

Annotated Bibliography

The Civil Rights Movement in America and its Global Effects

BOOKS

Anderson, Carol. *Eyes off the Prize: The United Nations and the African American Struggle for Human Rights, 1944-1955.* Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Anderson focuses on the role and impact of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) on the internationalization of the black struggle for civil rights. In contrast to the work of Mary Dudziak, Michael Krenn, and Thomas Borstelmann, Anderson argues that the Cold War's influence went beyond affecting the federal government's response to black inequality. She maintains that the Cold War also undermined the movement's impact in that it "systematically eliminated human rights as a viable option for the mainstream African American leadership" (p. 5). As the Civil Rights Movement increasingly assumed international dimensions in the McCarthy era, it was seen as motivated and underwritten, in large part, by the Kremlin and the Soviet Union. Moreover, Anderson maintains that to the detriment of the movement, the idea of human rights and the United Nations was increasingly perceived by American leaders (especially Southern Democrats and Republicans) as a front for the expansion of Communism on a worldwide basis. The major contribution of this work is to counterbalance scholarly interpretations and assessments of the movement, and the realization that "the African American Left was destroyed by its own strategic blunders and the McCarthy witch hunts" (p.7), and that there was not any power or force in the black community that could offset the forced disengagement of the NAACP.

Borstelmann, Thomas. *The Cold War and the Color Line: American Race Relations in the Global Arena.* Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001.

Borstelmann, professor of Modern History at the University of Nebraska Lincoln, explores the role of race in American Cold War domestic and international politics and contextualizes the Civil Rights Movement in the international arena. He argues that the dilemmas for US leaders were serious because the American civil rights movement was tied to the rise of postwar anti-colonialism and because the United States (US) tried to build a broad, multiracial, anticommunist international coalition to encourage gradual change with minimum provocation. Further, Borstelmann contends that the American civil rights movement evolved into an international human rights movement that continues today. Because Borstelmann focuses his research and primary sources on American policymakers and civil rights leaders, he is more successful at identifying the ways in which Cold War politics served to expose America's racial injustices and pressure its leaders to respond rather than successfully demonstrating that the US wanted to build an all-inclusive coalition. Borstelmann extensively uses the speeches and writings of Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr., Stokely Carmichael, and other civil rights leaders, as well as the speeches and writings of American policymakers including Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, and other influential members of the presidential administrations. Consequently, he reveals the dichotomies and conflicts of American domestic and foreign policy with the reality of blacks in America.

Consequently, this source is valuable because it establishes the mounting tension that eventually culminated in the race riots of 1967. However, this is a top-down historical narrative that has little insight into why racial tension continued to increase despite major policy changes – including the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 – since it excludes the voices of blacks at the local level.

Chetrit, Sami Shalom. 2010. Intra-Jewish Conflict in Israel: White Jews, Black Jews

This book (the first in English) examines the political history of the Mizrahi Jews (Jews from the Muslim world) in Israel, focusing on the social and political movements of the Black Panthers and SHAS (a political party). The book analyzes the ongoing cultural encounter between Zionism and Israel on one side and Mizrahi Jews on the other. It charts the relations and political struggle between Ashkenazi-Zionists and the Mizrahi in Israel from post-war relocation through to the present day. This book asserts that the political history of blacks in the U.S. can acquaint us with two main approaches in the politics of oppressed cultural groups, and the tension between them – segregationist (at times nationalistic) politics on the one hand, and radical yet integrationist politics on the other (there is a range of attitudes between these two poles). The analogy between black-white relations in the U.S. and Mizrahi-Ashkenazim relations in Israel is far from a full historical analogy. However, one can discern similarities in the political conduct of struggle that shed light on Mizrahi-Ashkenazim interaction in Israeli society. There are two basic similarities between the struggle for African Americans in the U.S. and the Mizrahim's struggle against cultural and social oppression in Israel, in the realms of culture and class. Both are found, in varying doses, in both black attitudes and Mizrahi attitudes of identification-cooperation (integration) versus protest and alternative identity and social order (7).

