

## World History: 1901 to 1945

1901

The *Boston Guardian* newspaper is published by William Monroe Trotter.

1901

James Weldon and John Rosamond Johnson write the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

1901

Booker T. Washington's autobiography *Up From Slavery* is published.

1903

W.E.B. DuBois' book *The Souls of Black Folks: Essays and Sketches* is published.

1903

Future Heavyweight Champ Jack Johnson plays first base for the Negro Baseball League's Philadelphia Giants.

1903

The musical "In Dahomey," by Bert Williams & George Walker opens on Broadway, an unprecedented work written, performed and produced by African Americans.

1903

Paul Laurence Dunbar's last book, *The Sport of the Gods*, is published. In the novel, Dunbar explores the advantages and disadvantages African American migration from the rural South to the urban North.



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**1904**

Madam C.J. Walker works as an agent for Annie (Pope Tumbo) Malone, founder of the Poro Company, an early manufacturer of hair care products for black women.

**1904**

Philip Payton founds the Afro-American Realty Company in New York City.

**1905**

The Niagara Movement is established; its founding leader is W.E.B. DuBois.

**1905**

The *Chicago Defender*, called "The World's Greatest Weekly," is founded by Robert Sengstacke.

**1905**

Madam C.J. Walker moves to Denver where she establishes her own hair care products company.

**1905**

W.E.B. DuBois founds and serves as editor of *The Moon Illustrated Weekly*, a magazine.



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**1905**

Sutton Griggs writes his third novel, *The Hindered Hand; or, The Reign of Repressionist*, because the National Baptist Convention formally requested that he respond to Thomas Dixon's racist novel, *The Leopard's Spots* (1902). Dixon also wrote *The Clansman* which was the inspiration for the equally racist film, "Birth of a Nation."

**1906**

J. Max Barber founds the *Voice of the Negro* in Atlanta, Georgia. He flees the city the same year after whites attack African Americans in the city.

**1907**

Harlem Hospital, one of the early African American hospitals, opens in New York.

**1907**

The *Pittsburgh Courier* is established by Edwin Nathaniel Harleston; Robert L. Vann later becomes publisher, editor, and treasurer.

**1907**

Alain Locke is the first African American Rhodes Scholar.

**1908**

Jack Johnson wins the World Heavyweight Boxing Championship..



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**1908**

Henry O. Tanner's paintings of African American life are featured in a one-man show in New York City, the first by an African American.

**1909**

The NAACP is founded in New York; the majority of the signers of the charter are white.

**1909**

Kwame Nkrumah is born on September 18th in the village of Nkroful, Ghana.

**1909**

African American Matthew Henson becomes the first man to reach the North Pole.

**1909**

James H. Anderson launches the *Amsterdam News* as a weekly.

**1910**

The *Crisis* begins publishing. It is edited by W.E.B. DuBois and is the official organ of the NAACP.

**1910**

The Hilldale Club of Negro Baseball and their stadium are owned by a black man.



## World History: 1901 to 1945

**1910**

Madame C.J. Walker establishes a manufacturing plant in Indianapolis.

**1910**

Granville T. Woods, master inventor (over 60 patents in his name), dies.

**1910**

James Reese Europe forms the Clef Club Orchestra as a platform for black composers.

**1911**

National Urban League, a major political advocacy group for African Americans, is founded in New York City.

**1911**

Successful African American business woman Madam C.J. Walker pledges \$1,000 to the building fund of Indianapolis's new black YMCA.

**1912**

James Reese Europe and an ensemble of African-American symphonic musicians perform at Carnegie Hall.

**1912**

W. C. Handy published the first blues song, "Memphis Blues" on September 27th.



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1912

James Weldon Johnson's *The Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man* is published.

1912

The *St. Louis Argus* newspaper is founded by Joseph Edward Mitchell,

1912

Monroe N. Work publishes *The Negro Yearbook, Annual Encyclopedia of the Negro*. His later work, *A Bibliography of the Negro in Africa and America* (1928), was considered one of the most comprehensive sources on African Americans.

