eInfopack on Black History

February 2015

compiled by
The American Library, Mumbai
For generations, the story of American progress has been shaped by the inextinguishable beliefs that change is always possible and a brighter future lies ahead. With tremendous strength and abiding resolve, our ancestors -- some of whom were brought to this land in chains -- have woven their resilient dignity into the fabric of our Nation and taught us that we are not trapped by the mistakes of history. It was these truths that found expression as foot soldiers and Freedom Riders sat in and stood up, marched and agitated for justice and equality. This audacious movement gave birth to a new era of civil and voting rights, and slowly, we renewed our commitment to an ideal at the heart of our founding: no matter who you are, what you look like, how modest your beginnings, or the circumstances of your birth, you deserve every opportunity to achieve your God-given potential.

As we mark National African American History Month, we celebrate giants of the civil rights movement and countless other men and women whose names are etched in the hearts of their loved ones and the cornerstones of the country they helped to change. We pause to reflect on our progress and our history -- not only to remember, but also to acknowledge our unfinished work. We reject the false notion that our challenges lie only in the past, and we recommit to advancing what has been left undone.

Brave Americans did not struggle and sacrifice to secure fundamental rights for themselves and others only to see those rights denied to their children and grandchildren. Our Nation is still racked with division and poverty. Too many children live in crumbling neighborhoods, cycling through substandard schools and being affected by daily violence in their communities. And Americans of all races have seen their wages and incomes stagnate while inequality continues to hold back hardworking families and entire communities.

But the trajectory of our history gives us hope. Today, we stand on the shoulders of courageous individuals who endured the thumps of billy clubs, the blasts of fire hoses, and the pain of watching dreams be deferred and denied. We honor them by investing in those around us and doing all we can to ensure every American can reach their full potential. Our country is at its best when everyone is treated fairly and has the chance to build the future they seek for themselves and their family. This means providing the opportunity for every person in America to access a world-class education, safe and affordable housing, and the job training that will prepare them for the careers of tomorrow.

Like the countless, quiet heroes who worked and bled far from the public eye, we know that with enough effort, empathy, and perseverance, people who love their country can change it. Together, we can help our Nation live up to its immense promise. This month, let us continue that unending journey toward a more just, more equal, and more perfect Union.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim February 2015 as National African American History Month. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-ninth.

BARACK OBAMA

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

January 30, 2015
Read Online
http://elibraryusa.state.gov

Videos in eLibraryUSA

*A Child Shall Lead Them: The Desegregation of Nashville Public Schools, 1957*

*All Power to The People!* directed by Lee Lew Lee & produced by Kristin Bell and Nico Panigutti. New York, Filmakers Library, 2000, 58 minutes
Databases on African American History

**Black Studies in Video** is a collection featuring award-winning documentaries, newsreels, interviews and archival footage surveying the evolution of black culture in the United States. In partnership with California Newsreel, the database provides unique access to their African American Classics collection, and includes films covering history, politics, art and culture, family structure, social and economic pressures, and gender relations.

Book entitled “Civil Rights” by Jennifer Zeiger details the history of the civil rights movement for younger readers and is available through **Freedom Flix**.

A collection of e-books, **ebrary** offers books about the civil rights movement in the United States.

**Encyclopedia of African American History**

Available in the History section of the Gale Virtual Reference Library, the third volume of the Encyclopedia of African American History highlights key figures in the civil rights movement.

**Online Videos**

[March on Washington](#) and [March on Washington Legacy](#)

These videos on YouTube by the National Museum of African American History and Culture compiles footage from the March on Washington in 1963 and interviews about the event.
Resources on the Civil Rights movement and African American History available through the Smithsonian Collections online.

**Civil Rights Movement**
Articles about the history of the civil rights movement accessible via the Smithsonian Collections Online.

**Oh Freedom!**
This website combines collections from both the National Museum of African American History and Culture and the Smithsonian American Art Museum to illustrate the history of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States.

**The Struggle for Justice**
The National Portrait Gallery showcases major cultural and political figures who struggled to achieve civil rights for disenfranchised or marginalized groups in this online exhibition.

**One Life: Martin Luther King Jr.**
Nonviolent protest became the defining feature of the modern civil rights movement in America under the leadership of Martin Luther King, Jr. Learn more about his life and work at this online exhibition from the National Portrait Gallery.

**The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863, and the March on Washington, 1963**
Two pivotal events in the history of civil rights in the United States occurred 100 years apart. This online exhibition from the National Museum of American History pulls these two key years together.

**Black Wings: African American Pioneer Pilots**
Racial discrimination in the early days of aviation denied African Americans access to training as pilots and as mechanics. The National Air and Space Museum details how African Americans battled inequality to realize their dreams of flying.