****della Porta, Donatella, Massimiliano Andretta, Lorenzo Mosca, and Herbert Reiter. 2006. Globalization From Below: Transnational Activists and Protest Networks**

This book focuses on social movements and the formation of transnational collective actors. It argues that globalization has provided social movements with new and possibly significant opportunities to influence state and nonstate actors. The book explores these and other themes as well as presents the results of research focusing primarily on two events of transnational protest: G8 protests in Genoa in July 2001 and the ESF in Florence in Nov 2002. The analysis addresses three dimensions of the movement: a micro-dimension (characteristics of the activists), a mesodimension (involves the organizational networks and their activities, and a macrodimension (concerned with the interaction between the movement and its environment) Questionnaire data were collected in Genoa and in Florence. An important and relevant chapter in the book is chapter 4, where the authors concentrate on how the movement communicates internally and externally, paying particular attention to the Internet and how it is used. The role of new media in the processes of mobilization, organization, and information is considered, as well as the development of alternative ideas and proposals.

*****Givan, Rebecca Kolins, Kenneth M. Roberts, and Sarah A. Soule (Eds.). 2010. *The Diffusion of Social Movements: Actors, Mechanism, and Political Effects*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.**

The primary purpose of this book is to promote an integrated understanding of the diffusion process. Through an examination of the literature the book pulls together different strands on diffusion into a more coherent theoretical understanding of a dynamic and multidimensional process. The work provides an overarching analytical framework to help organize the field and assess existing research, and it presents new research on a number of empirical cases to illuminate the key dimensions of the theoretical framework. Diffusion is often a highly social process whereby repertoires or frames are transmitted through interpersonal contacts, organizational linkages, or associational networks. Diffusion can also occur in the absence of social contacts, e.g., when instantaneous global communications transmit images that elicit demonstration effects among social actors that are otherwise unconnected. It is widely recognized that social movements may spread - or 'diffuse' - from one site to another. Such diffusion, however, is a complex and multidimensional process that involves different actors, networks, and mechanisms. This complexity has spawned a large body of literature on different aspects of the diffusion process, yet a comprehensive framework remains an elusive target. This book is a response to that need, and its framework focuses on three basic analytical questions. First, what is being diffused? Second, how does diffusion occur? Finally, what is the impact of diffusion on organizational development and shifts in the scale of contentious politics? This volume suggests that diffusion is not a simple matter of political contagion or imitation; rather, it is a creative and strategic process marked by political learning, adaptation, and innovation.

Hohn, Maria and Martin Klimke. 2010. *A Breath of Freedom: The Civil Rights Struggle, African American GIs, and Germany*

This important book deals with the contributions and impact of African American GIs to the success of the Civil Rights Movement. In doing so, it also speaks to the impact of black GIs on Germany's decision to address some of its longstanding issues in the civil right realm. Notably, the book increases awareness of the rippling effects of the African American Freedom Movement in the 1920-1950s, and offers a new perspective on the 1960s and 1970s when the "encounters between African Americans and Germans on both sides of the Iron Curtain are viewed within the broader context of the Cold War and the challenges the United States was facing on its bases around the world (xvi)." The work raises awareness about the significance of the interactions between Americans, African Americans, Europeans, Africans and veterans. The authors point out that in telling the story of black GIs in Germany, "we hope to take a critical first step toward a more nuanced and sophisticated awareness of how America's struggle for racial justice reverberated across the globe" (6).

Howard, Elbert "Big Man". *Panther on the Prowl*. NP, ND, NP.

This self-published autobiographical work chronicles the work and experience of Elbert "Big Man" Howard, an early originator of the Black Panther Party (BPP), along with Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale. Howard was the first editor of the Party's main organ of communication, *The Black Panther*. In addition to detailing Howard's early