1912

Charlotta Bass buys *The Eagle* newspaper at public auction for \$50 and becomes its owner and publisher. She establishes a crusade against "Birth of A Nation," a film which negatively portrays African Americans and positively portrays the Ku Klux Klan.

1913

The Cakewalk, based on African-American plantation dances, becomes an American dance craze.

1913

Fenton Johnson publishes his first volume of poetry, *A Little Dreaming*. In the volume, Johnson celebrates Africa and African Americans.



## World History: 1901 to 1945

**1914**

World War I begins in Europe.

**1914**

The Universal Negro Improvement and Conservation Association and African Communities League are launched by the Marcus Garvey.

**1914**

The Nigerian Council, established with six Africans and 30 Europeans, is set up to advise the British colonial governor.

Darktown Jubilee is first film to star a black actor, Bert Williams.

**1914**

Bert Williams headlines for the Ziegfeld Follies becoming one of the most popular entertainers in the country. The *Chicago Defender* calls him the "World's Greatest Comedian."

**1915**

*Oklahoma Black Dispatch* is founded by Roscoe Dungee in Oklahoma City.

**1915**

Booker T. Washington dies.



## World History: 1901 to 1945

**1915**

The great migration of southern Blacks to the North begins; industry needs labor.

**1915**

The NAACP leads a protest against the movie “Birth of a Nation,” a film that seeks to justify discriminatory treatment of African Americans.

**1916**

James Van Der Zee opens his photography studio.

**1916**

The NAACP presents Angelina Grimke’s play, “Rachel,” the first successfully staged drama by an African American playwright.

**1916**

Belgium takes over rule of Burundi and Rwanda.

**1916**

350,000 African Americans serve during WW I

**1916**

Historian Carter G. Woodson serves as editor of the premiere issue of *The Journal of Negro History*.



## World History: 1901 to 1945

**1917**

The Original Dixieland Jazz Band, an all-white group of New Orleans musicians, records the first jazz record ever at Victor Studios in New York City.

**1917**

Race riots occur in East St. Louis, Illinois.

**1917**

African Americans stage a Silent Protest in New York City on July 27th.

**1917**

White-owned Paramount Records is established and dedicates itself to recording "race records"

**1917**

*The Messenger* is published by A. Philip Randolph and Chandler Owen

**1917**

U.S. enters World War I.

**1918**

Marcus Garvey incorporates the UNIA in the U.S.

**1918**

Manuel R. Querino publishes *The African Contribution to Brazilian Civilization*



## World History: 1901 to 1945

**1918**

The French award the Croix de Guerre to the 369th Regiment (WWI) and named it "Harlem Hell Fighters"

**1918**

World War 1 ends; 350,000 African Americans served during World War I.

**1919**

The blues become part of the repertoire of many white vaudeville and cabaret performers.

**1919**

Claude McKay's renowned poem, "If We Must Die," first appears in The Liberator

**1919**

Oscar Micheaux finishes his first film, "The Homesteader."

**1919**

Paul Robeson graduates Valedictorian, Phi Beta Kappa, All-American from Rutgers University.

**1919**

Elizabeth Catlett is born in Washington, D.C. Catlett, an internationally known sculptor and printmaker, later emigrates to Mexico.



## World History: 1901 to 1945

1919

Madam C.J. Walker hosts a meeting of the International League of Darker People with Marcus Garvey.

1919

Emmet J. Scott publishes *Scotts Official History of Negroes in the World War*.

1919

The "Red Summer" occurs: a series of race riots break out in several cities across the United States including Chicago, New York, Washington, DC, and Longview, Texas.

1920

The 19th Amendment is ratified; it gives women the right to vote.

1920

Oscar Micheaux's second film, *Within Our Gates*, is released as a reaction to D.W. Griffith's *Birth of a Nation*; Micheaux's film is censored by the Chicago Board of Censors and is banned by several white theater owners in Louisiana.

