

World History: 1866 to 1900

1866

Fisk University is established in Knoxville, Tennessee.

1866

Congress approves the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution. This amendment guarantees due process and equal protection under the law to all citizens. African Americans are also granted citizenship with this amendment.

1866

The Ku Klux Klan organizes its first branch in Pulaski, Tennessee.

1866

On February 2, a black delegation led by Frederick Douglass meets with President Andrew Johnson at the White House to advocate African American suffrage. The president expresses his opposition, and the meeting ends in controversy.

1866

Congress passes the Civil Rights Act. This act grants citizenship to African Americans and is designed to guarantee them equal rights

1866

From May 1 through May 3 in Memphis, Tennessee, forty-six African Americans are killed by white citizens and police. During the Memphis Massacre, the angry mob burns ninety houses, twelve schools, and four churches.



World History: 1866 to 1900

1866

“Buffalo Soldier” is the name used by Native Americans to describe the fierce fighting, curly hared, African American men of the 9th and 10th U.S. Calvary Units.

1866

Police in New Orleans storm a Republican meeting of Blacks and Whites on July 30, killing more than 40 and wounding more than 150.

1867

William Wells Brown’s *The Negro in the American Rebellion* is published and becomes the first military history of the Black American in the United States.

1867

The Uniques of Brooklyn play the Excelsiors of Philadelphia making them the first officially recorded Black baseball teams. The Excelsiors win--37 to 24.

1867

Sarah Breedlove (Madam C.J. Walker) is born on a Mississippi River plantation in Delta, Louisiana, to former enslaved people, Owens and Minerva Breedlove.

1867

Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina, is founded.

1867

Augusta Institute is established in Augusta, Georgia. It would later be moved to Atlanta and eventually become Morehouse College.



World History: 1866 to 1900

1867

Congress charters Howard University in Washington, D.C.

1867

Congress overrides President Andrew Johnson's veto, and African Americans in the District of Columbia are granted the right to vote.

1868

The Opelousas Massacre occurs in Louisiana on September 28; an estimated 200 to 300 African Americans are killed.

1868

Elizabeth Keckley publishes her tell-all book, *Behind the Scenes, Formerly Thirty Years a Slave, and Four Years in the White House*. Keckley recounts her life as dressmaker for Mary Todd Lincoln. Lincoln's son, Robert, orders his friends to buy up all of the copies of the book because Keckley portrays members of the first family in an unfavorable light. Ishmael Reed's *Flight to Canada*, (1976) parodies these events.

1868

The Fourteenth Amendment is ratified; it validates the citizenship rights for all persons born in the U.S.

1869

British and Ethiopian troops encircle Emperor Tewrodos II; he commits suicide.



World History: 1866 to 1900

1869

Ebenezer Don Carlos Bassett is named minister to Haiti on April 6th.

1870

The ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment secures voting rights for all male U.S. citizens.

1870

U.S. population: 39,818,449 Black population: 4,880,009 (12.7%)

1870

The Mississippi legislature chooses Hiram Rhoades Revels to fill Confederate President Jefferson Davis' seat . Revels becomes the first African American U.S. Senator.

1874

Blanche Kelso Bruce becomes the first African American senator to serve a full term.

1875

September 4 -6: more than 20 African Americans are killed in a massacre in Clinton, Mississippi.

1875

Mary McCleod Bethune is born in Mayesville, South Carolina. Bethune, an education and government official, becomes the founder of Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute(now Bethune -Cookman College) in Daytona Beach, Florida in 1904.



World History: 1866 to 1900

1875

On March 1st, Congress passes the Civil Rights Bill. Under this bill, African Americans are granted equal rights in theaters, inns, and public transportation. The Supreme Court overturned this rule in 1883.

1876

A summer of race riots and terrorism directed at Blacks occurs in South Carolina. President Grant sends federal troops to restore order.

1876

African American Edward Alexander Bouchet receives a Ph.D. in physics from Yale University.