association with the BPP, including his reasons for joining the organization, this work describes in some detail Big Man's role as an international emissary for the group. Although the Black Panther Party technically is classified as a key organization of the Black Power Movement, its rise in Oakland, California in 1966 historically situates it squarely within the period of the Civil Rights Era. The formulation of the BPP was initiated during the time that the Civil Rights Movement was experiencing the most significant decline; it was during the Selma to Montgomery March that Stokely Carmichael, Willie Ricks, and their associates in the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) began organizing a more radical advance to address the problem of racial oppression across the United States. It was about this time that Ricks coined the phrase "Black Power," and it was Carmichael who effectively popularized the use of the slogan as a rallying cry for black people who were no longer wedded to the ideal of non-violence. In this book, Howard discusses his travels on behalf of the BPP to Sweden, Japan, Denmark, France, Germany, and Algeria. Much of Big Man's travels were the BPP's response to invitations from abroad to share the Panther philosophy, strategies, and BPP, although not necessarily by design or intention, was a major contributor to the proliferation of the ideals and character of the Civil Rights Movement. Perhaps more importantly, the international engagement of the BPP helped to share with the world not only the successes of the CRM, but also its failure and decline, and the consequential need to move tactically and strategically away from Dr. King's binding commitment to the philosophy of non-violence and passive resistance.

Jones, Angela. 2011. African American Civil Rights: Early Activism and the Niagara Movement

This book focuses on the history of the Niagara Movement and its impact on the nascent Civil Rights Movement, the black public sphere, and American politics. The major theoretical goal of the work is provide scholars of social movements, the Civil Rights Movement, and political action a new and useful perspective. Primary theoretical questions are: How did the public exchanges between early 20th-century black activists transform the black public sphere? Were their public debates significant? Did their discussion, debates, planning, and discursive protest have any long-lasting effects? How important is public discussion to making social movements? In addressing these questions, the author examined available issues of the Niagara Movement's official newspapers, the Moon and Horizon.

Lewis, David Levering, Michael H. Nash and Daniel J. Leab (eds.). 2010. Red Activists and Black Freedom: James and Esther Jackson and the Long Civil Rights Revolution

This book concentrates on the "forgotten" history of the civil rights movement and the role that was played by the American Left. This work argues that while the Black Church was clearly instrumental in securing black rights, the early history involving the Left, including workers of both races, and the labor unions must be assimilated into America's memory. The author of this edited book maintains that there are indeed important continuities between the Left and the later church-based struggle.

Luders, Joseph E. 2010. The Civil Rights Movement and the Logic of Social Change

This book has three purposes: to refine theories of social movement outcomes; to contribute to studies of the civil rights movement from a different perspective – from the vantage point of movement targets and third parties; to recast conventional accounts of certain key local struggles including the defeat in Albany. Luder concludes that although social movements often bring about substantive and pertinent change, there is no singular path to the success of a social movement. He points out that while “federal legislative success of the movement depended bringing the matter to the attention of the public, local success in voting rights prior to 1965 frequently was dependent on the lack of public attentiveness. Luder’s analysis suggests that local movement impact is dependent on the outcome of the competitive struggle among movements, targets, and diverse third parties. While local officials frequently sought to intensify political and social repression, economic actors were often more willing to negotiate and compromise to minimize financial damage. Similarly, there are different routes to the defeat of a movement.

****Meehan, Kevin. People Get Ready: African American and Caribbean Cultural Exchange. 2009**

This book attempts to situate, historically and theoretically, the tradition of dialogue and collaboration between African American and Caribbean peoples for liberation purposes. The work is premised on the idea that since 1492, African American and Caribbean solidarity represents a highly developed force for creating decolonizing social change. In other words, African American and Caribbean writers, artists, thinkers and others have articulated a model for the world of decolonizing thought and action. Meehan focuses on the music of African Americans and Caribbean peoples, and he suggests that at its best, it is a music of solidarity. Chapter 1 of the book is of critical importance in that it focuses on some comparative approaches to cultural decolonization in the Americas.

****Mullings, Leith (ed.). 2009. New Social Movements in the African Diaspora: Challenging Global Apartheid**

This edited book addresses a host of theoretical issues regarding what constitutes a social movement. The work seeks to call attention to recent initiatives among people of African descent as they arise in the context of global process. The social movements addressed emerged for the most part to address the consequences of racialization – the social, economic, and political process of transforming populations into races and creating racial meaning. Collectively, the chapters in this book show that Afro-descendant social movements have made important strides in the quest for justice but that they also must address challenges.