1920

Sally Wyatt Stewart founds *Hoosier Woman*, a publication devoted to black American women.



## World History: 1901 to 1945

**1920**

Mamie Smith becomes first African American woman to record the blues, "That Thing Called Love" and "You Can't Keep A Good Man Down."

**1920**

Anne Spencer's first poem, "Before the Feast of Sushan," is published in Crisis magazine. Her poetry is later included in every volume of black poetry for the next two decades, making Spencer a leading figure in the Harlem Renaissance movement.

**1921**

Whites in Tulsa, Oklahoma attack African Americans and burn their neighborhood--which was known as "Black Wall Street."

**1921**

Bessie Coleman earns an international pilot's license.

**1921**

Henry Pace forms the Pace Phonographic Corporation; he owns the Black Swan label.

**1921**

Langston Hughes's landmark poem, "The Negro Speaks of Rivers," is published in the Crisis. Four years later he won the poetry section of the Opportunity magazine's literary contest for "The Weary Blues."



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1922

Kid Ory and his band are the first African-American band to make a jazz recording; they play under the name of “Spikes Seven Pods of Pepper Orchestra” for LA’s Nordiskog Records.

1922

Legislative Council (ten Africans [four elected] and 36 Europeans) in Nigeria.

1922

Jack Johnson, former Boxing Champ, patents a theft-prevention device for vehicles.

1922

Claude McKay’s poetry collection *Harlem Shadows* is published.

1922

James Weldon Johnson, poet and critic edits *The Book of American Negro Poetry*, an anthology of black American literature. The volume prefigures the Harlem Renaissance and asserts a distinct the Harlem Renaissance and asserts a distinct.

1922

William Leo Hansberry teaches the first course in African civilization at an American university, at Howard University.



## World History: 1901 to 1945

1923

Ma Rainey records her first eight songs with Paramount Records in Chicago

1923

*Opportunity: A Journal of Negro Life*, official organ of the Urban League debuts. The editor is Charles S. Johnson.

1923

The Harlem Renaissance Basketball Club is founded.

1923

Ethiopia becomes a member of the League of Nations.

1923

Garrett A. Morgan receives a patent for the first automatic traffic light.

1923

Paul Robeson graduates from Columbia Law School.

1923

*The Philosophy & Opinion of Marcus Garvey* is published.

1923

Jean Toomer's *Cane* is published.



## World History: 1901 to 1945

**1924**

Paul Robeson stars in “The Emperor Jones” in the Provincetown Theatre. He also stars in his first film, *Body and Soul*, by Oscar Micheaux

Shirley Chisholm is born in New York City and received her education at Brooklyn College and Columbia University.

Broadway features Harlem life in *Dixie to Broadway* and *Chocolate Dandies*.

W.E.B. DuBois’ *The Gift of Black Folks* celebrates African-American artists and their promise to contribute to American culture.

Charles S. Johnson, believing that art can be used to uplift the race, heralds the Harlem Renaissance with a dinner party at the New York Civic Club.

Jessie Fauset’s novel *There Is Confusion* is published.

Walter White publishes *Fire in the Flint*.

**1925**

The Division of Negro Literature, History, and Prints (Schomburg Center) opens.

**1925**

Alaine Locke’s anthology *The New Negro: An Interpretation* is published, heralding the Harlem Renaissance.



## World History: 1901 to 1945

**1925**

Malcolm Little (Malcolm X) is born in Omaha, Nebraska.

**1925**

Marcus Garvey is convicted of mail fraud and sent to prison.

**1925**

Louis Armstrong makes his first recording as a leader with Armstrong's Hot Five.

**1926**

Langston Hughes' first book, *Weary Blues*, is published.

**1926**

Carter G. Woodson creates Negro History Week.

**1926**

Wallace Thurman publishes the journal *Fire*: "Devoted to the Younger Negro Artists" sparking great debate with many condemning its perceived indecency and others celebrating the strength of its folk-centered art. Only one issue is published.

A. Philip Randolph founds the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first officially recognized independent black labor union.



