congress, giving black citizens civil rights equal to those of whites.
- Mar. 1867 Reconstruction Act, including voting rights for blacks, passed by Congress.

- July 1868 Ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment protecting civil rights from state interference.
- 1869 First of twenty blacks to serve in the House of Representatives during Reconstruction seated.
- 1870 Hiram Revels elected to the Senate from Mississippi.
- Mar. 1870 Ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment prohibiting denial of the right to vote on the grounds of race or previous condition of servitude.
- 1873- Exodus of blacks from the South to Kansas.
- 1879
- 1874 Blanche K. Bruce elected to the Senate from Mississippi, the only black elected to a full term until 1966.
- 1875 Civil Rights Act providing equal public accommodations passed by Congress.
- 1877 Reconstruction ends with withdrawal of the last federal troops from the South.
- 1881 Booker T. Washington founds Tuskegee Institute.
- 1883 Civil Rights Act of 1875 declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.
- 1895 Booker T. Washington's Atlanta University speech.
- 1895 Frederick Douglass dies February 20.
- 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* decided by the Supreme Court, approving separate but equal facilities.
- June 1898 Ninth and Tenth Cavalry, two of four black regiments in the Regular Army, and Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders at San Juan Hill during the Spanish-American War.
- 1900 Booker T. Washington founds the National Negro Business League.
- 1903 W. E. B. Du Bois publishes *The Souls of Black Folk*.
- 1905 W. E. B. Du Bois, Monroe Trotter, and others found the Niagara Movement to fight for civil rights.
- 1906 Brownsville, Texas, shooting incident involving black troops.
- 1909 Springfield, Ill., lynching and subsequent white attacks in black neighborhoods leads to founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

- 1910 W. E. B. Du Bois starts *Crisis* as the official NAACP publication.
- 1915 NAACP wins *Guinn v. U.S.*, finding use of the grandfather clause to qualify voters unconstitutional.
- 1915 Booker T. Washington dies in Tuskegee, Ala.
- 1915 Ghanaian Alfred Sam leads black emigration movement to Africa from black towns organized earlier in Oklahoma.
- 1916 Marcus Garvey arrives in New York from Jamaica and founds the Universal Negro Improvement Association.
- 1917 Houston, Texas, shooting incident involving black troops.
- 1919–1945 Five Pan-African Congresses organized by W. E. B. Du Bois.
- 1925 A. Philip Randolph organizes the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and Maids.
- 1928 Oscar DePriest elected to Congress, the first black since the term of George White of North Carolina ended in 1901.
- 1930 Black Muslims founded by W. D. Fard, succeeded by Elijah Muhammad in 1934.
- 1935 National Council of Negro Women founded with Mary McLeod Bethune as president.
- 1941 A. Philip Randolph's threat of a march on Washington leads Roosevelt to issue Executive Order 8802.
- 1946 *Ebony* magazine started by John Johnson.
- 1949 Secretary of Defense Lewis Johnson issues orders to desegregate opportunities in the military service.
- 1950 Ralph Bunche becomes the first black man to receive Nobel Peace Prize.
- 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decided by Supreme Court.
- 1955 Court order requiring desegregation with all deliberate speed issued in the Brown case by the Supreme Court.
- 1956 Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott led by Martin Luther King, Jr.

- 1956 Autherine Lucy expelled from the University of Alabama.
- 1957 Eisenhower orders use of troops in enforcing Little Rock, Ark., school desegregation.
- 1957 Congress passes the Civil Rights Act creating the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and a Civil Rights Division in the Justice Department.
- 1960 Sit-ins at lunch counters in Greensboro, N.C.
- 1961 W. E. B. Du Bois joins the Communist party, renounces his U.S. citizenship, and moves to Ghana.
- 1961 CORE Freedom Rides in interstate transportation.
- 1962 Mississippi officials attempt to keep James Meredith out of the University of Mississippi; leads to violence.
- 1963 Assassination of Medgar Evers, leader of the NAACP in Mississippi.
- Aug. 1963 March on Washington for jobs and freedom.
- Sept. 1963 Four black children killed in bombing of a black church in Birmingham, Ala.
- 1964 Civil Rights Act creating the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and ending discrimination in public accommodations, passed by Congress.
- July 1964 Lemuel Penn shot by the Ku Klux Klan while driving along a road in Georgia.
- Aug. 1964 Three civil rights workers—James Chaney, Michael Schwerner, and Andrew Goodman—murdered in Mississippi; bodies found.
- Oct. 1964 Martin Luther King, Jr., receives the Nobel Peace Prize.
- Feb. 1965 Malcolm X murdered.
- Mar. 1965 Civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., leads to passage of the Voting Rights Act.
- Aug. 1965 Riot set off by police arrest in Watts, Los Angeles, Calif.
- 1965 Robert C. Weaver appointed Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the first black cabinet officer.
- June 1966 On the march for freedom from fear led by James Meredith in Mississippi, "Black Power" slogan attributed to Stokely Carmichael, head of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee.

- 1966 Edward Brooke of Massachusetts elected to the Senate, the first black elected since Reconstruction.
- 1966 Founding of the Black Panther party by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale in Oakland, Calif.
- June 1967 Muhammad Ali convicted for draft evasion and his heavyweight boxing title taken away. After he wins on appeal, he has to fight George Foreman three years later to win back the title.
- 1967 In *Loving v. Virginia* Supreme Court declares illegal the ban on interracial marriage.
- 1967 Thurgood Marshall appointed first black Supreme Court Justice.
- Apr. 4, 1968 Martin Luther King, Jr., assassinated.
- 1971 Jesse Jackson founds Operation PUSH.
- 1972 Gary National Black Political Convention.
- 1974 Sixth Pan-African Congress convened in Tanzania.
- 1978 *Bakke v. University of California* decided by Supreme Court. Racial quotas cannot be used in university admissions decisions, but race may be taken into account.
- 1979 *Weber v. Kaiser Aluminum* decided by Supreme Court. Voluntary agreements to give preferential training opportunities to blacks in an industry are legal.
- 1980 *Fullilove et al. v. Klutznick, Secretary of Commerce et al.* decided by Supreme Court approves minority fund set-aside in public works act included in an amendment proposed by Congressman Parren Mitchell.
- May 17, 1980 March for Jobs, Peace, and Justice in Washington, D.C. led by Rev. Jesse Jackson.