Swan, Quito. 2009. Black Power in Bermuda: The Struggle for Decolonization

Focusing on the impact of Black Power in Bermuda, this book deals with the multifaceted relationships that existed between Black power activists in Bermuda, the United States, and the wider Americas. It is argued that the Movement drew from the “ideological highways that connected the fertilization of ideas and the sharing of experiences between protest struggles (5).” The book cites, for example, that Bermuda’s media frequently reported on African liberation struggles and Black protest in the

Caribbean and the United States. It also notes that Black Bermudians attended Universities in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom and were involved in the U.S Civil Rights Movement and the Black Power Movement. The work concludes that Black Power's legacy is present through a number of grassroots organizations, community groups, and projects, including the Rasta community, the Ethiopian World Federation, Dread and Baha, the Ausar Auset society, alternative media outlets, the Pauulu Kamarakafego Grassroots Collective, etc.

ARTICLES

Arsenault, Raymond. *Freedom Riders: 1961 and the Struggle for Racial Justice*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

This work describes the Freedom Riders and their travels across the south to expose discrimination and segregation in interstate travel, which the Supreme Court had previously declared unconstitutional.

Carson, Clayborne. *In Struggle: SNCC and the Black Awakening of the 1960s*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1995.

This work details the work of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the student-led civil rights group of the 1960s that American curricula often fail to include.

Carson, Clayborne, David Garrow, Gerald Gill, Vincent Harding, Clark Hine (Editors). *The Eyes on the Prize Civil Rights Reader*, ed. New York: Penguin, 1987.

This is a spectacular collection of primary sources, primarily writings and speeches that shows the Civil Rights Movement through the eyes of Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, Huey Newton, Mohammad Ali, Ella Baker, Robert Moses, and others.

Cleaver, Eldridge. *Soul on Ice*. New York: Random House, 1968.

Cleaver tells, in a very straightforward manner, his feelings about race. This collection of essays is a very important read for anyone looking to get into the mind of one of America's preeminent civil rights leaders.

Dittmer, John. *Local People: The Struggle for Civil Rights in Mississippi*. Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1995.

This work describes the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi as a grassroots effort. Dittmer contends that the national movement led by the likes of King had little impact in Mississippi, but that mostly unsung men and women led the fight for equality in the region.

Doyle, William. *An American Insurrection: James Meredith and the Battle of Oxford, Mississippi, 1962*. New York: Anchor Books, 2003.

This book details segregation in higher education in the South through the story of James Meredith, the first black student to attend the University of Mississippi in 1962.

Grant, Joanne. *Ella Baker: Freedom Bound*. New York: Wiley Publishing, 1999.

This book focuses on the life of SNCC member Ella Baker and also discusses the SCLC and the major players in the Civil Rights Movement on the national level (King, Parks, etc.)

Heath, William. *The Children Bob Moses Led*. Minneapolis, MN: Milkweed, 1995.

This work details “Freedom Summer” in Mississippi and the movement led by Bob Moses and a number of his often-overlooked allies, both black and white, to register voters in rural Mississippi.

Jeffries, John. *Wartime America: The World War II Home Front*. Chicago: American Way Series, 1996.

The framework of this book addresses two major questions about changes on the home front during World War II. First, can World War II be considered a watershed for America? Is everything after WWII different than it was before? Second, can WWII be accurately labeled the “good war”? Jeffries concludes, in terms of life for African Americans during the war, that significant changes in public support for civil rights and the boost to Black organization and will to fight discrimination during the war make WWII a time of significant change. Despite this, however, intense segregation and discrimination continue after the war until the upheaval of the 1960s challenges tradition.

Kersten, Andrew. “African Americans and World War II.” *OAH Magazine of History* (Spring 2002): 1317.

This article provides a brief introduction to the life of African Americans during the war and explores whether or not it represents a time of advancement for African Americans. Kersten highlights major events such as segregation in the army and discrimination in defense contracting and concludes that only half of the “Double V” campaign, the victory over fascism abroad, could be considered achieved by the end of the war. The other half, victory over discrimination at home, remained elusive, despite clear gains during the war. [you could add Andrew Kersten’s book on the FEPC]

Kimble, Lionel, Jr., “I Too Serve America: African American Women War Workers in Chicago, 1940-1945.”

Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society
Vol. 93 No. 4(Winter 2000/2001):
415434.

This poorly written and edited article does provide some interesting anecdotes pertaining to the experience of Black women in Chicago during the war.