## World History: 1901 to 1945

1927

Langston Hughes's poetry collection *Fine Clothes to the Jew* is published.

1927

Edward Adams publishes *Congaree Sketches*.

1927

James Weldon Johnson's *God's Trombones: Seven Negro Sermons in Verse* is published.

1927

Rudolph Fisher publishes *Walls of Jericho*.

1927-29

The National Urban League organizes boycotts of stores that don't hire blacks in Chicago and other Midwest cities.

1928

Edward Adams publishes *Nigger to Nigger*.

1928

Nella Larsen publishes *Quicksand*.

1928

Claude McKay publishes *Home To Harlem*.



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1928

William Alexander Scott establishes *The Atlanta Daily World* newspaper, the first successful African American daily newspaper (the paper becomes a daily in 1932).

1929

Zora Neale Hurston begins organizing field notes that will be published as *Mules and Men*.

1929

Wallace Thurman publishes *The Blacker the Berry*.

1929

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is born (1/15) in Atlanta, Georgia.

1929

The stock market crashes launching the Great Depression.

1929

The U.S. stock market crash sends Madam C.J. Walker Manufacturing Company into a financial crisis.

1929

In Chicago, *The Chicago Whip* newspaper launches "Don't Buy Where You Can't Work" campaign; eventually it becomes a nationwide campaign supported by black newspapers across the country.



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1929

*Hot Chocolates*, with music by Fats Waller, premieres in New York; features songs "Ain't Misbehavin'" and "Black and Blue."

1930

Ras Tafari Mekonen is crowned Emperor Haile Selasie in Ethiopia.

The first Temple of the Nation of Islam is founded in Detroit, Michigan.

Paul Robeson stars in the London production of Shakespeare's "Othello."

1931

Ida B. Wells joins her ancestors on March 25.th

1931

George Schuyler publishes *Black No More*.

1931

Katherine Dunham founds the Negro Dance Group in Chicago.

1931

Noble Prize Winning wrier Toni Morrison is born in Lorain, Ohio.

1931

The Harmon Foundation's traveling exhibition, "The Work of Negro Artists," features work by 148 artists.



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1931-34

Cab Calloway, best known for "Minnie the Moocher," and his Cotton Club Orchestra are leading figures of swing.

1932

Sterling Brown's volume of poetry, *Southern Road*, strives to erase the gap between the creative artist and the folk.

1932

Rudolph Fisher publishes *The Conjure Man Dies: A Mystery Tale of Dark Harlem*.

1933

H. Naylor Fitzhugh is one of the first African American graduates of the Harvard Business School.

1933

The publication of the journal *L'étudiant Noir* marks birth of The Negritude Movement.

1934

Paul and Essie Robeson travel to the Soviet Union at the invitation of a Russian film director.

1934

African Americans in Harlem and throughout the nation protest Italy's invasion of Ethiopia.



## World History: 1901 to 1945

1934

Zora Neale Hurston publishes *Jonah's Gourd Vine*.

1935

The Negro Baseball League is stable. It is the biggest African American business, with \$2 million per year in revenue.

1935

Mary McLeod Bethune is founding president of the National Council of Negro Women.

1935

Augusta Savage, Elba Lightfoot, Charles Alston and several other Harlem artists establish The Harlem Artists to gain recognition and opportunities for African American artists.

1935

The Harlem Race Riot occurs.

1935

Kwame Nkrumah is introduced to *The Philosophy & Opinions of Marcus Garvey*.

1935

*Porgy and Bess*, George Gershwin's opera about Black life, opens in New York City.

1936

Jesse Owens wins four gold medals at the Olympics in Berlin, Germany.



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1936

Arna Bontemps publishes *Black Thunder*.

1936

Josh Gibson, a catcher for the Negro League's Pittsburgh Crawfords, hits 84 home runs in one season.

1936

Theologian and Mystic Howard Thurman leads a "Negro Delegation of Friendship" to South Asia, where he meets Mohandas Gandhi and becomes influenced by Gandhi's non-violent approach to social change.

