

Hidden History

The Unsung Saga of the Black Man

as told by



John P. & C. Buck West

HANNIBAL OF CARTHAGE

(THIS IS THE SECOND of a series of three articles on the great military leader and strategist of Negroid descent, Hannibal. Last week our first segment of this series briefly described Hannibal's countrymen, the Carthaginians; the causes which precipitated the first Punic War between Carthage and the Roman Empire, and Hannibal's campaign in Spain which sparked the second Punic War.)

Following the campaign in Spain, Hannibal and his army, consisting of 80,000 infantry, 12,000 cavalry, and 40 elephants crossed the Pyrenees into France. From the Pyrenees he marched eastward until he reached the River Rhone at what is now Avignon and continued south to Marseilles. Hannibal captured the Roman outpost at Marseilles giving him position on the French sea-coast only a few days march from Italy. However, Hannibal and his forces were blocked by the Roman fleet and their only alternative was to retreat northward.

Hannibal retraced his route until he reached what is now Tarascon, France. At Tarascon, Hannibal decided to strike at Rome over the snow-capped peaks of the Alps rather than return to Spain. Thus, he and his army began the most painful, arduous and terrifying march in the history of war.

Hannibal's soldiers, most of them from the tropics, saw snow and felt the bitter cold of winter for the first time. Skirting the narrow edges of the Alps, many of these soldiers were swept to death on the jagged rocks below by snow storms and avalanches, or by rocks thrown at them by unseen savages above.

BUT THE GREATEST TEST was yet to come. They came to a narrow pass which was so well guarded by the Allbroges, allies of the Romans, that retreat seemed the only alternative. The Roman allies had but to loosen a few rocks and Hannibal's entire army, elephants and all, would be swept to death.

In this situation, courage and great numbers meant nothing. The only answer was strategy and, once again, Hannibal's fertile brain came to the rescue. He noticed that the guardians of the pass retired each night, feeling confident that no one would ever be able to scale the frozen heights in the darkness of night. Spending the nights, in their warm huts, the Allbroge guards would return early in the morning.

Accordingly, Hannibal with a number of men left early one morning for the heights and, reaching them before the Allbroges did, signalled for his men to come on. Unknown to him, however, another body of the enemy at a lower level lay in ambush and attacked his men as they came up.

Great confusion followed this attack and Hannibal, seeing his men and horses being swept to death over the cliffs, left some of his men to guard the heights while he and the others rushed to the aid of their comrades below. He finally rallied his men and turned what seemed certain defeat into victory.

Continuing up the mountain, Hannibal met still another tribe who, pretending to be friendly, led him into an ambush in which he lost many more men.

Nine days later, he reached the summit and glimpsed the rich plains of Italy far below. However, his difficulties were not over for the descent of the Alps was equally difficult and, during a snowstorm, thousands of his soldiers perished. At last, on November 15, 218 B.C., or six days following Hannibal's glimpse of his goal from the summit, his army reached the

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EDITORIAL

"THE NEGRO PROBLEM" IS A WHITE PROBLEM

Heritage is something handed down from one's ancestors. It is social custom, culture, characteristics, attitude and tradition. Heritage is also defined by Webster as, the rights, burdens, or status resulting from being born in a certain time or at a certain place, like a birthright. In biblical terms, heritage referred to the Israelites as God's chosen people.

IN AMERICA, the abominable heritage of racism has been handed down from generation to generation. The American heritage of racism, despite the fact that it violated both the doctrines of democracy, and the concepts of Judeo-Christian teachings, went unchanged and unchallenged for a century after the abolishment of slavery.

It has taken a century of suffering plus the courage of a tall Texan to arouse America's conscience to challenge the black mark of racism which has marred our national image, and shaken our domestic tranquility.

Our national conscience is, today, putting our heritage of racism to a severe test. We are now experiencing a social evolution which is destined to alter a heritage which never should have been tolerated in the first place.

IT IS TOO LATE NOW to merely say that what we have been doing for more than a century has been wrong, and that we will now correct our mistakes of yesteryears. A heritage is not changed so easily. Nor, is a society's habits suddenly altered without great resistance.

