

1619 First African slaves brought to British colony in Jamestown

1641 Massachusetts first colony to authorize slavery by law

1776-1787 American Revolution, enslaved and free Blacks fight on both sides

1787 The "Three-fifths Compromise" gives disproportionate power to slave-holding states by counting slaves as three-fifths of a person when apportioning seats in Congress

1808 The import of slaves from Africa into the US is banned, though smuggling continues until 1861

1816 The American Colonization Society is formed to send free Blacks back to Africa

1822 The American Colonization Society establishes a colony in what would become Liberia

1857 Dredd Scott decision denies citizenship to slaves and their descendants and decrees that slaves transported into free states are not free, but remain the enslaved property of their owners

1861-1865 American Civil War

1862 The US recognizes Liberia as a nation

1863 The Emancipation Proclamation

1865 The 13th Amendment is ratified abolishing slavery but allowing enforced, unpaid servitude as punishment for crime

1865 Juneteenth; the last enslaved people learn of the Emancipation Proclamation

Approximately 12 million people were kidnapped and brought to the Americas in the Atlantic slave trade; only about 5% ended up in what became the United States. At its height, America had 3.9 million enslaved Black people; by 1860, 89% of the Black population in the US were enslaved. In both South Carolina and Mississippi, the enslaved black population outnumbered whites.

1870 The 15th Amendment extends suffrage to Black men

1863-1877 Reconstruction; political and social gains met with increasing violence from whites in the South

1865 - 1871 Ku Klux Klan becomes active in the South

1877 In the Compromise of 1877, newly-elected president Hayes withdraws federal troops from the South; without any protection, the rights of Blacks are curtailed by white violence. Jim Crow laws are enacted and

lynching escalates.

1881-1914 The Scramble for Africa. In 1881, about 10% of the continent was colonised by white Europeans; by 1914, 90% of the continent is subject to colonial rule

1890-1895 Lynching continues to escalate and is documented by Ida B. Wells; she eventually has to flee Memphis for Chicago because of threats over her reporting

1896 The Supreme Court upholds segregation in its ruling in Plessy v. Ferguson

1904-1907 German colonial power in what is now Namibia operates the first concentration camps, transporting the Herero and Nama people by cattle car on railways to death camps

1909 NAACP is formed

1914 World War I; Africans from European colonies serve; Black Americans are actively recruited and serve when the US joins the War in 1917

1914 the United Negro Improvement Association is formed in the first wave of Pan-Africanism

1915 Resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan

1910-1940 The Great Migration of Blacks from the South to the North

1918 WWI ends

1919-1923 Former European colonies held by Germany in Africa divided among victorious allies

1921 The prosperous, Black, Greenwood section of Tulsa, OK, destroyed by white mob violence

1925 Malcolm X is born

1929 the Great Depression begins

1929 Martin Luther King, Jr. born

1930 The Nation of Islam is formed in Detroit

1939 World War II begins; Africans from the European colonies serve

1941 US enters WWII; there is debate within the Black community over whether to join to prove their right to full citizenship, or to object to service because of the denial of their freedoms within the US

1945 WWII ends; Blacks push harder to win the freedoms in the US for which they fought abroad

1952-1953 Brown v. Board of Education argued before the Supreme Court

1954 Supreme Court rules that segregation in public schools violates the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment

1954 - 1965 Nations under colonial rule in Africa fight for, and most gain, independence.

1955 - 1956 Montgomery bus boycott

1957 Little Rock Nine integrate the public high school in Little Rock, Arkansas after Federal intervention

1962-1963 James Baldwin writes the essays that make up *The Fire Next Time*

1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in August, during which Martin Luther King makes the "I Have a Dream" speech

1963 Four girls killed when Ku Klux Klan members bomb the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL on September 15

1964 Civil Rights Act is passed

1965 Malcolm X assassinated February 21

1965 Voting rights activists attacked on Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma on Bloody Sunday, March 7

1965 Voting Rights Act is signed into law on August 6

1965 Watts uprising in August

1967 Martin Luther King makes clear his opposition to the Vietnam War in a sermon at Riverside Church on April 4

1967 Detroit uprising in August

1968 Martin Luther King assassinated

1969 James Baldwin attempts suicide