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America: A Bipolar Nation--The Lamb or The Dragon

Trevor O'Reggio

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*America:
A Bipolar Nation The
Lamb or The Dragon*

DR. TREVOR O'REGGIO

Adventist Approach to history

Ed., pp.176, 177 – “Every nation that has come upon the stage of action has been permitted to occupy its place on the earth, that it might be seen whether it would fulfill the purpose of the 'Watcher and the Holy One. Prophecy has traced the rise and fall of the world's great empires--Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. With each of these, as with nations of less power, history repeated itself. Each had its period of test, each failed, its glory faded, its power departed, and its place was occupied by another.”

“While the nations rejected God’s principles, and in this rejection wrought their own ruin, it was still manifest that the divine, overruling purpose was working through all their movements.”



**EVERY
NATION**

IDA B WELLS

*“THE WAY TO RIGHT
WRONGS IS TO TURN
THE LIGHT OF TRUTH
UPON THEM”*



Understanding present history



We cannot understand our present reality without having a correct knowledge and understanding of the past. Racism and social inequality deeply rooted in American history.

Historical periods

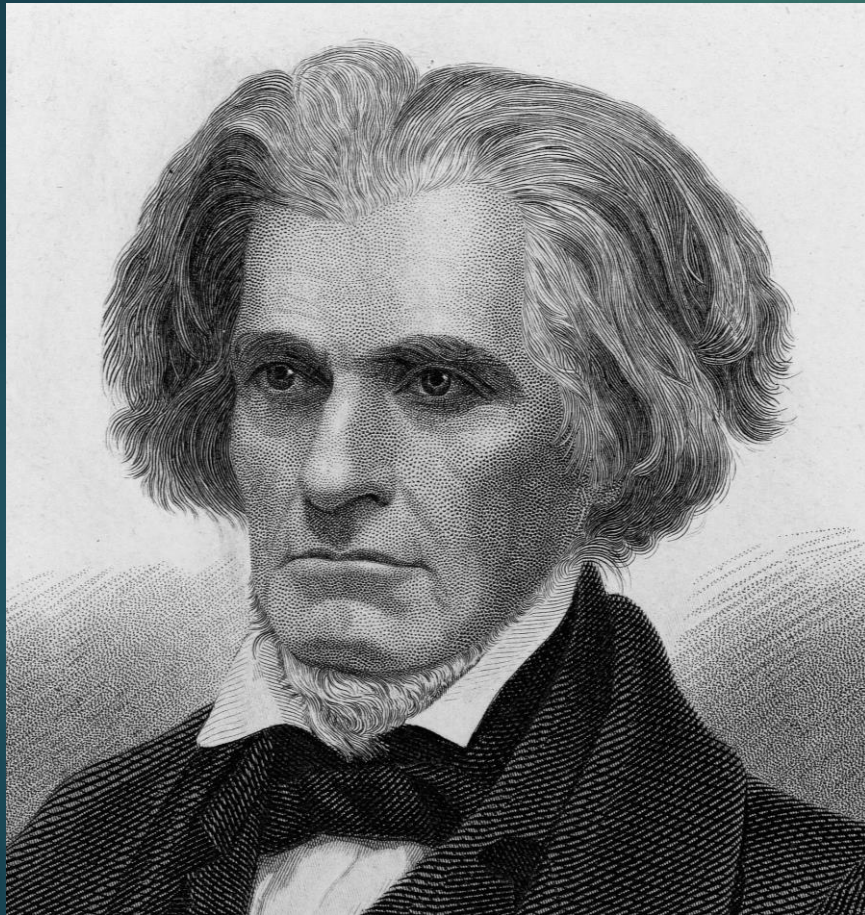


- ▶ Colonial America 1607-1776
- ▶ Republican America 1776-1865
- ▶ America Remade 1865-present

Rioter in Capital 2021



Two men: Two Americas



John Calhoun
senator from
South Carolina

John Calhoun

- ▶ B 1782, d 1850 7th. Vice president, senator from S. Carolina, 1845-1850
- ▶ Champion of states rights, and slavery
- ▶ Each state sovereign-Constitution pact among sovereign states
- ▶ Fought against abolition-called slavery a positive good
- ▶ Father of the filibuster

John Calhoun

“I appeal to facts, never before has the black race of Central Africa, from the dawn of history to the present day, attained a condition so civilized and so improved, not only physically, but morally and intellectually. It came among us in a low degraded and savage condition, and in the course of a few generations, it has grown under the fostering care of our institutions as reviled as they have been, to its present comparative civilized condition. This with the rapid increase of numbers, is conclusive proof the general happiness of the race in spite of all the exaggerated tales to the contrary”


America's regressive impulse

Charles Sumner




Charles Sumner

- ▶ B 1811, d 1874 US senator from Massachusetts
- ▶ Leader of antislavery movement
- ▶ May 22, 1856 Preston Brooks proslavery democrat from South Carolina attacked Sumner for speech fiercely criticizing slaveholders, almost killed him. He called Slavery a harlot
- ▶ This act of Preston Brooks contributed a to division of country over slavery, breakdown of reasoned discourse, led to use of violence.
- ▶ Sumner represented America's progressive impulse



“The senator from South Carolina has read many books of chivalry, and believes himself a chivalrous knight with sentiments of honor and courage. Of course he has chosen a mistress to whom he has made his vows, and who, though ugly to others, is always lovely to him; though polluted in the sight of the world, is chaste in his sight—I mean the harlot, slavery. For her, his tongue is always profuse in words. Let her be impeached in character, or any proposition made to shut her out from the extension of her wantonness, and no extravagance of manner or hardihood of assertion is then too great for this senator”.



