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**Black American History and Culture: Untold,  
Reframed, Stigmatized and Fetishized to the Point of  
Global Ethnocide**

*K. Spotts*



## **Black American History and Culture: Untold, Reframed, Stigmatized and Fetishized to the Point of Global Ethnocide**

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### **Article History**

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#### **Abstract**

**Purpose:** A poetic work of fiction haunts the base of the Statue of Liberty. The act overshadowed the original tribute to the Civil War victory and the Emancipation Proclamation. Abraham Lincoln's praises of the Black American military fell silent. Eurocentrists shrouded centuries of genius and scaled-down Black American mastery. Sagas of barrier-breaking Olympians, military heroes, Wild West pioneers, and inventors ended as forgotten footnotes. Today, countries around the world fetishize Black American history and culture to the point of ethnocide. The real-time case study of Woni Spotts explores the phenomenon. Until ancient traditions evolve with authenticity, global cultures will wither and die. The presented research chronicles over half a millennium of archives. Lists with names, dates, and genealogies seal the Black American legacy in stone.

**Methodology:** The presented research for case studies draws from archival data, dated events, news articles, and an interview with Woni Spotts. The case studies generated three lists. Fifty sports and competitions were dated and cataloged. The athletes were analyzed by a genealogist. Forty music and dance genres were cataloged by publishing or recording dates. The artists were analyzed by

a genealogist. Copyright infringements were noted. Inventors were researched for U.S. patents. NASA astronauts and inventors were analyzed by a genealogist.

**Findings:** The presented research showed centuries of untold, reframed, stigmatized, and fetishized Black American history and culture. In the case studies, foreigners of African descent (Africans, Caribbeans, Central Americans, and South Americans) practiced ethnocidal behavior in concert with European descendants. Prolific abolitionists, patriots, politicians, and inventors were written out of history. Superstar athletes were obstructed or outshined by fictional

**Recommendations:** Case studies showed centuries of fragmented narratives created biases and distortions. Black Americans were written out of history, reframed as background characters, stigmatized with skewed statistics, and fetishized globally to the point of ethnocide. The presented research stands as a vital resource for preservationists. Music and dance genre architects were solidified by publishing and recording dates. Athletic events, inventions, and NASA scientists were recorded.

**Keywords:** *Culture, Stigmatized, Afrocentrists, Eurocentrists.*

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

An ethnocide began on the continent of Africa. From the rituals under the Tree of Forgetfulness to the dungeons, doors of no return, and the middle passage. In the New World, native languages, names, religions, drumming, and traditions were forbidden. The first generation of the enslaved, experienced forced admixture with Europeans. Men, women, children, and infants were sold between plantations. It was uncommon to have an intact family to pass wisdom down through the generations. While slaves toiled, “free” people of color lived in European settlements and Indian Territory fearing capture (C. A. Weslager, 2006). Out of an abyss, brave souls rose from the ashes and held the world spellbound. Instead of applause, abolitionists, patriots, Olympians, entertainers, and inventors were met with snubbing, shunning, and scorn.

The presented case studies highlight untold, reframed, stigmatized, and fetishized Black American history and culture. For centuries, Eurocentrists overlooked ingenuity under oppression. The optics of mammies, banjo players, and later blaxploitation pimps and hip-hop gangsters were preferred. Lost and found Black American innovators were reframed out of the picture. Abolitionists, civil rights leaders, and business owners (e.g., Black Wall Street, etc.) were harassed, incarcerated, or murdered. Artistic, athletic, and historic performances were stigmatized and fetishized. (Michael Zwerin, 2000). Eurocentrists and Afrocentrists leave Black American history untold. Afrocentrists created Wakanda-esque narratives about the motherland, watering a continent of over 3000 cultures down to dashikis, kufis, masks, and Swahili. Tales spun of tribes with solid families using the proverb *"It takes a village to raise a child."* Orphans (tens of millions), tribalism, genocides, rituals, child brides, and slave selling were swept under the carpet. Pan-Africanist, Jamaican-born Marcus Garvey promoted the *"Back to Africa"* movement. Garvey aligned himself with the Ku Klux Klan and befriended Methodist preacher Earnest Sevier Cox, a proclaimed white supremacist. Garvey's letter to Cox read, *"The fact is, that the modern Negro is a lazy, good for nothing slumberer...spawning the "Garvey Must Go" Campaign.*

*"We have decided to stay" speech against sending freed slaves to African colonies, at the American Anti-Slavery Society meeting.*” -Frederick Douglass' North Star Newspaper (June 2, 1848, volume 1, number 23)

*"There is not now, there never has been, and we think there will never be, any general desire on the part of our people, to emigrate from this land to any other and least of all, to the wilds of Africa."* -"The Colonization Scheme" Frederick Douglass' North Star Newspaper (January 22, 1852, volume 5, number 5)

*"The native land of the American negro is America. His bones, his muscles, his sinews, are all American. His ancestors for two hundred and seventy years have lived, and labored, and died on American soil, and millions of his posterity have inherited Caucasian blood"....*-Frederick Douglass

*"We know nothing about Africa, although our roots are there in terms of our forbearers. But I mean as far as the average Negro today, he knows nothing about Africa. And I think he's got to face the fact that he is an American, his culture is basically American, and one becomes adjusted to this when he realizes what, what he is."* -Martin Luther King

*"The white people had got the 'n\*\*\*\*\* here to do their drudgery, and now they were trying to root 'em out and send 'em to Africa."* Tubman rebuked her race's potential uprooting by saying, *"they*

*can't do it; we're rooted here, and they can't pull us up.*" -Harriet Tubman at Boston's New England Colored Convention in August 1859

