

Hidden History

The Unsung Saga of the Black Man

NEGRO HISTORY BAFFLER

By NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

Knowledge and understanding go hand in hand. Without facts, one has no basis on which to make judgments; without understanding, facts become a mere clutter.

Today's Baffler tests your knowledge of statistical facts needed for a proper understanding of our history.

Scoring: 4-7 tops; 3: fair; 0-2: poor. Bonus Question at the end is worth two points. Here's the multiple-choice quiz:

1. The number of Negroes in the United States today is about 21 million, plus two million or so unaccounted for. How many Negroes were there in the United States in 1790?

--A. 757,181; B. 34,213; C. 19,341,116.

2. At the time the Civil War broke out in 1861, how many free Negroes were there in the country?

--A. 36; B. 36,589; C. 488,070.

3. Negro illiteracy in the United States, now less than 10 per cent, has decreased from what percentage in 1870?

--A. 81.4; B. 99; C. 22.

4. When World War II broke out in 1941, how many Negroes were serving in the Marine Corps and the nation's air force?

--A. 2,483,781; B. 36,788; C. None.

5. What is the reason for your answer to Question 4?

--A. Negro youths were anxious to prove their loyalty to their country.

--B. They were banned from these branches of military service at that time;

--C. These were the only branches in which they were allowed at the time.

* * *

BONUS QUESTION: Three Amendments to the U.S. Constitution guarantee the Negro his freedom from slavery, his citizenship, and his right to vote. Which are they?

* * *

ANSWERS: 1. A; 2. C; 3. A; 4. C; 5. B; BONUS: 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments.

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ONE OF the erroneous ideas many persons--both black and white--have is that the Negro has invariably been an "insignificant minority" in this country.

Of course, the overall black population has always been in the minority throughout the United States. In 1790, there were 757,208 Negroes out of a total national population of 3,929,214; in 1960, the figures were 18,871,831 and 179,323,175.

But Negroes have outnumbered whites in some cities and areas of the country. And with the increasing movement of black people to large urban areas, several of the nation's cities will have Negro majorities in a few years.

FIGURES CITED on Negro population overlook the million of uncouneted black people and those who have "passed" into white society. This means that, numerically speaking and otherwise, the Negro has been more prominent in American society than has been thought.

In today's Baffler, identify the cases in which Negro majorities have made the black man a political force to reckon with.

Scoring: 4-7: tops; 3: fair; 0-2: poor. Bonus Question at the end counts two points. Here's

SURVEY ON NEGRO ATTITUDES REVEALED

NEW YORK - (NPI)--Half of the Negroes polled in a survey of black attitudes were found to believe that rioting accomplishes something worthwhile while tearing down the malcontents' own neighborhoods.

And one-third of those interviewed said violence can help the Negro's cause.

But sociologist Dr. Gary T. Marx, a Harvard University sociologist, who authored the study, said the findings should not be interpreted to mean that Negroes, in general, approve of rioting.

Rather, he added, the survey shows black people's "realistic appraisal of the actual situation."

Dr. Marx noted that the 1965 Los Angeles Watts riots, despite the 35 deaths and more than 1,000 injuries, (most of them suffered by Negroes) resulted in "the prompt release of (anti-poverty) funds that had previously been tied up for months."

ANOTHER by-product of the Watts outbreak, he indicated, was the allocation of millions of dollars in government aid "to rebuild the area and improve community conditions."

Dr. Marx's study, conducted under the auspices of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith is the basis of a new book, "Protest and Prejudice: A Study of Belief in the Black Community," to be published late this month.

While Dr. Marx did not say so, his study pointed up a sore point in race relations: different reactions to racial outbreaks among whites and Negroes.

For many whites--even those otherwise "liberal" on race--riots occasion blanket condemnation of all Negroes. These whites don't understand why Negro leadership joins them only half-heartedly in condemning the outbreaks.

But they fail to realize that playing on white's fear of racial terror has, for centuries, been the Negro's strongest and sometimes, only weapon in defense of his rights.

