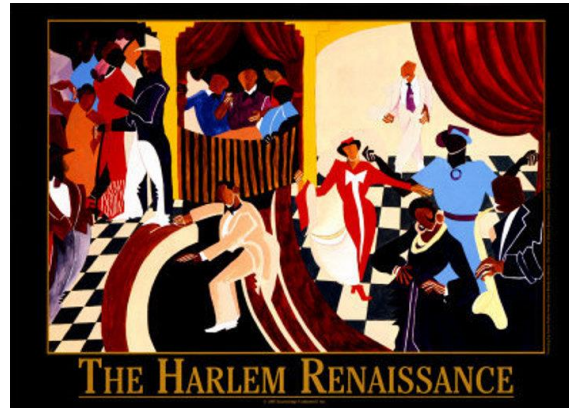


The Harlem Renaissance and the Black Nationalism Movement



The Harlem Renaissance was a period in the 1920's that showed the artistic and literary achievements of the African Americans. Their art, music, poetry, essays, and novels expressed African American racial pride and self-acceptance. Many of these works were integrated into the national culture despite the African Americans still struggling for social and economic equality. The decade also saw a rise in **Black Nationalism** with **Marcus Garvey** playing a major role in the movement.

The first part of the 1920's saw the return of African American soldiers from World War I in Europe. Unfortunately, their military training and war experience was seen as a threat to many white Americans and the traditional "white order." Many African American veterans were the target of violence, discrimination, anti-black riots in many cities, and lynching. Because of these events, the "**New Negro**" movement developed. African Americans in the North and Midwest increased their demands for freedom, an end to racial discrimination, and a cause for racial pride. This **New Negro Movement**, or the **Harlem Renaissance** will become one of the most influential and intellectual movements with its roots in Harlem, New York City.

Why did it start in Harlem? Since the start of the 20th century, many middle-class African Americans in New York moved uptown into Harlem. In addition, Southern sharecroppers and farm hands left the South in order to find a better way of life. The **Great Migration North** during and after World War I where African Americans worked in Northern and Midwest factories, added to the populations. Many of these people were ancestors of slaves and had lived in the South under the Jim Crow laws. Harlem was also the home to many well-educated, white-collar immigrants from the Caribbean.

Claude McKay	A Jamaican novelist and poet, best known for his novel <i>Home to Harlem</i> and his poem "If We Must Die" that called for African Americans to fight back against the anti-black riots of 1919
Langston Hughes	A famous poet and writer from Missouri and Kansas who moved to Harlem to study, and then dropped out of Columbia University. He is considered to be the leader of the Harlem Renaissance .
Aaron Douglas	A painter, illustrator, and arts educator from Topeka, Kansas who was going to study art in Paris, visited Harlem on his way, and stayed!

The Harlem Renaissance began with literature, (novels, poems, and essays), music and musical theater and dance, later followed by a visual arts movement including painting, prints, and sculptures. Due to these cultural advances for the African American the population of Harlem continued to grow in the 1920's and 1930's to around 200,000 people. Many lived in poverty due to the high rents and the low-paying jobs.



Intellectual Leaders of the Harlem Renaissance

W.E.B. Du Bois	Founder of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People). Wrote <i>The Crisis</i> , was a civil rights activist, sociologist and a historian who fought against racism, Jim Crow Laws and lynching of colored people.
Jessie Redman	Editor of <i>The Crisis</i> and publisher of writings of Renaissance writers. He promoted the realism and truths within their work, mentoring young poets and writers at the same time.
Alain Locke	The Father of the Harlem Renaissance because of his book <i>The New Negro: An Interpretation</i> . It was an anthology of plays, poems, music and art.

Jazz was the music of the Harlem Renaissance; hence this time period was known as the **Jazz Age**. It originated in New Orleans in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and moved northward up the Mississippi River to cities such as Kansas City, St. Louis then into Chicago and New York. The invention of the **phonograph and radio** carried these new sounds all over the country and even overseas.

Jazz music was played in the speakeasies, dance halls, clubs such as the **Cotton Club** and the **Savoy Ballroom**, and even on Broadway and at Carnegie Hall.