Charles Sumner was a great man in his absolute fidelity to principle, his clear perception of what his country needed, his unflinching courage, his perfect sincerity, his persistent devotion to duty, his indifference to selfish considerations, his high scorn of anything petty or mean. He was essentially simple to the end, brave, kind, and pure....Sumner's naively simple nature, his confidence in his fellows, and his lack of humor combined to prevent his concealing what many feel but are better able to hide. From the time he entered public life till he died he was a strong force constantly working for righteousness....To Sumner more than to any single man, except possibly Lincoln, the colored race owes its emancipation and such measure of equal rights as it now enjoys.^[101]

Ways of viewing American history



- ▶ Christopher discovered America
- ▶ Puritans escaping persecution/to evangelize the Natives
- ▶ Jamestown 1607/Plymouth 1619
- ▶ Great open land-no inhabitants
- ▶ Providence gave this land to our forefathers.
- ▶ Shining City on a hill.
- ▶ Colonial, Revolutionary, Modern

Foundations of the American nation/empire

- ▶ Military conquest and theft of Native land
- ▶ Natives driven off their land-savages, pagans
- ▶ Massive infusion of African labor to build America
- ▶ Treated as chattel-animals-degraded-dehumanized
- ▶ Capture of Mexican territory- half million square miles
- ▶ 1836-Texas, Southwest 1848- Hidalgo Treaty
- ▶ 1893 overthrow of Hawaiian Queen
- ▶ 1898-Cuba, Puerto Rico, Philippines, Guam
- ▶ Are these acts of a Godfearing, benevolent nation?

Doctrine of discovery

- ▶ Legal principles that govern European colonizing policy.
- ▶ Emerged from 15th. Century papal bulls.
- ▶ Dum Diversas issued by Pope Nicolas V June 18th. 1452: permission granted to King Alphonso V of Portugal to invade, search, capture, vanquish, and subdue all Saracens, and pagans, and other enemies of Christ.... And to reduce their persons to perpetual slavery....
- ▶ January 1454-Romanus Pontifex-European Catholic countries expand their dominion over discovered lands, justified slavery of natives, Africans

Impact of doctrine of discovery

- ▶ Theological : affirmation from the church for European domination




- ▶ Political and military doctrine that provided political boundaries and mediation between colonial powers.

Colonial America 1607-1776

How and why did the ideology of white supremacy become part of the history of America?





The American colonies were founded by so called Christian Puritans who took great pride in their religion and reveled in their Judeo-Christian traditions. However, the issue of race and slavery were barriers that they failed to conquer. Very early, these settlers viewed indigenous people as inferior and latter African slaves in the same light. They quickly developed a racialized society based on white supremacy. Colonial societies passed laws to legalize slavery, outlawed miscegenation (especially between Black men and white women) and established a racial hierarchy. Skin color was equated with innate biological and religion difference. "The perception that skin color or other inherited physical characteristic represented as unalterable biological inferiority or superiority has been the most prominent racist ideology drawing black and white relations in American history."

Slavery's long Shadow. P. 5

White American Christianity



- ▶ Architects and promoters of White supremacy
- ▶ Defenders of Slavery
- ▶ Defenders of oppression and unequal treatment of blacks.
- ▶ Biblical justification for slavery
- ▶ Ham, Abraham, Jesus and Paul

Major Turning Points in American History

1619 - **FIRST** BLACK INDENTURED SERVANTS LANDED AT JAMESTOWN, VIRGINIA.-LABOR SHORTAGE FOR TOBACCO CULTIVATION. NATIVE LABOR INADEQUATE SLAVERY-NEW INSTITUTION FOR ENGLISH SETTLERS. PORTUGUESE AND SPANISH STARTED IT 150 YRS. PRIOR.

1640 - WHIPPING AND BRANDING BORROWED FROM ROMAN PRACTICE APPEARS IN VIRGINIA.

RUNAWAY SLAVE, EMMANUEL CONVICTED OF TRYING TO ESCAPE IN JULY 1640 IS GIVEN THIRTY STRIPES AND THE LETTER R BRANDED ON HIS CHEEK AND WORKS IN SHACKLES FOR ONE YEAR.

The system is established



- ▶ Colonial laws herded African and European workers in separate and unequal queues
- ▶ Set in motion the caste system that would become the cornerstone of the social, political and economic system in America.
- ▶ Religion, then race defined status

Major Turning Points in American History

1641 - MASSACHUSETTS **FIRST** COLONY TO LEGALIZE SLAVERY.

1660'S - COLONIES ENACT LAWS TO DEFINE AND REGULATE SLAVERY, CHILDREN OF SLAVE WOMEN MUST SERVE FOR LIFE.- BREAK FROM TRADITION- FATHER DEFINED STATUS OF CHILD

1662 - VIRGINIAN LAW ASSUMED AFRICANS REMAIN SERVANTS FOR LIFE.

FIRST LAWS PUNISHING INTERRACIAL RELATIONS

Major Turning Points in African American History

1664 - MARYLAND PASSED LAW MAKING LIFELONG SERVITUDE FOR BLACK SLAVES.

LAW PROHIBITING MARRIAGE BETWEEN WHITE WOMEN AND BLACK MEN; REMAINED IN EFFECT FOR OVER THREE HUNDRED YEARS, REPEALED IN 1967.

1667 - BAPTISM OF SLAVES DID NOT EXEMPT THEM FROM SLAVERY.

CAN BLACKS BE ENSLAVED IF THEY BECOME CHRISTIANS?

HISTORICALLY CHRISTIANS DIDN'T ENSLAVE FELLOW CHRISTIANS

Origins of Whiteness

- ▶ Black slaves and white indentured labors revolted together against their masters
- ▶ Bacon's Revolution 1676- Blacks and Whites revolt caused alarm among ruling elites
- ▶ Divide and conquer strategy- poor whites given special privileges – guns, local militia, form nucleus of slave patrols—evolved into police force
- ▶ First time -Whiteness given special privileges

What is White Privilege?

