

Hidden History

The Unsung Saga of the Black Man

NEGRO HISTORY BAFFLER

By NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

This nation may be the "land of the free and the home of the brave"--but other countries beat us to the punch.

In freeing its slaves some 100 years ago, the United States lagged behind several other nations we might consider "backward" or "despotic."

Today's Baffler challenges you to identify the actions these countries took that shamed us into finally abolishing slavery, with the ratification of the 13th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution in 1865.

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

1. Great Britain abolished its slavery system in:

--A. 1833; B. 1776; C. 1918.

2. Mexico's President Vicente Guerrero took what action, in 1829, on slavery?

--A. He ordered Mexican slaves deported to the United States;

--B. He declared all slaves in the republic to be forever free;

--C. He re-enslaved all persons of African ancestry who had been freed by his predecessor.

3. One of the bones of contention between the Mexican government and the Texas settlers from the United States, who declared their independence in 1836, was that:

--A. The settlers wanted to maintain slavery practices, which Mexico opposed;

--B. The settlers were aghast that "backward" Mexico still had slavery, when they believed in the equality of man;

--C. The Texans wanted to practice polygamy, but the Mexicans wouldn't let them.

4. In 1861, Russia's Czar Alexander II took what action affecting the country's 21 million serfs:

--A. He re-enslaved them and ordered them sent to Siberia for staging an insurrection;

--B. He began a program of emancipation that included--unlike the later American system--giving the serfs the land they had been working;

--C. He gave them total freedom to wander around the country as they wished.

5. The Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Lincoln on Jan. 1, 1863:

--A. Gave the Negro his full right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness";

--B. Freed white slaves, but not black slaves;

--C. Freed slaves only in areas not under Union control.

BONUS QUESTION: For which of these reasons did President Lincoln say the United States was fighting the Civil War: to free the slaves or to save the Union?

ANSWERS: 1. A; 2. B; 3. A; 4. B; 5. C.

BONUS ANSWER: To save the union. In 1862, he wrote, "My paramount object in this struggle is to save the union, and is not either to save or to destroy slavery... What I do about slavery, and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save the union...."

Time Magazine Study Shows Shift From "Black Power" To "Black Pride"

New York, New York, November 26, 1967-- An intensive study by TIME Magazine, in which leaders and members of major Negro groups were interviewed against the background of civil rights actions, urban riots, "Black Power" growth and white backlash, has found a new and positive spirit of "Black Pride" channeling anarchistic extremes into a positive, dynamic national force.

"As the months have gone by since Black Power burst violently onto the scene," TIME reports, "there has been a slow, subtle but steady shift in the attitude of Negroes--even the moderate Negro leaders--who were desperately opposed to the violent and separatist nature of the new crusade."

"What has clearly developed from this change is a Black Power movement set on a more respectable base. The most intelligent spokesmen for the new attitude think of it in terms of Black Consciousness--or, more completely, of Black Pride."

THE REPORT, to be published in this week's issue of the newsmagazine, continues: "The attitude is producing a wave of Negro organizations and movements--on campuses, in professions, in local communities and also on state and national scales. All this can be rather grandly described as a case of the Negro's looking to himself for salvation, and there discovering strengths that he never knew he possessed. There is indeed evidence that black pride is nourishing the new Negro's determination to take over his own destiny and accept no definition of blackness but his own. This kind of Negro is not anti-white; he is pro-black. As one direct consequence of his attitude, America's most visible minority is more visible than ever. It is projecting a positive new image that makes more sense, even to Negro frustrations, than the shadow of violence falling on ghetto streets."

"Because the Negro is a member of a minority constituting some 11% of the U.S. population, he can never expect to register more than modest victories in the ballot box unless he wins white adherents to his cause. Here, also, black pride is dictating the new posture, which is not that of a needy supplicant begging for white assistance, but that of an equal who proclaims his self-sufficiency and his value as any man's ally."

The magazine's study cites examples of cooperation, achievement and insurgent Negro pride in community life, the theater, athletics, religion, politics and education. "Among the most vital aspects of the new Negro mood is the proliferation of black student organizations on white campuses--one sure way to preserve Negro identity in an overwhelmingly white student body."

"I've been missing symbols of black identity all my life," the study quotes Constance Hilliard, 18, a freshman who joined the Harvard-Radcliffe Afro and Afro-American Student Association this fall. "There's a realization that you have so much in common with other black students, things that you can't share with whites. It's just a beautiful feeling."