King, Martin Luther and James M. Washington (Editor). *A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings and Speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr.* New York: HarperCollins, 1991.

A very good primary source, this work contains a large number of Dr. King’s writings and transcripts of all of his famous and most of his lesser-known speeches.

Levine, Ellen. *Freedom's Children*. New York: Penguin, 1993.

This is a collection of primary sources, stories from young individuals who participated in the sit-ins and lunch counter protests in the South in the 1950s and 1960s.

Lewis, John. *Walking with the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1998.

This is a personal story from US Rep. John Lewis, former member of SNCC who participated in sit-ins, freedom rides throughout the south during the 1950s and 1960s and the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Lucas, J. Anthony. *Common Ground: A Turbulent Decade in the Lives of Three American Families*. New York: Vintage Books, 1985.

This work tells the story of Boston school desegregation and follows the Civil Rights Movement throughout the United States through the eyes of three very different families with three very different perspectives on the matter.

Meacham, Jon (Editor). *Voices in Our Blood: America's Best on the Civil Rights Movement*. New York: Random House, 2002.

This work details America's history of racism and discrimination through a collection of essays by writers such as William Faulkner, Maya Angelou, James Baldwin, E.B. White, Tom Wolfe, Ralph Ellison, and Alice Walker.

Mills, Kay. *This Little Light of Mine: The Life of Fannie Lou Hamer*. Lexington, KY: University of Kentucky Press, 2007.

This is a biography of one of the leading women of the Civil Rights Movement. Hamer was another unsung hero of the movement who was responsible for leading black voter registration drives in the rural south.

Moses, Robert and Charles Cobb. *Radical Equations: Civil Rights from Mississippi to the Algebra Project*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2001.

This is a look back by Robert Moses on his contributions to the Civil Rights Movement and his continued efforts to eliminate the racial and socioeconomic gap in education through the Algebra Project.

Newton, Huey and Toni Morrison (Editor). *To Die for the People: The Writings of Huey P. Newton*. New York: Random House, 1972.

This book details the early years of the Black Panther party, of which Newton was a cofounder. It looks at the formation of the party through Newton's eyes, and examines the organization itself and the internal strife caused by differences in political ideology within the party.

Perry, Jr., Earnest. "It's Time to Force a Change: The African American Press' Campaign for a True Democracy During World War II." *Journalism History* 28:2 (Summer 2002): 8595.

This article attempts to prove that the Black press played a key role in providing an outlet for militant voices in the African American community while at the same time they worked to create change within a government framework. Although the support he provides remains unconvincing, Perry does provide interesting anecdotes and details about the Black press.

Ransby, Barbara. *Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Vision*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2003.

This book highlights the life of Civil Rights leader Ella Baker as both a leader in the Black Freedom Movement and as somewhat of an accidental leader in the Women's Rights Movement.

Seale, Bobby. *Seize the Time: The Story of the Black Panther Party and Huey P. Newton*. Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 1970.

This is a primary source about the beginnings of the Black Panther Party written by one of the group's leading organizers.

Takaki, Ronald. *Double Victory: A Multicultural History of America in World War II*. New York: Little Brown and Company, 2000.

Takaki's book, like most of his work, focuses on the experience of World War II through the eyes of the "other" Native Americans, African Americans, recent immigrants, Mexican Americans, Jewish Americans, Japanese Americans and the relationship of the war experience for these groups to the civil rights movements of the 1960s and 70s. Takaki's chapter on African Americans balances between celebrating wartime gains, which he argues were significant, and showing the continuity of discrimination which framed the experience both at home and abroad.

Vollers, Maryanne. *Ghosts of Mississippi: The Murder of Medgar Evers, the Trials of Byron de la Beckwith, and the Haunting of the New South*. New York: Little, Brown, & Company, 1995.

This work, the subject of a major motion picture, details the assassination of civil rights leader Medgar Evers and the subsequent trial and acquittal of Ku Klux Klan extremist Byron de la Beckwith. This was reprinted in the wake of the 1994 retrial that convicted Beckwith of the murder and sentenced him to life in prison.

