

World History: 1946 to 1960

1946

Jackie Robinson integrates the White Baseball League when he is signed to play with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

1946

The Street, a novel written by Ann Petry, sells more than one million copies.

1946

Frank Yerby publishes *The Foxes of Harrow*.

1947

Louis Lautier, Washington Bureau Chief of The Negro Newspapers Publishers Association, becomes the first African American accredited to the United States Senate and House Press Galleries.

1947

Alice Allison Dunnigan becomes the first African American woman certified to cover the White House and the State Department.

1947

Every team in the Negro League loses money because fans become more interested in African American players integrating the White baseball league.

1947

Présence Africaine, a literary journal, is founded by Leopold Senghor, and others.



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John Hope Franklin publishes *From Slavery to Freedom*.

1947

John Coltrane has a jam session with Charlie Parker.

1947

The new Nigeria Council had 28 African (four elected) and 17 European members.

1947

Willard Motley publishes *Knock on Any Door*.

1948

Apartheid is instituted in South Africa; it calls for the supremacy of Whites.

1948

President Truman bans segregation in the military, ordering "equality of treatment and opportunity" in the armed forces.

1949

Popular music industry uses term "rhythm and blues" instead of "race records" for the first time.



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In his seminal 1949 book, *Jesus and the Disinherited*, Howard Thurman interprets the New Testament of the Bible in a way that lays the foundation for a non-violent civil rights movement.

1949

Singer Juanita Hall is the first African American to receive a Tony award; she wins for her portrayal of Blood Mary in the Broadway production of "South Pacific."

1950

The Korean War starts.

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1950

The U.S. government takes Paul Robeson's passport and attempts to silence him because of support of human rights around the world.

1950

Kwame Nkrumah is arrested and imprisoned by the British.

1950

Ralph Bunche receives the Nobel Peace Prize for his work as a mediator in Palestine.

1950

John Coltrane (on alto sax) has a recording session with Dizzy Gillespie and his orchestra.



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Gwendolyn Brooks is awarded a Pulitzer Prize for *Annie Allen*.

1950

Mahalia Jackson is featured in the first large gospel concert at Carnegie Hall.

1950

Saunders Redding publishes *They Came in Chains: Americans from Africa*.

1952

Charles White's work is included in an exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

1952

Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* is published; Ellison becomes the first African-American to win the National Book Award.

1952

Africans rebel against British rule in the Mau-Mau uprisings in Kenya, which last until 1956.

1952

On March 5th, Kwame Nkrumah is named the Prime Minister of Ghana.



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1952

John Coltrane plays with Miles Davis and Sonny Rollins at the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem.

1952

The Modern Jazz Quartet helps establish jazz as a classical form worthy of performance on the world's greatest concert stages.

1953

The Korean War ends.

1953

Melvin Toldson publishes *Libretto for the Republic of Liberia*.

1953

Go Tell It On the Mountain, James Baldwin's first novel, is nominated for a National Book Award.

1954

Thelonius Monk records "Bag's Groove" with the Miles Davis All-Stars.

1954

In the *Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, the U.S. Supreme Court rules that racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional.



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George and Joan Johnson found the Johnson Publishing Company.

1954

John O. Killens publishes *Youngblood*.

1955

Chuck Berry Records his first number one hit, "Maybelline."

1955

Dr. Cheikh Anta Diop publishes *Nations Nègres et Culture*.

1955

Marian Anderson's performance in Verdi's opera "Un Ballo in Maschera" (A Masked Ball) makes her the first African American to sing in the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City.

1955

Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat to white man on a Montgomery, Alabama bus, which ignites the Montgomery Bus Boycott and a more aggressive stage in the non-violent movement for civil rights.



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Arthur Mitchell debuts with the New York City Ballet, performing in "Western Symphony"; he is the first African American male dancer in a major American ballet company.

1956

The U.S. Supreme Court outlaws segregated seating on buses.

1956

"The Nat King Cole Show" debuts on November 11; it is the first nationally broadcast TV variety series hosted by an African-American. It is short-lived because white sponsors abandon the show.

1956

James Brown releases his first hit song, "Please Please Please."

1956

The First Congress of African Writers is held in Paris.

1956

Percival Prattis, executive editor of *The Pittsburgh Courier* newspaper, becomes first African American admitted to the National Press Club.

1957

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference is formed on February 14th .



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Kwame Nkrumah leads Ghana to independence on March 5th .

1957

The U.S. Congress passes the Voting Rights Act of 1957.

1957

Internal self-government is gained by the Eastern and Western regions of Nigeria.

1957

Black Orpheus, a journal of African writing, is established in Nigeria

1957

The Vietnam War begins.

1957

Herbert Simmons publishes *Corner Boy*.

1958

The U.S. government returns Paul Robeson's passport; his health is poor.

1958

Alvin Ailey founds the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater.



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Addis Ababa becomes the registered office for the Economic Commission for Africa.

1958

The Book of Negro Folklore, edited by Arna Bontemps and Langston Hughes is published.

1958

Chinua Achebe's novel *Things Fall Apart* is published.

1958

Paul Robeson's autobiography *Here I Stand* is published.

1958

Martin Luther King, Jr. publishes a book about the Montgomery Bus Boycott titled *Stride Toward Freedom*.

1959

Ella Fitzgerald and Count Basie are the first African-Americans to win Grammy awards.

1959

Nina Simone launches her career with her recording of "I Loves You, Porgy."



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1959

Berry Gordy borrows \$800 from his family in order to found Motown records. Motown's first office is in the family house, in a working class black neighborhood in Detroit, Michigan.

1959

Internal self-government is gained by Northern Nigeria.

1959

Ruth Bowen establishes the Queen Booking Company, a talent agency in New York City.

1959

Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*, is the first play written by an African American woman produced on Broadway; it wins the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for best play. The play later becomes a film starring Sidney Poitier, Claudia McNeil, Ruby Dee, and Diana Sands.

1959

Paule Marshall publishes her novel *Brown Girl, Brownstones*.

1960

Nigeria liberates itself from British colonial rule.



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1960

Ghana is declared a republic and Nkrumah becomes its first President on July 1st .

1960

The Congo becomes an independent nation.

1960

South African police fire on demonstrators at Sharpeville; murdering 67 Black people.

1960

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) is established.

1960

Poor people in Ethiopia revolt in Sidamo.

1960

A coup by General Mengistu Naway and Garwane Naway fails in Ethiopia.

1960

John A. Williams publishes his novel *The Angry Ones*.

1960

Gwendolyn Brooks publishes her book of poetry *The Bean Eaters*.