ROY WILKINS, Executive Secretary of the NAACP, is quoted by TIME as saying, "I can't help viewing the unilateral black philosophy as being as open to question as the unilateral white system. Pride of race and history and the riddance of self-denunciation are good and needed. The thing to guard against is black arrogance."

The Urban League's Whitney Young Jr. says, "Where the builders differ from the burners is that we want to win victories within the framework of the system."

TIME says that even Martin Luther King Jr., who began by counseling his people to "love your enemies, bless them that curse you, and pray for them that despitefully use you," now embraces the new Negro ethic in its most respectable application: "Black Power is a call to the black people to amass the political and economic strength to achieve their legitimate goals."

Floyd McKissick of the Congress of Racial Equality is quoted: "Black Power is the control of black people exerted in order to bring about change and execute their own self-determination. Like in the schools--to hell with busing kids. Improve the school system where it is."

The fact is, TIME reports, "that the major

part of the Black Power movement, at least now, is far more moderate than its reputation. In the main, it desires neither to shoot its way out of white America, nor to enter a supremacy contest with the white Establishment. Its goals lie within democracy's permissive framework, which has stretched many times before to assimilate minority groups and which, as far as the U.S. Negro is concerned, must stretch again for him.

"The black to fear is the one who has not yet been exposed to the discipline of self-pride--the unawakened 75% Negro majority that lies outside the civil rights movement, and has felt almost none of its effects. This Negro has nothing to lose by venting his frustrations in violence. The new Negro knows how much damage violence can do to his own cause."

PROTEST AT THE POLLS REGISTER TO VOTE

THIS WEEK IN NEGRO HISTORY AN "NPI" FEATURE

- Dec. 8, 1837 Wendell Phillips joins anti-slavery movement.
- Dec. 8, 1810 Tom Molineaux, boxer, was defeated by Tom Cribb, then British champion.
- Dec. 9, 1830 S. R. Lowery, teacher and army chaplain, was born.
- Dec. 9, 1944 Death of Romeo Dougherty, sports editor, New York Amsterdam News, in Jamaica, Long Island, N.Y.
- Dec. 10, 1805 William I. Garrison, abolitionist, was born. An editor and dedicated opponent of slavery, he died in 1879.
- Dec. 10, 1942 Mortgage burned for the Morris Memorial building of the Sunday School Publishing Board, Nashville, Tenn.
- Dec. 10, 1950 Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, deputy secretary-general of the United Nations, was awarded the Nobel Peace prize, becoming the first Negro so honored.
- Dec. 11, 1885 James O. Blanton, president, American Mutual Savings bank, born in Versailles, Ky.
- Dec. 11, 1912 Henry Armstrong, only man to hold three boxing titles at one time, was born in St. Louis, Mo. He began his career at the age of 17, fighting in more than 400 engagements.
- Dec. 11, 1917 Five members of the 24th U.S. Infantry were executed for their part in a Houston, Tex. riot, Aug. 23, 1917.
- Dec. 12, 1870 Joseph H. Rainey of South Carolina was seated as the first Negro member of the U. S. House of Representatives.
- Dec. 12, 1954 Mississippi voters approve constitutional amendment permitting abolition of public schools to avoid integration.
- Dec. 13, 1872 O. P. Anderson, member of John Brown's raiding party, executed.

LAS VEGAS Voice

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER (Published every Thursday) DEDICATED to the INTERESTS and ASPIRATIONS for a BETTER LIFE for NEGRO CITIZENS of the STATE of NEVADA

CHARLES I. WEST, M.D. - Publisher
 ALICE KEY - Executive Editor * DOROTHY WEST - Treasurer
 RAY FEASTER - Adv. Production * CARITA HARBERT - Ofc. Mgr.

DOROTHY JOHNSON - Food Forum * EDDYE KIM - Society

EDITORIAL, ADVERTISING & CIRCULATION OFFICES
 900 West Bonanza Rd., Suite A-B (Moulin Rouge Hotel)
 Las Vegas, Nevada 89106 * Telephone: 384-3117

ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED UPON REQUEST

Price per copy - 15¢ * One year - 7.50 * Two years - 12.50
 (Application for 2nd Class Mailing Permit pending at Las Vegas, Nevada)