Primary Source Annotations:

These documents come from four main websites:

http://www.archives.gov/research_room/research_topics/african_americans_during_wwii/african_americans_during_world_war_2.html

The pictures are wonderful. However, with respect to interpretation, caution is in order as they were all taken by government photographers and thus may have an implicit bias.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aahtml/exhibit/aopart8.html>

This link goes directly to an online exhibit put together by the Library of Congress on the history of African Americans.

<http://www.history.navy.mil/index.html>

This website contains secondary and primary sources pertaining to the history of the Navy.

<http://www.ourdocuments.gov>

This website provides many links to interesting information as well as the text of 100 important documents in our nation's history.

Source A:

http://www.archives.gov/research_room/research_topics/african_americans_during_wwii/images/african_americans_wwii_044.jpg

"Members of the 99th Fighter Squadron of the Army Air Forces, famous all Negro outfit, who are rapidly making themselves feared by enemy pilots, pose for a picture at the Anzio beachhead. In the foreground, head bared, is 1st Lt. Andrew Lane." Ca. February 1944. 80G54413.

This photograph shows some of the famed "Tuskegee Airmen" standing next to their airplane and demonstrates the level of distinguished service African Americans achieved.

Source B:

http://www.archives.gov/research_room/research_topics/african_americans_during_wwii/images/african_americans_wwii_128.jpg

"Reginald Brandon...recently completed the eight month course in Radio Operations and Maintenance at Gallup's Island [MA] Radio Training School of the Maritime Commission. He is the first Negro graduate of the school. . . . Upon assignment he will have the rank of ensign." N.d. Roger Smith. 08NP5P1.(african_americans_wwii_128.jpg)

This photograph first demonstrates how young recruits could be. It also indicates the training that it was possible to receive.

Source C:

http://www.archives.gov/research_room/research_topics/african_americans_during_wwii/images/african_americans_wwii_031.jpg

"Soldiers of the 161 st Chemical Smoke Generating Company, U.S. Third Army, move a barrel of oil in preparation to refilling an M2 smoke generator, which spews forth a heavy cloud of white smoke. These men are engaged in laying a smoke screen to cover bridge building activities across the Saar River near Wallerfangen, Germany."

December 11, 1944. Rothenberger. 111SC197552. (african_americans_wwii_031.jpg)

This photograph represents the support work that many African American troops were assigned in lieu of combat. These support roles, however, were crucial to the success of the army.

Source D:

http://www.archives.gov/research_room/research_topics/african_americans_during_wwii

wii/images/african_americans_wwii_142.jpg

"Surgical ward treatment at the 268th Station Hospital, Base A, Milne Bay, New Guinea. Left to right: Sgt. Lawrence McKreever, patient; 2nd Lt. Prudence Burns, ward nurse; 2nd Lt. Elcena Townscent, chief surgical nurse; and an unidentified nurse."

June 22, 1944. Pfc. Michael Pitcairn. 111SC28748. (african_americans_wwii_142.jpg)

The photograph shows African American women in service as nurses based in New Guinea.

Source E:

http://www.archives.gov/research_room/research_topics/african_americans_during_wwii/images/african_americans_wwii_150.jpg

"Members of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion take part in a parade ceremony in honor of Joan d'Arc at the marketplace where she was burned at the stake." May 27, 1945. Pfc. Stedman. 111SC42644. (african_americans_wwii_150.jpg)

This photograph shows African American WACS from the 6888th Postal Battalion parading in France. Not only does it illustrate the variety of jobs that women had in the armed services, it also is an example of the more equal treatment African Americans received from the French public.

Source F:

http://www.archives.gov/research_room/research_topics/african_americans_during_wwii/images/african_americans_wwii_185.jpg

"A Negro WAAC [Mrs. Mary K. Adair] takes an examination for Officers' Candidate School, Fort McPherson, Georgia." June 20, 1942. 111SC25635.

(african_americans_wwii_185.jpg)

This photograph illustrates that officer positions were open to African American women. It is also interesting that she took this examination in civilian clothes.