- ▶ *A right, advantage, or immunity granted to or enjoyed by white persons beyond the common advantage of all others; an exemption in many particular cases from certain burdens or liabilities. (University of Ohio, Dayton)*
- ▶ *White privilege is a set of advantages and/or immunities that white people benefit from on a daily basis beyond those common to all others. White privilege can exist without white people's conscious knowledge of its presence and it helps to maintain the racial hierarchy in this country. (Dr. Avakian, U of Mass)*
- ▶ *Being white means never having to think about it (James Baldwin)*

Whiteness

- ▶ No one was white before he/she came to America-James Baldwin. “Their geographic origin was their passport to the dominant caste. The European immigrants’ experience was decisively shaped by their entering an arena where Europeanness-that is to say whiteness was among the most important possessions one could lay claim to says Yale historian Mathew Frye Jacobson. “It was their whiteness, not any kind of New World Magnanimity that open the Golden Door”.
- ▶ “To gain acceptance, each fresh infusion of immigrants had to enter a silent pact of separating and distancing themselves from the established lowest caste. Becoming white meant defining themselves as furthest from its opposite-black” Caste,49,50

Major Turning Points in American History

1670 - VOTING RIGHTS REMOVED FROM
RECENTLY FREED SLAVES AND INDENTURED
SERVANTS

1680 - AMERICAN SLAVERY ESTABLISHED SLAVES
AS AN - ARTICLE OF PROPERTY-CHATTEL
SLAVERY

Revolutionary America 1776-1865

- ▶ American Expansion in the West and the South-slave states or free states
- ▶ Massive infusion of European immigrants
- ▶ Exclusion of non-white immigrants
- ▶ Blacks, slave or free-non citizens
- ▶ Excluded from rights and privileges of citizenship
- ▶ Blacks: Slaves, second class citizenship, emigration.
- ▶ America colonization society-efforts to send Blacks to Africa.




Introduction:

Declaration of Independence

WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT:

THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL; THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR WITH CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS; THAT AMONG THESE ARE LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS; THAT, TO SECURE THESE RIGHTS, GOVERNMENTS ARE INSTITUTED AMONG MEN, DERIVING THEIR JUST POWERS FROM THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED . . .



EVERY STATE FROM PENNSYLVANIA
NORTHWARD ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE
ENSLAVEMENT OF BLACKS WAS
FUNDAMENTALLY INCONSISTENT WITH
REVOLUTIONARY IDEOLOGY, ALL MEN ARE
CREATED EQUAL WAS BEGINNING TO
REQUIRE REAL FORCE AS A BASIC PRINCIPLE.

Revolutionary War

1775 –1783 WAR OF REVOLUTION

- ❖ Blacks fought for their freedom but Americans who fought for their freedom used their freedom to enslave Blacks

1787 – CONSTITUTIONAL CONGRESS COMPROMISE

- ❖ Blacks 3/5 human; part of Constitution
- ❖ Naturalization Act of 1790
- ❖ First law defining citizenship: Only People Free white persons of good moral character, two years of residence.

Whiteness enshrined in citizenship

- ▶ **First Naturalization Act of 1790** to define American citizenship
- ▶ 1. Free white person
- ▶ 2. good character
- ▶ 3. 2 years of state residence

Critical Race Theory




- ▶ USA is not and never was a benevolent nation of immigrants.
- ▶ Rather it is a nation of settler-colonialism, genocide, white nationalism, racial slavery, legal torture and institutional rape.
- ▶ Since the inception of this country laws and legal practices favored whites economically, politically and socially
- ▶ Whiteness- a form of protected property
- ▶ America Canaan for whites, Babylon and Egypt for Blacks

Critical Race Theory

- ▶ Over time, white privilege is absorbed into the institutional matrix of our country---even into our built environment.
 - ▶ Post WWII housing restrictions, distribution of environmental pollution, green/ recreational spaces, etc...
- ▶ And given that, it's good to understand a bit about **Critical Race Theory** (Bell & Freeman, 1998). Essentially, the idea that the individual racist need not exist for institutional racism to remain pervasive in the majority culture.
 - ▶ And this also implicates arguments of egalitarianism and meritocracy.
 - ▶ And this helps us understand whether what we should be seeking is equal treatment alone, vs. social equity for historically disadvantaged groups.
 - ▶ **Moynihan Report** (1965)

Definition of blackness

- ▶ Hypodescent law- mixed race people assigned to the race which is less social dominant race of parents. Designed to protect racial purity and discourage marriage between ethnic/racial groups.
- ▶ Purity/pollution-proximity to blackness pollutes
- ▶ One drop rule- any drop of Black ancestry made that person black.



Freedom vs. Slavery in the states: two nations

1777-VERMONT

1784- CONNECTICUT

1827-NEW YORK

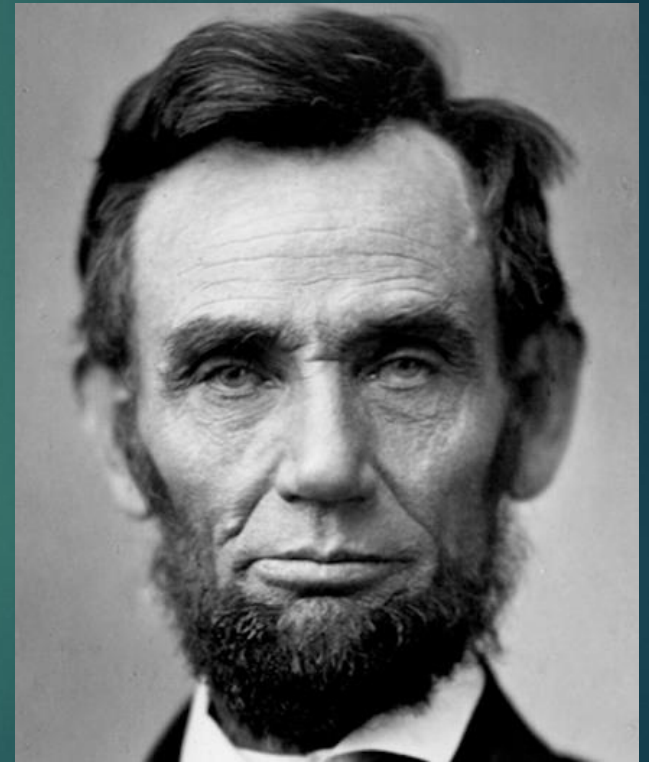
1804-NEW JERSEY

The great slave question: what kind of nation will we be?