Nevertheless, the study found that most Negroes "still maintain their commitment to non-violent social change and willingness to work with men of good will in the white community."

WHILE agreeing with that thesis, civil rights leader Bayard Rustin, in a foreword to the study, spoke of "ominous signs" of bitterness among the Negro masses.

The survey, based on interviews with 1,119 Negro adults, also found that civil rights militants tend to be the most tolerant.

Other findings disclosed by Dr. Marx:

--The more educated and better-off tend to be more militant.

--One-third of U.S. Negroes are "consistently militant" and increasingly more can be expected to become so.

--New York City Negroes are the most militant (45 per cent) of those polled, compared with 27 per cent in Chicago and 16 per cent in Atlanta.

A Sad And Dreary Twice-Told Tale

MEMPHIS - (NPI)--An explanation of why A. W. Willis, Jr., didn't win the mayoral election was provided by figures showing that most Negroes voted for his white opponent.

Winner of the election was incumbent Mayor William B. Ingram, Jr., who got more Negro votes than Willis. The mayor campaigned hard among Negroes, apparently convincing them that Willis, a state legislator, could not win.

the multiple-choice quiz:

1. Which of these cities has a Negro majority.

--A. Chicago; B. Washington; C. New York.

2. In 1860, there were 437,000 Negroes and 353,000 whites in this state. When black people later gained power, it was charged, in typical Dixie style, that a "minority" had taken over.

--A. Mississippi; B. New York; C. Illinois.

3. In this one predominantly Negro state, black people were in the majority in every legislative session except one in the years after the Civil War. This state's voters, in 1870, elected J. H. Rainey, the first Negro to be seated in the U.S. House of Representatives:

--A. Texas; B. Maine; C. South Carolina.

4. In which of these cities have Negroes recently become a majority:

--A. Los Angeles and Philadelphia;

--B. Gary, Ind., and Newark, N.J.;

--C. Houston, Tex., and Atlanta, Ga.

5. A majority of the students going to public school in this city are black:

--A. Chicago; B. New York; C. Seattle, Wash.

* * *

BONUS QUESTION: Unlike cities with substantial Negro populations, this town does not permit black residents. It is remembered for an open-housing march last year and a race riot 15 years ago when a Negro family tried to move in.

ANSWERS: 1. B; 2. A; 3. C; 4. B; 5. A. BONUS ANSWER: Cicero, Ill.

THIS WEEK IN NEGRO HISTORY

AN "NPI" FEATURE

- Oct. 26, 1910 Tom Molineaux, a slave, fought Tom Cribb of England for the heavyweight boxing title.
- Oct. 26, 1953 Author-sociologist Elizabeth R. Hayes, first Negro YWCA national secretary, died in New York City.
- Oct. 27, 1951 National Negro Labor Council founded in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Oct. 27, 1961 The Rev. George Williams, Shaw University graduate, honored in San Diego, Calif., on his 102nd birthday.
- Oct. 28, 1798 Levi Coffin, Cincinnati Quaker and "president" of the "Underground Railroad," was born. He died in 1877.
- Oct. 29, 1776 The Harrison Street Baptist Church, Petersburg, Va., was organized.
- Oct. 29, 1937 Henry Armstrong won the featherweight boxing title from P. Sarron at Madison Square Garden, New York.
- Oct. 29, 1951 Ollie Matson selected most valuable Pacific Coast senior and awarded the Glenn (Pop) Warner trophy.
- Oct. 30, 1826 Levi Coffin began abolition movement against slavery, in Newport, Ind.
- Oct. 30, 1945 Brooklyn Dodgers sign Jackie Robinson for Montreal team.
- Oct. 30, 1960 Student lunch counter sit-ins in South begun in protest to segregation.
- Oct. 31, 1900 Ethel Waters, actress-singer, was born in Chester, Pa.
- Oct. 31, 1942 Princeton University voted against admitting Negroes to undergraduate school.

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