1937

Augusta Savage is named the first director of the Harlem Community Art Center.

1937

W.E.B. DuBois and Paul Robeson are co-founders of the Council on African Affairs.

1937

The New York World's Fair Board of Design commissions Augusta Savage to create a sculpture for the 1939 World's Fair; she is one of four women and the only black artist.



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**1937**

Joe Louis wins boxing heavyweight title after knocking out James Braddock in Madison Square Garden, New York.

**1937**

The First American Negro Ballet, formed and directed by Eugene von Grona, debuts at the Lafayette Theater in Harlem.

Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, a black love story, is published to critical acclaim.

**1938**

Richard Wright publishes *Uncle Tom's Children*.

**1939**

World War II starts after Germany invades Poland.

**1939**

Augusta Savage sculpts "The Harp," for the World's Fair Corporation.

**1939**

After being denied permission to sing at the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) Hall, Marian Anderson performs at the Lincoln Memorial.



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1939

Paul Robeson records "Ballad for Americans;" it becomes a popular hit in 1940 as WW II approaches.

1940-41

Jacob Lawrence paints his "Migration" Series, a sixty painting cycle.

1940

Booker T. Washington becomes the first African American to be placed on an American postage stamp.

1940

John Lewis is born in Troy, Alabama. Lewis, who served as founder and chairman of SNCC, later becomes a Congressman from Georgia's 5th district.

1940

Marcus Garvey dies, a broken, humiliated man on June 10.th

1940

The American Negro Theatre is founded.

1940

Richard Wright's *Native Son*, is published and becomes the first literary work by an African American to become a Book-of-the-Month Club selection.



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1941

Dorie Miller becomes an instant hero when he shoots down four Japanese planes that attack Pearl Harbor. Significantly, Miller, who is a "mess-man" (one of the few jobs that African Americans could have in the U.S. Navy), was not trained to use the weapons he used to shoot down the planes.

1941

Human rights leader Jesse Jackson is born.

1941

Sterling Brown, Arthur P. Davis, and Ulysses Lee publish *The Negro Caravan*.

1942

John H. Johnson publishes *Negro Digest* in November with a \$500 loan.

1942

FBI begins an unofficial investigation of the Black Press because of the publications' commitment to pointing out the contradictions of discrimination against Blacks at home as they fought for peace overseas during WWII.

1943

Poor people in Ethiopia revolt in Tigray.



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1943

With Paul Robeson as the lead character, "Othello" breaks Broadway records.

1943

Major Race Riots occur in Harlem, Detroit, Beaumont, Texas, and Los Angeles.

1944

Harry S. Alpin, a reporter for the National Negro Press and *Atlanta Daily World*, becomes the first African American allowed to attend White House conferences.

1944

The U.S. Supreme Court rules that no American can be denied the right to vote.

1944

Melvin Toldson publishes *Rendezvous with America*.

1944

Chester Himes publishes *If He Hollers, Let Him Go*.

1944

Frederick Douglass Patterson establishes the United Negro College Fund to help support black colleges and black students.

1945

After the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki September 2, 1945 Japan signs surrender agreement, ending WWII.



## World History: 1901 to 1945

1945

Dr. Lloyd A. Quarterman, an African American scientist, receives an award of appreciation for his Atomic Bomb work.

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1945

John Coltrane has his first professional jazz appearance, playing alto sax with the Jimmy Johnson Big Band.

1945

The Negro Baseball Leagues reach a plateau of stability and efficiency.

1945

Dizzy Gillespie and Charlie Parker record some of the definitive statements of bebop, "Groovin' High," "Dizzy Atmosphere," "Salt Peanuts," "Lover Man" (featuring Sarah Vaughan), and "Hot House" for Guild records.

1945

Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie form a new band, the Parker-Gillespie Sextet, and take bebop to the West Coast for the first time.

1945

Gwendolyn Brooks' poetry collection *A Street in Bronzeville* is published.