1876

Meharry Medical College, the first African American medical school in the U.S., is founded.

1877

In exchange for the withdrawal of federal troops from the South and the end of federal efforts to protect the civil rights of African Americans, Southern Democratic leaders make Republican Rutherford B. Hayes president of the United States.

1877

On June 15, Henry O. Flipper becomes the first Black American to graduate from West Point.



World History: 1866 to 1900

1878

The Conservator newspaper is established; it was first published by DeBaptiste later by Ferdinand Barnett and Ida B. Wells-Barnett.

1879

John James Neimore founds The Owl newspaper in Los Angeles, California; the name was later changed to *The California Eagle*.

1879

The Zulus defeat the British for the last time in The Battle of Isandlwana.

1879

A European, Dr. Felkin, witnesses a caesarean operation by Banyoro surgeons in Uganda.

1880

T. Thomas Fortune becomes editor of *The Rumor* newspaper; the name is later changed to *The New York Globe*.

1880

Census of 1880: U.S. population: 50,155,783; Black population: 6,580,793 (13.1%)

1881

British and Ottoman troops seize control of Egypt and Sudan.



World History: 1866 to 1900

1881

Morris Brown College is founded.

1881

Tuskegee Institute is founded.

1881

Segregation of public transportation begins. Tennessee segregates railroad cars, and is followed by Florida (1887), Mississippi (1888), Texas (1889), Louisiana (1890), Alabama, Kentucky, Arkansas, and Georgia (1891), South Carolina (1898), North Carolina (1899), Virginia (1900), Maryland (1904), and Oklahoma (1907).

1882

In this year, forty-nine African Americans are known to have been lynched.

1883

On October 15, the Supreme Court declares the Civil Rights Act of 1875 unconstitutional. The Court declares that the Fourteenth Amendment forbids states, but not citizens, from discriminating.

1883

Spelman College is founded in Atlanta, Georgia.

1883

The Cleveland Gazette is published by H.C. Smith.



World History: 1866 to 1900

1883

After researching over 12,000 pamphlets and newspapers, historian George Washington Williams publishes *History of the Negro Race in American from 1619 to 1880*. His book serves as a standard authority on the subject for more than 60 years.

1883

Sojourner Truth, a courageous and ardent abolitionist and a brilliant speaker, dies.

1883

Alexander Crummell writes *A Defense of the Negro Race in America* in response to racist remarks that a white Protestant minister made before the Church Congress of 1882. On August 15 of this year, Crummell also delivers the address, "The Black Woman of the South: Her Neglects and Needs," before the Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Church at Ocean Grove, New Jersey.

1883

On November 3, white conservatives in Danville, Virginia, seize control of the local government, which was racially integrated and popularly elected. Four African-Americans are killed in the process.

1883

Fifty-three black Americans are lynched this year.

1884

British control of Nigeria expands through treaties with Yoruba rulers.



World History: 1866 to 1900

1884

John E. Bruce begins the popular column, "Bruce Grit," in the *New York Age* and the *Gazette of Cleveland, Ohio*. In his column, Bruce advocates self-help, economic development and race pride among Black Americans. He is a nationalist.

1884

T. Thomas Fortune becomes publisher of *The New York Freeman* (later called *The New York Age*).

1884

Gertrude Mossell begins first black woman's weekly column in the *New York Freeman*, her "Our Woman's Department" column appears in the first issue of the newspaper.

1884

The *Philadelphia Tribune* is published and edited by Christopher J. Perry.

1884

Fifty-one Black Americans are known to have been lynched in this year.

1884

Granville T. Woods secures his first patent in 1884 for a steam boiler furnace.

1885

Seventy-four Black Americans are known to have been lynched in this year.



World History: 1866 to 1900

1885

Mohammed-Ahmed, a Sudanese leader, defeats an Anglo -Arab army and recaptures his land.

1885

Belgium colonizes Zaire as Congo Free State.

1885

A patent is awarded to Sarah Goode for a folding cabinet bed.