Abraham Lincoln: a house divided against itself cannot stand. I

Believe this government cannot endure, permanently half slave

And half free. I do not expect the union to be dissolved-I do not expect the house to fall- but i do expect it to cease to be divided. It will become one thing or all the other”



Great Slave Debate 1820-1860

American Expansion

Compromise of 1820
Missouri –slave state
Maine-free state
America was in love with
Liberty and slavery



Manifest Destiny



Manifest Destiny

- ▶ Coined in 1845 that God has destined America to expand its dominion and spread democracy and capitalism across North America.
- ▶ Used to justify forced removal of natives from their land, take over of Mexican land
- ▶ Trail of Tears-1830-1850:100,000 Indians from MI, LA, FL, N&S Carolina



1861 – ELLEN WHITE RECEIVES HISTORIC VISION AT ROOSEVELT THAT REVEALS THE HORRIBLE CURSE AND DEGRADATION OF SLAVERY AND THE PROPHECIES OF GOD'S JUDGMENT IN AMERICA FOR THE "HIGH CRIME" OF SLAVERY.

Significant Points in Black Adventist History

- ❖ MRS. WHITE FELT THAT THE ENTIRE COUNTRY HAD BENEFITTED FROM THE LIFE, ENERGY, AND LABOR OF BLACK PEOPLE, AND IT WAS TIME TO RESTORE SOMETHING TO THEM AS A RACE FOR DECADES OF LOSS, DAMAGE, AND INJURY.
- ❖ MRS. WHITE REASONED THAT IF ONE PART OF SOCIETY IS WEAK OR NEEDY, THEN IT WEAKENS THE WHOLE SOCIETY.
- ❖ IF ADVENTISTS IGNORED THE BLACK RACE AND DID NOTHING TO AMELIORATE THE DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS IN WHICH THEY EXISTED, ELLEN WHITE SAID THEY WOULD ANSWER FOR IT IN THE JUDGMENT.

Lincoln-on slavery and equal rights

- ▶ “I have no purpose, directly and indirectly to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists...I have no purpose to introduce political and social equality between the white and the black races. There is a physical difference between the two, which in my judgment will forever forbid their living together upon the footing of perfect equality”,
- ▶ I am not nor ever have been in favor of bringing about in any way the social and political equality of the white and the black races and I am not nor never in favor of making voters, or jurors of negroes nor of qualifying them to hold office, nor intermarrying with white people.

America as Lamb and Dragon

- ▶ America as Lamb: Declaration of Independence, religious liberty, Bill of Rights, land of opportunity, freedom
- ▶ America as dragon: slavery, imperialism, fugitive slave law, militarism



J.N. Andrews

And he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon, Revelation 13:11. This animal has a dragon heart. His disposition, his motives, his intentions and desires are all like a dragon, his outward appearances, his horns... are lamb-like. In appearance he is like a harmless lamb but when he raises his voice in acts of authority his dragon-like character is revealed. This is a two-faced hypocritical beast that first appears with mildness and equity but has the fierce prompting of a dragon heart. The institution of slavery most clearly reveals the dragon spirit of this hypocritical nation (Andrews, March 19, 1857, Vol. 9, No. 20, p. 156).

Andrews pointed to the American Constitution's lofty claims of equality asserting that:

The same government that utters this sentiment in the face of this declaration will hold in abject servitude over 3, 200, 000 humans, rob them of their rights with which they acknowledge that all men are endowed by their creator... In the institution of slavery is more especially manifested thus far, the dragon spirit of this hypocritical nation.

J. N. Loughborough


Loughborough argued that the Declaration of Independence is a mere “Lamb-like” make-up. If the people lived out the Declaration of Independence, then all would love their neighbors as themselves and all persons would be on an equal footing. Instead, Loughborough lamented: “all men are created free and equal except 3, 500,000” (Loughborough, March 21, 1854, Vol. 5, No. 9, p. 66). In the same article, Loughborough sharply attacked the hated Fugitive Slave Law that demanded the return of runaway slaves to bondage and punished those who aided the slave in their flight to freedom¹³. In another article, published in 1857, Loughborough lambasted those clergymen who tried to justify slavery from the Old Testament, arguing that the American form of slavery cannot be compared with patriarchal slavery. He pointed out that certain principles, which governed such form of slavery, (e.g., jubilee, slaves were freed every seven years) were not followed by American slaveholders. He challenged the masters to carry out this practice and to observe its outcome. (Loughborough, July 2, 1857, Vol. 10, No. 9, pp. 65-67).

Uriah Smith

“for the character which the prophetic pencil has given to the two-horned beast, [Revelation, xiii, 11] a symbol of our country, is that he shall speak as a dragon! Not that slavery alone constitutes the dragon voice; but we must take with it its prime mover, that infernal spirit that is even now, on the plains of Kansas, burning the homes of freemen to the ground, and driving out their inmates robbed and insulted, and which but recently prompted a brutal assault upon a senator in the very halls of congress. Prophecy gives us no ground to hope for reform here: the beast speaks like a dragon...They cannot reform his mouth: he will speak like a dragon still. The prophecy does not say that at first he spoke like a dragon, but at length reformed his speech, and breathed forth a just and Christ-like spirit. His future history presents no redeeming feature. He will continue to bellow forth his dragon voice...”

Fredrick Douglas

While America is printing tracts and Bibles; sending missionaries abroad to convert the heathen; expending harmony in various ways for the promotion of the gospel in foreign lands, the slave not only lies forgotten—uncared for, but is trampled underfoot by the very churches of the land. What have we in America? Why we have slavery made part of the religion of the land. Yes, the pulpit there stands up as the great defender of this cursed *institution*, as it is called. Ministers of religion come forward, and torture the hallowed pages of inspired wisdom to sanction the blood deed. . . Instead of preaching the Gospel against this tyranny, rebuke, and wrong, ministers of religion have sought, by all and every means, to throw in the background whatever in the Bible could be construed into opposition to slavery, and to bring forward that which they could torture into support .



While the vast majority of white Christian leaders supported slavery and justified the practice there were a few voices that denounced the immorality of this demonic practice. One such leader was Samuel Hopkins who was a noted revivalist, from Newport, Rhode Island, of the Great Awakening, had a knowledge of slavery and the slave trade; he came to believe that slavery violated the humanity of the kidnapped Africans. He saw the attempt to convert the slave as a mockery of Christianity.

Slavery

- ▶ The vast majority of African-Americans in America for the first 246 lived under the terror of White people who had absolute power over their bodies and inflicted on them whatever atrocity they could conjure up and faced no sanction.