**Separate is Not Equal: Brown v. Board of Education**
The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Brown v. Board of Education marked a turning point in the history of race relations in the United States. The National Museum of American History details the history and the legacy of this landmark decision.

**Voices of Struggle: The Civil Rights Movement, 1945 to 1965**
Smithsonian Folkways looks at the music that drove the Civil Rights Movement, with videos and sample audio of significant songs.
Nothing will work unless you do.
_Maya Angelou_

George Washington Carver
African American Botanist
Epitaph on his grave
_He could have added fortune to fame, but caring for neither, he found happiness and honor in being helpful to the world._

**Borrow from the Library**
American Library catalog  [http://amlibindia.state.gov](http://amlibindia.state.gov)

_and many more....._

**DVDs in the library**


*Legacy* director, producer and writer, Tod S. Lending, 1999.


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<tr>
<th><strong>Ebenezer Don Carlos Bassett</strong></th>
<th><strong>Clifton R. Wharton</strong>: First African American to enter the Foreign Service. (1925)</th>
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<td><strong>Ralph Bunche</strong>: First African American Nobel Peace Prize Recipient in 1950 for his mediation efforts in the Middle East.</td>
<td><strong>Edith S. Sampson</strong>: First African American to officially represent the United States at the United Nations. (1950)</td>
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<td><strong>Edward R. Dudley</strong>: First African American to hold the rank of Ambassador (1948)</td>
<td><strong>Patricia Roberts Harris</strong>: First African American woman to serve as an Ambassador (1965).</td>
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<td><strong>Colin L. Powell</strong>: First African American to serve as Secretary of State. (2001)</td>
<td><strong>Condoleezza Rice</strong>: First African American Woman Secretary of State (2005)</td>
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Source: [https://blogs.state.gov/stories/2015/02/04/saluting-african-american-contributions-diplomacy](https://blogs.state.gov/stories/2015/02/04/saluting-african-american-contributions-diplomacy)
Desi / Black Solidarity

The Secret History of South Asian and African American Solidarity

South Asians and African Americans have been standing up for each other for over a century. These are the histories we were never taught. By Anirvan Chatterjee (@anirvan) of the Berkeley South Asian Radical History Walking Tour. (Want to go deeper? Read Nico Slate’s Colored Cosmopolitanism and Vijay Prashad’s Everybody Was Kung Fu Fighting.) Please share these stories/images!

GANDHI AND KING

MLK’s use of Gandhian nonviolence is all we’re taught about African American and South Asian history.

But the story goes way beyond Gandhi and King.

Source: http://blackdesisecrethistory.org/
Publications

Abraham Lincoln – A Legacy of Freedom - 68 pages, 02 February 2009
This article is excerpted from Abraham Lincoln: A Legacy of Freedom, published by the Bureau of International Information Programs.

Free at last: The U.S. Civil Rights Movement - 72 pages, January 15, 2009
This book highlights the major events in African-American history from slavery to the Civil rights movement.

In Brief

Juneteenth: An Annual Commemoration of Slavery's End
This is a short article about the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the U.S., which takes place on June 19.

Pamphlets

The Dream Lives on, the Work Continues - January 15, 2015
This two-page pamphlet discusses the historical significance of the “I Have a Dream” speech at the 1963 March on Washington.

African-American Portrait Pamphlet Series
A series of pamphlets highlighting remarkable African-Americans

Hip-Hop: From the Streets to the Mainstream
November 21, 2013

Articles

New Exhibition Tracks Progress of Civil Rights in America

Carter G. Woodson, Father of Black History: A profile of the founder of Black History Month

Rosa Parks: Mother of the Civil Rights Movement

Black History Month Honors Legacy of Struggle and Triumph

Electronic Journals

Making Their Mark: Black Women Leaders
This issue profiles African-American women of the 20th and 21st centuries who have made significant contributions to many spheres of American life. February 2012.

Race Forward — A New Generation Celebrates Black History
This Black History Month, we are reminded of how far we have come as a country on equal rights for all. December 2013.
Papershow

Picturing the Promise - 20 pages

Photo Galleries

The U.S. Civil Rights Movement
– October 19, 2011
The movement to achieve civil rights for African Americans is featured in these 15 historic photographs.

The Life and Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.
– March 29, 2011
These 15 photographs highlight Martin Luther King Jr.’s dedication to the nonviolent struggle for racial equality and social justice in the United States.

The American Library

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- **Email:** libref@state.gov
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  10.00 am—6.00 pm

- **Website:** [http://mumbai.usconsulate.gov/theamericanlibrary.html](http://mumbai.usconsulate.gov/theamericanlibrary.html)

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