1885

The Star of Zion is published and edited by John Dancy.

1885

Delilah Beasley becomes one of the first African Americans to write for a mainstream paper when she joins the *Cincinnati Inquirer*.

1886

On March 17, 20 African Americans are massacred at Carrollton, Mississippi.

1886

Menelik moves the Ethiopian capital to the Intoto Valley (Addis Ababa).



World History: 1866 to 1900

1886

The American Federation of Labor is organized on December 8, signaling the rise of the labor movement. All major unions of the day exclude African Americans.

1886

Frederick Douglass travels to Africa and climbs one of the pyramids.

1886

Julia A.J. Foote's autobiography, *A Brand Plucked from the Fire: An Autobiographical Sketch*, is published and is one of the best examples of a spiritual narrative which intends to inspire others by the example of conversion, salvation and sanctification.

1887

Ethiopians defeat a small contingent of Italians near Dogali.

1887

The Honorable Marcus Garvey is born in Jamaica on August 17th in St. Ann's Bay.

1887

Seventy Black Americans are known to have been lynched in this year.

1887

Ida B. Wells buys an interest in and serves as editor of the *Memphis Free Speech and Headlight*.



World History: 1866 to 1900

1887

Granville T. Woods patents the rail telegraph system.

1888

Two of America's first black-owned banks, the Savings Bank of the Grand Fountain United Order of the Reformers, in Richmond Virginia, and Capital Savings Bank of Washington, DC, open their doors.

1888

Sixty nine African Americans are lynched in this year.

1889

Menelik II is crowned the new Emperor of Ethiopia and he makes a treaty with Italy.

1889

Ninety-four African Americans are lynched in this year.

1890

William B. Purvis patents the fountain pen.

1890

Census of 1890. U.S. population: 62,947,714 Black population: 7,488,676 (11.9%)

1890

On January 25, under the leadership of T. Thomas Fortune, the militant National Afro-American League is founded in Chicago.



World History: 1866 to 1900

1890

The Mississippi Plan, approved on November 1, uses literacy and "understanding" tests to disenfranchise African Americans. Similar statutes are adopted by South Carolina (1895), Louisiana (1898), North Carolina (1900), Alabama (1901), Virginia (1901), Georgia (1908), and Oklahoma (1910).

1890

Populist "Pitchfork Ben" Tillman is elected governor of South Carolina. He calls his election "a triumph of White supremacy."

1890

Eighty-five African Americans are lynched in this year.

1890

The Associated Correspondents of Race Newspapers is formed.

1891

One hundred and thirteen African Americans are lynched in this year.

1891

Provident Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, becomes the first African American Hospital.

1891

Zora Neale Hurston, a well known Harlem Renaissance writer, folklorist, and storyteller, is born in Eatonville, Florida. She is perhaps best known for her novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.



World History: 1866 to 1900

1892

John H. Murphy Sr., a whitewasher and Sunday school superintendent, purchases the *Afro-American newspaper*.

1892

One hundred and sixty-one African Americans are lynched in this year.

1893

Ida B. Wells writes articles denouncing the lynching of three Black grocery store owners in Memphis. In retaliation a white mob vandalizes her newspaper office; fortunately, Wells is not in town. Her paper *Free Speech* is forced to shut down. Ida B. Wells subsequently begins an international anti-lynching crusade.

1893

Oak and Ivy, Paul Laurence Dunbar's first book of poetry, is published; it contains 56 poems.

1894

The Pullman Company strike causes a national transportation crisis. On May 11, African-Americans are hired by the company as strikebreakers.

1894

The Woman's Era is published by Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin. It is the first newspaper written for and by women. It is the official organ of The National Association of Colored Women.



World History: 1866 to 1900

1894

One hundred and thirty-four African Americans are lynched.

1895

Frederick Douglass dies.

1895

Whites attack African American workers in New Orleans on March 11-12. Six African Americans are killed.