Slavery-Convenient Sin

Fruits of division

- ▶ **Methodist Episcopal**-James Andrew -Bishop married slave holding widow- Methodist Episcopal South 1844 reunion 1939
- ▶ **Baptists** split on slave issue 1845- Southern Baptist Convention
- ▶ Different views of morality by North and South. Can Baptist missionary be slave owner?
- ▶ **Presbyterianism**- old and new schools- abolitionism
 - ▶ Offspring of new school heresy
 - ▶ Presbyterian Church in the Confederate States of America 1861
 - ▶ Reunion 1983
 - ▶ Episcopal 1861 Protestant Episcopal Church in the Confederate States

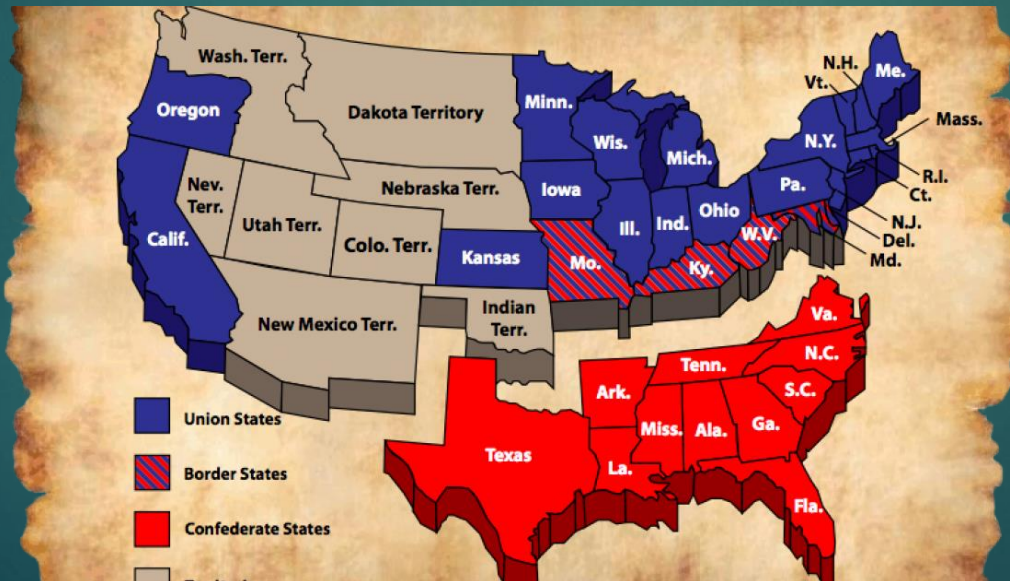
American Civil War

- ▶ Reasons for Revolt
- ▶ Vice-President Alexander Stephens declared of the Confederacy, “its foundations are laid, its cornerstone rest upon the great truth that the negro is not equal to the white man, that slavery subordination to the superior race is his natural and normal condition.
- ▶ Mississippi declaration-Our position is thoroughly identified with the institution of slavery
- ▶ The North-preserve the Union-America’s bloodiest war-600,000-700,000 killed



Redemption of the Southern States: Confederates take back power

- ▶ The dragon is resurrected –the North won the war but the South won the peace.



America Remade 1865-present

- ▶ Reconstruction of the nation
- ▶ 244 years of free labor-an empty freedom
- ▶ The North won the war, the south the peace
- ▶ Reconstruction
- ▶ Redemption Era
- ▶ Gains by Blacks met by counter revolution.

Reconstruction 1865-1877

- ❖ Civil War and its consequences
- ❖ 1862-1867 Homestead Act-160 acres per citizen
- ❖ 100 million acres for rich, 50 m for white settlers, no Blacks included-denied any opportunity
- ❖ 13th, 14th, 15th Amendments
- ❖ Election of 1876
- ❖ Redeeming the States
- ❖ Restoration of Home Rule
- ❖ North won the war: slavery died, but white lived on.

America's biggest failure towards the newly freed blacks

- ▶ What it did not do and what it allowed and encouraged
- ▶ America failed to provide resources and opportunities to blacks to help them overcome the legacy of slavery
- ▶ America allowed the states to pass laws to thwart the dreams, ambitions, and hopes of blacks
- ▶ America allowed the states to foster an environment of hostility, hatred, violence, disenfranchisement, and disempowerment of blacks.

13th Amendment

13th Amendment

Section 1: Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2: Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

- ▶ Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, **except as punishment for crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within or any place subject to their jurisdiction**"
- ▶ This clause in the Thirteen Amendment meant slavery was never abolished, it was simply redefined and codified under the jurisdiction of law enforcement officers and the courts
- ▶ Hence: the convict lease system which re-enslaved many African Americans-Slavery by Another name.

Restoration of home Rule: Court cases and revolts

- ▶ Cruikshank Case 1876-colofox massacre-300 blacks killed-3 whites guilty of violating Enforcement Act-set free-federal gov cannot legislate against individuals, only states
- ▶ Slaughterhouse Case 1876 federal gov. not responsible for safeguarding protection of citizenship, left to states
- ▶ Plessy vs. Ferguson-legal segregation confirmed-separate, but equal
- ▶ Insurrection in Wilmington, North Carolina Nov.10,1898 Wilmington Massacre carried out by White Supremacists-300 blacks killed, 2000 displaced
- ▶ Alfred Moore Waddell-portrayed as hero in history books

Woodward quotes from Leon F. Litwach's book, *North of Slavery*,

In virtually every phase of existence Negroes found themselves systematically separated from whites. They were either secluded from railway cars, omnibuses, stagecoaches, and steam boats or assigned to special "Jim Crow" sections; they sat when permitted, in secluded and remote corners of theaters and lecture halls; they could not enter most hotels, restaurants and resorts, except as servants; they prayed in "Negro pews" in the white churches and if partaking of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper they waited until the white had been served the bread and the wine; moreover they were often educated in segregated schools, punished in segregated prisons, nursed in segregated hospitals and buried in segregated cemeteries.²³

²³Woodward, C. Vann. *The Strange Career of Jim Crow*.