Source G:

http://www.archives.gov/research_room/research_topics/african_americans_during_wwii/images/african_americans_wwii_250.jpg

"Under the direction of Cecil M. Coles, NYA foreman, Miss Juanita E. Gray learns to operate a lathe machine at the Washington, DC, NYA War Production and Training Center. This former domestic worker is one of hundreds of Negro women trained at this center." N.d. Roger Smith. 208NP2QQQ1. (african_americans_wwii_250.jpg)

This photograph illustrates the jobs that African Americans took over during the war. This young woman is being helped by the National Youth Administration to find employment. Please note: welding was considered a semiskilled, not a skilled, position.

Source H:

http://www.archives.gov/research_room/research_topics/african_americans_during_wwii/images/african_americans_wwii_251.jpg

"The Negro janitors of the plant maintenance department in North America's Kansas City factory in Vformation as they start out on their daily tasks." February 4, 1942.

Carl Conley. 208NP1KK1. (african_americans_wwii_251.jpg)

This photograph illustrates that African Americans, especially prior to 1943, received mostly unskilled positions in the defense industry.

Source I:

http://www.archives.gov/research_room/research_topics/african_americans_during_wii/images/african_americans_wwii_252.jpg

"... Welders Alivia Scott, Hattie Carpenter, and Flossie Burtos await an opportunity to weld their first piece of steel on the ship [SS George Washington Carver]." Kaiser Shipyards, Richmond, CA. Ca. 1943. E.F. Joseph. 208NP1HHH5.

(african_americans_wwii_252.jpg)

This photograph shows women welders working on a ship in California. This illustrates the defense jobs given to women during the war.

Source J:

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/odyssey/archive/08/0815001r.jpg>

Birmingham, Alabama, Block Statistics. Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940. Washington, 1943. Geography and Map Division. (815)

This represents two pages of a four page map illustrating the level of segregation in housing in Birmingham, Alabama in 1940.

Source K:

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/odyssey/archive/08/0819001r.jpg>

Charles White. The Return of the Soldier, 1946. Pen and ink on illustration board. Prints and Photographs Division. Reproduction Number: LCUSZC44886 (819)

This pen and ink drawing illustrates the level of discrimination African Americans faced during and after the war, often at the hands of police.

Source L:

<http://memory.loc.gov/mss/mssmisc/ody/ody0808/0808001v.jpg>

"Why Should We March?" March on Washington fliers, 1941. A. Philip Randolph Papers, Manuscript Division (88)

Courtesy of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, Washington, D.C.

This flier for the March on Washington Movement represents the heart of the "Double V" campaign. African Americans were willing to fight against fascism abroad if they fought Jim Crow at home.

Source M:

<http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq804a.htm>

Port Chicago Naval Magazine Explosion on 17 July 1944:

Court of Inquiry: Finding of Facts, Opinion and Recommendations

This excerpt from the official Naval Court of Inquiry details what occurred in the explosion.

Source N:

<http://www.oah.org/pubs/magazine/deseg/exhibit%20a.html>

Statement on the Trial of Negro Sailors at Yerba Buena, September 22, 1944 [By Thurgood Marshall, NAACP]

This statement by Thurgood Marshall justifies the protest by surviving soldiers of the Port Chicago incident who refused to work following the disaster and were charged with mutiny.

Source O:

<http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=72>

Executive Order 8802 Prohibition of Discrimination in the Defense Industry, June 25, 1941

This copy of Roosevelt's Executive Order prohibiting hiring discrimination in government contracts for defense products is both a photograph of the original and a text only copy that is easier to read.

Source P:

http://www.archives.gov/research_room/research_topics/african_americans_during_wii/images/african_americans_wwii_245.jpg

"This highly experienced Negro draftsman is one of many skilled technical Negro workers employed in speeding war production at a large eastern arsenal." May 1942. Howard Liberman. 208NP2HH1.

American civil rights movement, mid-20th-century mass protest movement against racial segregation and discrimination in the United States.Â Top Questions. When did the American civil rights movement start? The American civil rights movement started in the mid-1950s. A major catalyst in the push for civil rights was in December 1955, when NAACP activist Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a public bus to a white man. Read more below: Montgomery bus boycott to the Voting Rights Act. Rosa Parks.Â Read more about civil rights in America and elsewhere. Abolitionism to Jim Crow. American history has been marked by persistent and determined efforts to expand the scope and inclusiveness of civil rights.