When social changes are forced spontaneously against the will of people, it no longer falls in the category of social evolution, but rather it becomes social revolution. America must relentlessly push ahead to alter its heritage of racism but, at all costs, we must guard against the possibility of evolution becoming revolution.

Education and inter-group communication are the two most important keys to change our heritage while, at the same time, guard our domestic tranquility. Both of these keys were conspicuously absent in the recent Watts incident. Neither side was properly educated as to the problems of the other, and there was no communication between the two in Watts.

The Watts tragedy, although it solved nothing for the people involved, served as an important national warning of what could happen in every large urban area of the nation where inter-group education and communication are lacking. Every city in America should profit by the Watts "explosion" and formulate a workable program to bring people together so that there will be adequate reciprocal interracial understanding.

NO ONE CAN FULLY UNDERSTAND those things which he has never experienced. When we are delving into the powder-keg problem of race relations, we must be certain that each side has full knowledge of the other's problems.

plains, ragged, starved and emaciated.

The fifteen days over the Alps had taken a heavy toll. Hannibal had lost more than three-fourths of his 80,000 infantry and over half of his 12,000 cavalry. However, happily for him, his 40 elephants had survived the Alps.

With 20,000 infantry, 6,000 cavalry and 40 elephants, Hannibal was preparing to face the mightiest military power of that age. Rome had more than a million fighting men or forty times the fighting force under Hannibal's command.

Noted historian J. A. Rogers' book "World's Great Men of Color" relates in the "Hannibal of Carthage Chapter":

"The news threw Rome into consternation. To cross the Alps with an army! What supermen these Africans must be! But when the weakened state of the Attackers became known, fear quickly changed to ridicule.

"Rome put into the field the largest army in its history--80,000 men, or more than double Hannibal's. Scipio, its commander, felt certain of victory. Hannibal had no recourse but to go

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If the adage that a little learning is a dangerous thing applies anywhere, it certainly applies in the area of race relations in every American community. Nothing short of full understanding can be trusted to assure a painless social evolution, as opposed to the Watts incident.

White America views our top domestic problem as the "Negro Problem". The Negro views the situation as "Denial of Constitutional Guarantees" imposed upon Negro Americans by the ruling class of bigoted White Americans.

It is undeniable that the majority of White Americans have not been bigots at heart for many years. However, that same majority of Whites who have not been guilty of bigotry, in philosophy and conviction have certainly been guilty of complacency which has allowed the heritage of racism to be handed down generation after generation. The complacency of the majority has permitted the minority to defy the law and to violate the concepts of religious doctrines for more than a century. Complacency thereby indicts the do-nothing majority and makes them a party to the acts of the minority. Absence of communication among these two groups of America's ruling class has permitted the heritage to remain secure.

THE BIGOTED MINORITY has controlled the majority by pointing out the short-comings of the Negro-Americans. Neither side has ever bothered to discuss the causes of the Negroes' inadequacies. Whatever the undesirable traits of the Negro might be, the blame falls squarely upon the consciences of the ruling Whites who, themselves, created the problem which now threatens the whole scene of domestic peace as well as potential.

The Negro does not live in the ghetto because he prefers slum living. He lives there because our American heritage has forced him to live there. The Negro does not work at the most menial jobs, earn the most meager wages, and achieve a lower than national average education by design, but rather, it is because the ruling class has imposed these things upon him.

The Negro has suffered many hardships because of the heritage perpetrated by the ruling class. Generations of imposed inequities have scarred the minds of both White as well as Black Americans. Mixtures of the two have not escaped this damage to their psychic behaviorism any more, or any less, than the others. The American conscience has suffered all across the board.

The American heritage is changing. Each community must apply its full potential to reverse the heritage calmly and as painlessly as possible. Peaceful evolution is not likely unless adequate plans are first formulated, and then implemented.

LET LAS VEGAS SHOW THE WAY for the U.S.A. We need feasible planning and intelligent application of the plans.

We suggest that the City Commissioners, in conjunction with the County Commissioners, put their heads and hearts into such a planning program. The time is now. Adequate plans will not be born by spontaneous creation. Men must make the plans and men must make them work.

LAS VEGAS Voice

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