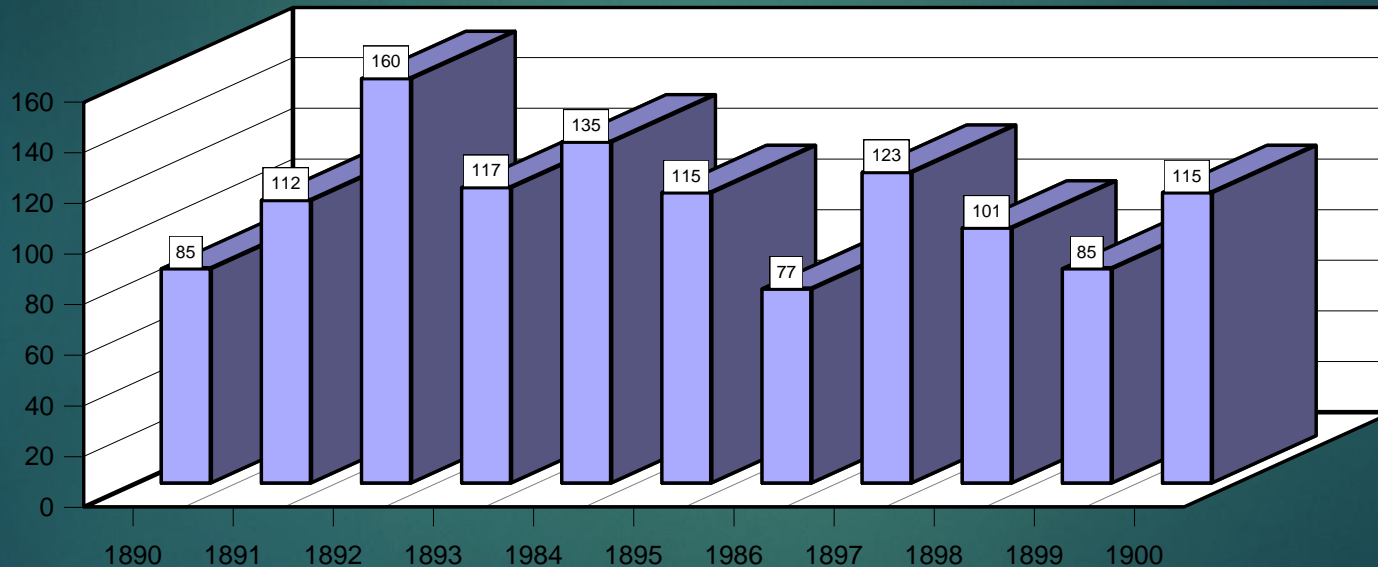
America's racial landscape

- ❖ White Supremacy-law of the land
- ❖ 1896-Plessy vs. Ferguson-legal segregation-law of the land
- ❖ Religion of the Lost Cause-heroes, statutes
- ❖ Confederate-revisionist history
- ❖ Black codes/Jim Crow laws
- ❖ Blacks disenfranchised, terrorized, lynched.
- ❖ 1890-1970 4,400 Blacks lynched
- ❖ Tulsa- Black Wall street 1921-300 killed, 10,000 displaced, 1256 homes, churches, schools, businesses, 40 blocks demolished-no one convicted

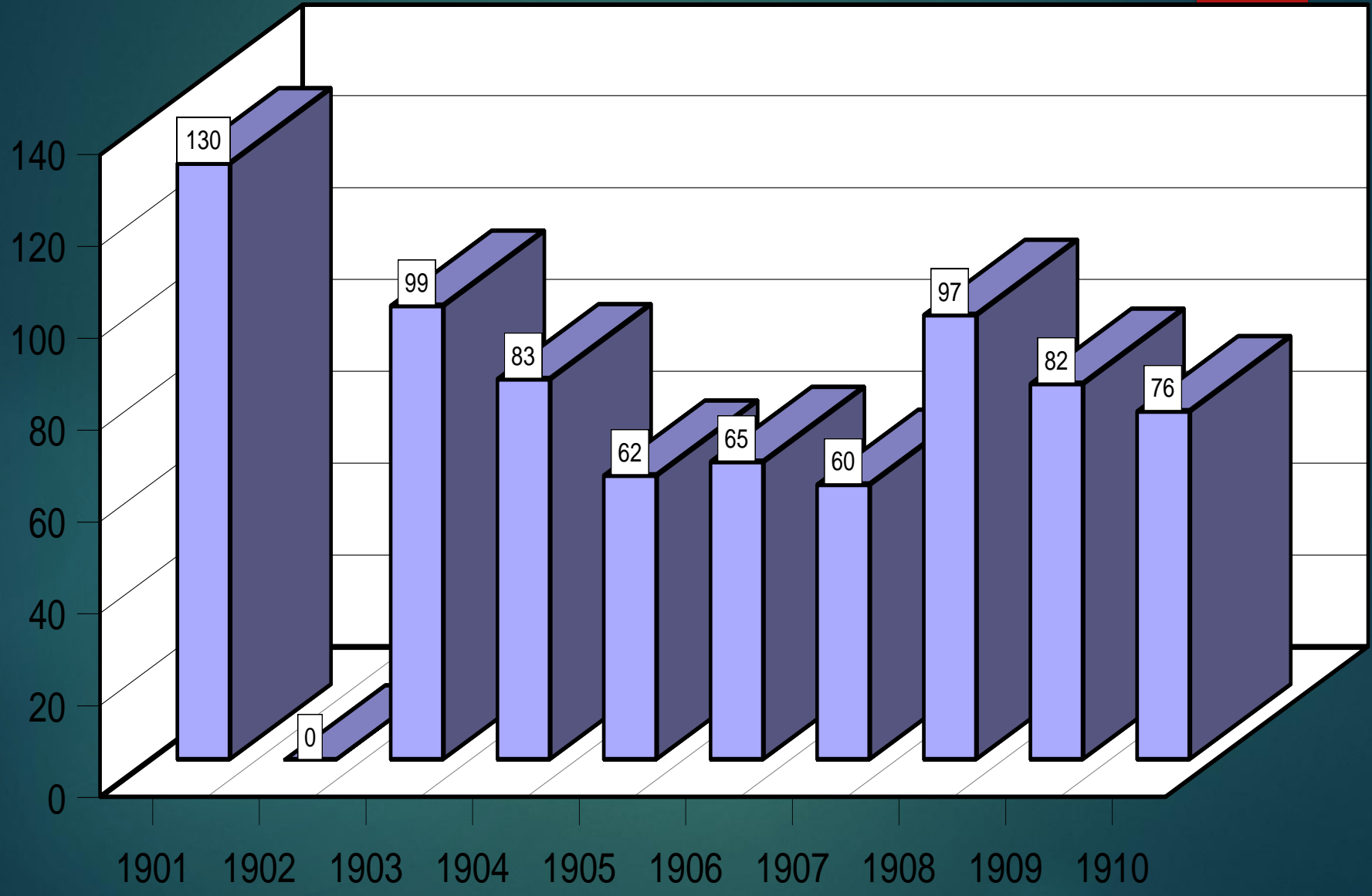
America's Backing sliding

Lynching of blacks.