1895

Booker T. Washington delivers his famous "Atlanta Compromise" address on September 18 at the Atlanta Cotton States Exposition. He says the "Negro problem" would be solved by a policy of gradualism and accommodation.

1895

Several Baptist organizations combined to form the National Baptist Convention of the U.S.A.; the Baptist church is the largest black religious denomination in the United States.

1895

One hundred and thirteen African Americans are lynched.

1895

Paul Laurence Dunbar's *Majors and Minors*, a book of poetry, is published. White literary critic William Dean Howells writes a favorable, full-page review in *Harpers Weekly*.



World History: 1866 to 1900

1895

Alice Ruth Nelson's first book, *Violets and Other Tales*, a collection of poetry, short stories and essays, is published.

1895

Ida B. Wells publishes *A Red Record: Tabulated Statistics and Alleged Causes of Lynching in the United States, 1892-1893- 1894*; the book is a detailed account of lynching in the United States.

That same year Wells marries attorney and activist Ferdinand Barnett. He turns over the reigns of his newspaper the *Consevator* to his new wife.

1896

Paul Laurence Dunbar's poetry collection *Lyrics of Lowly Life* is published

1896

In its ruling on the Plessy vs. Ferguson case, the U.S. Supreme Court says that separate but equal does not violate the Constitution.

1896

The National Association of Colored Women is formed on July 21; Mary Church Terrell is chosen president.

1896

George Washington Carver is appointed director of agricultural research at Tuskegee Institute. His work advances peanut, sweet potato, and soybean farming



World History: 1866 to 1900

1896

Seventy-eight African Americans are lynched.

1896

W.E.B. DuBois's *Suppression of the African Slave Trade*, the first title in the Harvard Historical Studies, is published.

1897

The American Negro Academy is established on March 5 to encourage African American participation in art, literature and philosophy.

1897

One -hundred and twenty-three African Americans are lynched.

1898

Paul Robeson is born in New Jersey on April 9th. He is the son of an escaped enslaved person.

1898

The Spanish-American War begins on April 21. Sixteen regiments of Black volunteers are recruited; four see combat. Five Black Americans win Congressional Medals of Honor.

1898

The National Afro-American Council is founded on September 15, the National Afro-American Council elects Bishop Alexander Walters its first president.



World History: 1866 to 1900

1898

On November 10, in Wilmington, North Carolina, eight African Americans are killed during white rioting.

1898

The North Carolina Mutual and Provident Insurance Company and the National Benefit Life Insurance Company of Washington, DC are established. Both companies are Black-owned.

1898

One hundred and one African Americans are lynched.

1899

Dr. George F. Grant patents the wooden golf tee (Patent #638,920).

1899

The Afro-American Council designates June 4 as a national day of fasting to protest lynchings and massacres.

1899

Charles W. Chesnutt's *The Conjure Woman*, a novel in the form of a collection of short stories, is published.



World History: 1866 to 1900

1899

W.E.B. DuBois's *The Philadelphia Negro*, the culmination of his research at the University of Pennsylvania, is published and is the first sociological text on an African American community published in the United States.

1899

Sutton Griggs's first novel *Imperium Imperio* is published.. The novel, now considered the first "black power" novel, dramatizes an aggressive nationalist posture in response to increased white racism at the turn of the century. In particular, it features a young militant Black man who forms a secret anti white society that aims to create a separate all-Black republic in Texas.

1900

Booker T. Washington forms the National Negro Business League

1900

The Colored American Magazine is published in Boston, MA.

1900

The first Pan-African Congress convenes in London.

1900

Census of 1900 U.S. population: 75,994,575. Black population: 8,833,994 (11.6%)

1900

One hundred and six African Americans are lynched.



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1900

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1900

The Paris Exposition is held, and the United States pavilion houses an exhibition on African Americans. The "Exposition des Negres d'Amerique" wins several awards for excellence. Daniel A. P. Murray's collection of works by and about African Americans is developed for this exhibition.