Famous musicians of the Jazz Age

Louis Armstrong	Famous trumpet and cornet player, singer, soloist bandleader, and movie star.
Edward K. "Duke" Ellington	Composer, pianist and band leader. Best known for "Take the A Train" and "It Don't Mean A Thing (If it Ain't Got That Swing)."
Count Basie	Great piano player, drummer and Big-Band leader
Billie Holiday	A singer who is best known for "God Bless the Child" and "Strange Fruit" which was the story of African American lynching in the South.
Bessie Smith	"The Empress of Blues" and one of the most popular singers in the 1920's

The Impact of the Harlem Renaissance on American Culture

- Identified, defined and expanded African American culture
- Created uniquely American art, literature, and music
- Recognizing and sponsoring African Americans by mainstream publishers, art galleries, magazines, theaters, and recording companies
- The whole nation, including white people were attracted to African American art, literature, and music
- Became the influence for many future African American people in the field of the Arts
- Increased communications and exchanges about African American culture and political issues
- Would be the starting point for the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's

Sadly, the Harlem Renaissance would come to an end during the **Great Depression**. In addition, at the end of **Prohibition**, more bars would reopen in Lower Manhattan, taking away the desire to go to Harlem for entertainment.

Black Nationalism

This was an extension of racial pride seen with the Harlem Renaissance but not through the Arts, more through Political actions. The person most associated with this movement was **Marcus Garvey**.

Who was Marcus Garvey?

He was a Jamaican and an intellectual leader during the Harlem Renaissance and leader of the **Back to Africa** campaign. He had founded the **Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA)** in Jamaica in 1914 and in 1917 he settled in Harlem. Garvey had established 700 chapters of the UNIA in thirty-eight states plus Jamaica, Canada, and Africa. The UNIA was the largest civil rights movement in African American history, with 4 to 6 million members. In Harlem, Garvey published a newspaper, **Negro World**, that had a circulation of over 500,000. He constructed **Liberty Hall of Harlem** where he gave his political speeches.



Marcus Garvey was a strong believer of **Pan-Africanism**: a worldwide movement that aims to encourage and strengthen bonds of solidarity between all indigenous and diaspora ethnic groups of African descent.

Marcus Garvey was a powerful speaker whose ideas often clashed with those of **W.E.B. Du Bois** as they disagreed on the topic of **integration rather than separation**. Garvey was influenced more by **Booker T. Washington's philosophy**. His main belief was that African Americans would not be able to overcome the legal barriers of discrimination, such as the Jim Crow Laws, to secure economic and social equality. Therefore, due to these restraints, Garvey advocated for **autonomy and separatism** for the African American. His ideals for **Pan-Africanism** was that Europe was for Europeans, Asia was for Asians, and Africa was for Africans, the foundation for his **Back to Africa** movement.

Garvey sponsored and created black-owned businesses and shipping lines in order to build separate communities for African Americans.

The End of Garveyism

The UNIA gave a great deal of financial help to African American businesses. Once such company was the **Black Star Line**, a steamship line of three ships that carried people and cargo between the United States and Africa. In 1921, the Black Star Line was shut down due to mismanagement. In 1925 the U.S. government found Garvey guilty of using the U.S. mail to defraud the shareholders of the Black Star Line. In 1927, President Coolidge commuted his jail sentence and he was **deported** to Jamaica. Without Garvey the UNIA collapsed. Garvey died in London in 1940.

Marcus Garvey left a legacy to the world. His work motivated leaders such as **Jomo Kenyatta** of Kenya and **Kwame Nkrumah** of Ghana in their demands for independence from European Imperialism. Garveyism even influenced the **Rastafarian Movement** as well as the **Nation of Islam** and **Malcolm X** and **Stokely Carmichael**. They sought to redevelop a **Black Nationalism Movement** in the United States during the **Civil Rights Era**.



THE BLACK
SKIN IS NOT A
BADGE OF
SHAME, BUT
RATHER A
GLORIOUS
SYMBOL OF
NATIONAL
GREATNESS.

MARCUS GARVEY
AUGUST 17, 1887 -
JUNE 10, 1940