Lynching of Black Americans per Year: Last Decade 19th Century



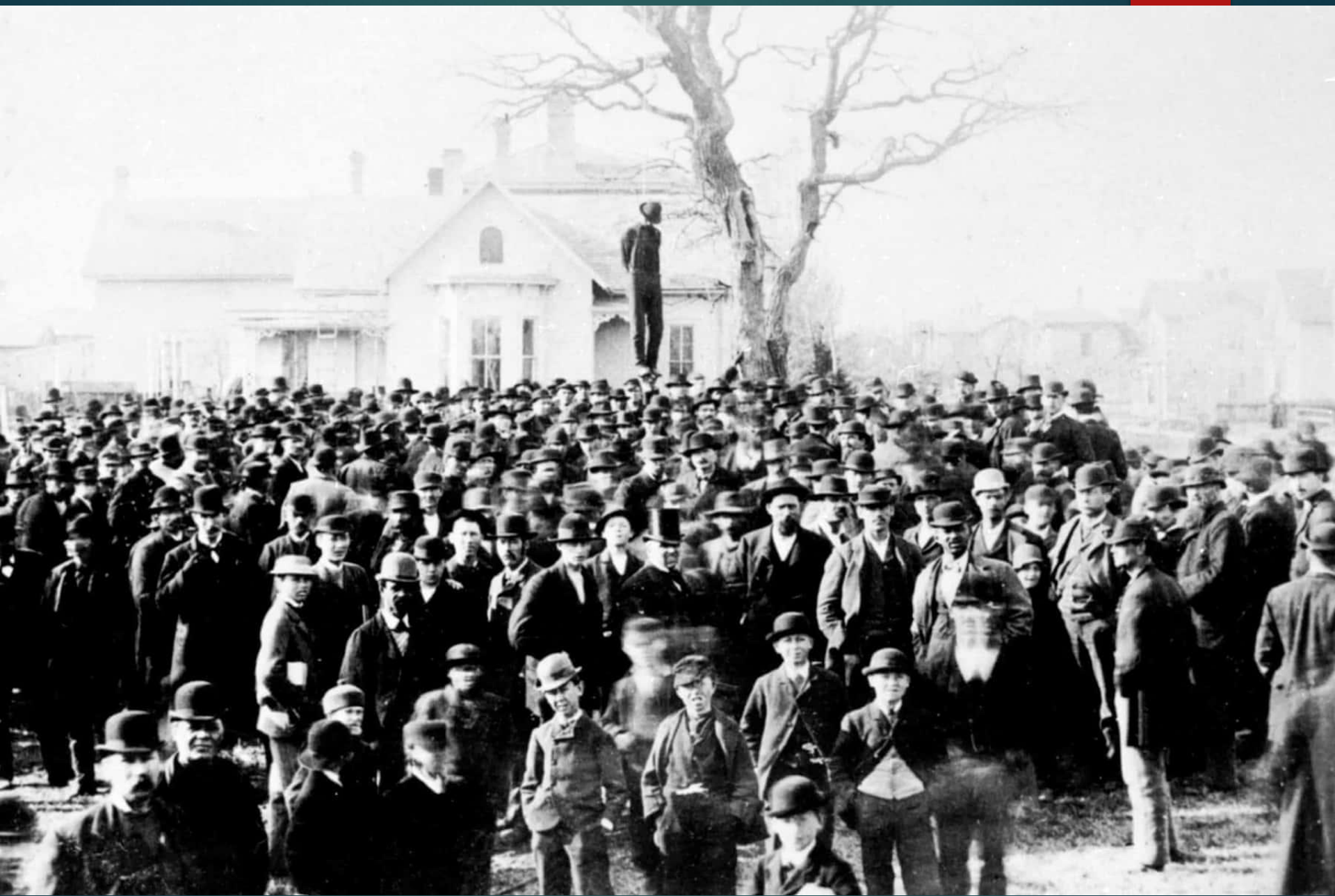
Lynchings of Black Americans per Year-First Decade of 20th Century



One of the most vivid examples of this brutal act of terrorism is described for us by Edward Blyden, former Presbyterian missionary from America to Africa.

Sam Hose was burned on Sunday afternoon in the presence of thousands of people. Before the fire had been kindled the mob amused themselves by cutting off the ears, fingers, toes, etc. to carry away as mementos. After the burning and before the body was cool, it was cut to pieces, the heart and liver being especially cut up and sold. Small pieces of bone brought 25 cents, and “a bit of liver, crisply cooked, sold for 10 cents.” So eager were the crowd to obtain souvenirs that a rush for the stake was made, and those near the body were forced against it and had to fight for their escape.¹¹

¹¹Edward Blyden, “*The Negro in the United States*” A. M.

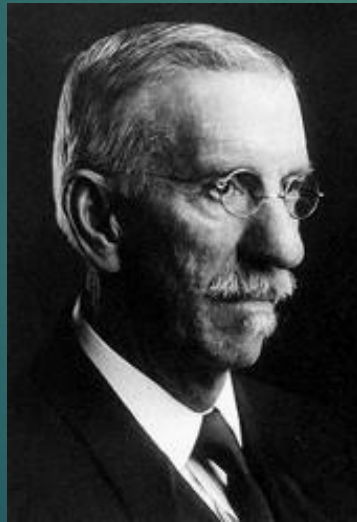


Significant Points in Black Adventist History

1894 - EDSON WHITE AND WILL PALMER BEGIN TO
EVANGELIZE SOUTHERN BLACKS VIA THE STEAMSHIP
MORNING STAR

THEY LANDED IN VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI IN 1895

Edson White



Will Palmer



Significant Points in Black Adventist History

1931 – OAKWOOD COLLEGE STUDENTS STRIKE FOR BLACK PRESIDENT AND BETTER LIVING AND LEARNING CONDITIONS

OCT 14TH.1944 – NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT FOR WORLDWIDE WORK AMONG COLORED SDA'S

- ❖ In wake of Lucy Byard incident
- ❖ National Association for the Advancement of the Worldwide Work among Colored SDAs NAAWWCSDA
- ❖ Ignited the flames for organization of regional conference



Important Civil Rights Acts

- ▶ Brown vs. Board of Education 1954
- ▶ Voting Rights Act of 1965- insure Black voting rights
- ▶ Civil Rights Act of 1964- outlawed all forms of discrimination against racial, ethnic, national and religious minorities and women
- ▶ Whites reaction anger
- ▶ Fury against rights for blacks



Significant Points in Black Adventist History

1962 – AT THE GC SESSION IN SAN FRANCISCO, MORE THAN 1,000 BLACK ADVENTISTS DEMONSTRATED AGAINST THE CHURCH'S RACIAL POLICIES.

FRANK PETERSON BECOMES **FIRST** BLACK VICE-PRESIDENT OF GC

1965 – THE REVIEW CARRIES ACTIONS THAT CALL FOR THE ENDING OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE DENOMINATION'S SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, CHURCHES AND INSTITUTIONS

U.S. 20th Century



- ▶ Exclude Asian Indians from citizenship (U.S. Supreme Court, 1923).
- ▶ Exclude domestics and agricultural workers from Social Security Act (SSA) of 1935. At the height of the Great Depression, the SSA established a basic level of economic security for many of the nation's workers. However, by excluding domestics and agricultural workers, this new policy effectively denied Social Security pensions and benefits to 75% of black workers.
- ▶ Post WWII: Exclusion of African Americans from benefits of G.I. Bill.
- ▶ Federal Housing Administration's practice of "redlining" effectively produce segregated cities and suburbs in 1940s and 1950s.
- ▶ Employer discrimination throughout century.

Racism manifested itself in a myriad of forms: examples

- ▶ Anti-miscegenation laws to preserve racial purity
- ▶ Housing segregation
- ▶ Hypodescent or “one drop rule”
- ▶ Segregated education
- ▶ Anti-immigrant laws or exclusion acts
- ▶ Colonization and cultural imperialism
- ▶ Job discrimination
- ▶ Genocidal efforts against Native Americans
- ▶ Police brutality
- ▶ Mass incarceration

Domination is needed for privilege

- ▶ Redlining policies => “pleasant” neighbors for whites
- ▶ Job discrimination => people in charge are white
- ▶ Racial profiling => Whites are not afraid of cops
- ▶ Racial purity laws => Preservation of privilege
- ▶ Whites enjoy privileges because they created a system of domination under which they can thrive



A “Post-Racial” Society?

- ▶ The Legacy of the Past in the Present
 - ▶ Wealth Disparity: January 1, 2013 marks the 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation--how far have we progressed?
 - ▶ In 2005, the median per capita income for blacks stood at \$16,629 for blacks and \$28,946 for whites. At this rate of progress, income equality will not be achieved for 537 years.
 - ▶ Gap in wealth even more significant: As of 2004, white median household net worth was \$118,300 and black median household net worth was \$11,800. Eighty-five percent of African American households have a net worth below the median white household. Regardless of age, household structure, education, occupation, or income, black households typically have less than a quarter of the wealth of otherwise comparable white households.
 - ▶ Due to blatant non-merit transfer of wealth: inheritances, bequests, and intra-family transfers of financial assets.
 - ▶ Residential Segregation and Concentration of Poverty: “Spatial racism creates a visible chasm between the rich and the poor and between whites and people of color.” Cardinal Francis George, *Dwell in My Love* (2001).
 - ▶ Employment discrimination.

Election of Donald Trump

- ▶ Reaction against the election of the first black president



A New Moral Imagination of Racial Justice

- ▶ **Compassion:** The privileged must lament their participation in the evil of racism, lament with the suffering of people of color, and nurture loving passion for racial justice.
- ▶ **Cross-racial Solidarity:** Interrupt participation in patterns of racial privilege and oppression. A solidarity demands a constant effort to build a human community where every social group participates equitably in society and contributes its genius to the good of all.
- ▶ **Hope:** Learn from people of color how “there is a way when there is no way.” ...

Bryan Massingale, *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church* (Orbis, 2010).

It's advantageous

- ▶ Let's be clear and honest about that
 - ▶ African Americans with same qualifications given home loans with worse conditions, e.g., APR, fixed vs variable (Dept of Justice settles with SunTrust, BofA, 2012).
 - ▶ African Americans get harsher sentencing for identical drug-related charges vs. Whites (U.S. Sentencing Commission Report, 2013).
 - ▶ The benefits of a college degree are greater for Whites vs. African Americans (Gaddis, U of Mich, 2015).
 - ▶ African American and Latino children are 2 to 13X MORE likely to be removed from class for behavioral conduct (e.g. willful defiance) than Whites (Skiba, Shure, & Williams, 2011; Indiana Education Policy Center, 2000).
 - ▶ And study after study, going all the way back to the pioneering work of Rosenthal & Jacobson (1968) and replicated in more recent studies (McKown & Weinstein, 2008) has found that teachers expect more out of their White vs. Latinos/African American students
 - ▶ Diminished expectations become a self-fulfilling prophecy.



The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The entire universe is clean. One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation. From Him who created all, flow life and light and gladness, throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love.

Books

- ▶ *Protest and Progress* by Calvin Rock
- ▶ *Seventh-day Adventist and the Civil Rights Movement* by Samuel London
- ▶ *White Too Long; The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity* by Robert Jones
- ▶ *Caste; Origins of our Discontent* by Isabel Wilkerson
- ▶ *Stamped from the Beginning: Definitive History of racists ideas in America.*by Ibram Kendi
- ▶ *How to be less stupid about race* by Crystal Fleming
- ▶ https://works.bepress.com/trevor_oreggio/81/