*"Cultural nationalism, or pork chop nationalism, as I sometimes call it, is basically a problem of having the wrong political perspective. It seems to be a reaction instead of responding to political oppression. The cultural nationalists are concerned with returning to the old African culture and thereby regaining their identity and freedom. In other words, they feel that the African culture will automatically bring political freedom. Many times cultural nationalists fall into line as reactionary nationalists."* -Huey P. Newton

When Afrocentrists found a voice in academia, the Golden Age of Africa and slave-selling empires were uplifted. Queen Nzinga, famous for fighting against Portuguese slavers, developed the Angolan slave trade from the 1620s to the 1660s. Mansa Musa, the ruler of the kingdom of Mali, owned tens of thousands of slaves. Fenda Lawrence, a Gambian, visited the Thirteen Colonies as a free Black woman, tourist, and slave trader. The statue of Madam Tinubu, a Yoruba aristocrat and generational slave trader, is on display in Lagos, Nigeria. Thankfully, unbiased chroniclers have begun to publish books, journals, and news articles celebrating unsung heroes of American history. The presented research builds on the long-awaited shift.

European descendants say, *"Black Americans borrow from cultures too."* Impossible! The moment Black Americans were enslaved, there were death threats for not conforming. After 500 years, Black Americans have redefined culture in the West and around the world.

European last names, languages, and religions were not shattered by immigration. European immigrants in the United States of America pose no cultural threat to one another. Polish immigrants opening Italian restaurants or Russian immigrants claiming to have originated Irish step dancing are unheard of. There are boundaries and respect. In stark contrast, Black Americans suffered ethnocide during the transatlantic slave trade. Apart from European descendants, nomads from colonized, Christianized, Arabized, and Europeanized countries described Black Americans as *"lost"* without roots. From seeds, new roots formed to create a tree of life, the cultural heartbeat of the planet. While fetishizing Black Americans, foreigners of African descent use academics, authors, journalists, and award shows to replace Black Americans as the originators of soul food, music, and dance genres (Burton William Peretti, 1994; Rivera, R., 2003). Waves of foreigners of African descent identify as *"Black Americans."* In the United Kingdom, Africans, Caribbeans, and Asians identify as *"British"* or *"English."*

Gina Torres, a Cuban complained that playing Black American roles was a burden (Alexis Reese, 2022).

*"I don't identify as Black,"* said Gina Torres (Alexis Reese, 2022).

*"To then learn to be whatever 'Black' was, and then feel like I was alienating that other part of myself, that Latina self,"* she shares. *"To keep myself from just being sad all the time about not being able to fully experience and express the entirety of myself,"* said Gina Torres (Alexis Reese, 2022).

After playing Black American roles, Idris Elba, a UK citizen of Sierra Leonean-Ghanaian origins no longer wants to be called a *"Black Actor."*

*"Racism is very real. But from my perspective, it's only as powerful as you allow it to be. I stopped describing myself as a black actor when I realised it put me in a box. We've got to grow. We've got to. Our skin is no more than that: it's just skin. Rant over,"* said Idris Elba (Alex Bilmes, 2023).

By Elba's logic, lynch mobs were a result of allowing racism to be powerful, not inescapable racial violence.

The looming question is why cultures leapfrog from African drum circles or European, Asian, and Inuit folk traditions to Black American music, dances, and aesthetics. Developing original expressions in each country creates a beautiful mosaic across the planet.

## 2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

The obsession with Black Americans began long ago. Missionaries and theologians debated enslavement in the Americas. News stories from the Thirteen Colonies told of slave rebellions, Native Americans on horseback, and Europeans at war with Europeans (Wikipedia, 2023). At the crossroads, fighting against Native Americans with European descendants or fighting alongside Native Americans against European descendants. Black American soldiers took the path that ended the turmoil. The United States Colored Troops were credited with the Civil War victory. Later, the Buffalo soldiers tamed the western frontier.

After the Civil War and the Emancipation Proclamation, France gifted the United States of America with the Statue of Liberty. The chains around the statue's feet symbolized the end of slavery. During the Reconstruction era, Black Americans established districts with thriving businesses, churches, universities, restaurants, and nightclubs. The promise of Special Field Orders 15 was broken and racial violence destroyed historic districts. Politicians, journalists, and academics continued toward civil rights. The international community marveled as an American, John Charles Robinson, the "*Brown Condor*," volunteered to lead Tuskegee aviators against Italian forces as a commander in the Ethiopian Air Force. Later, Black American politicians and public protests against apartheid freed South Africans.

On a level playing field, Black Americans challenged European descendants in dozens of sports and competitions. Crowds witnessed "*David and Goliath*" spectacles. Athletic rivalries and sports empires soared. From the days of jazz and the Charleston, music and dance crazes swept across the globe. The planet rocked, rolled, and hips moved to the twist. Stars from the cosmos fell to form spinning disco balls overhead. Passengers boarded the Soul Train headed for a hip-hop tour around the world.

*"Black Cultural Traffic"* treats the reader to an anthology of thoughtful essays from artists, academics, and critics on the topic of obsession with Black American culture. The book describes the focus on Black American culture as contemporary (Harry J. Elam, Jr., 2005). Research shows centuries of fetishization heightened by globalization. Black American music genres are imitated in every country (Wikipedia, 2022). From the beginning, the survivors of the middle passage were sold, bought, and traded. Today, Black American culture is exported as a commodity to be exploited and fetishized. The book, *The Black Culture Industry* explores the phenomenon (Ellis Cashmore, 2006).

Black American style dictates who, what, when, and where is cool. A signature walk, an insider handshake, and a no-nonsense posture are characteristics of the Black American mystique. Spoken all over the planet, African American Vernacular English/AAVE is a dialect where complex ideas



are communicated with fewer words (Joel Dinerstein, 2018; Cab Calloway, 1939). As an act of rebellion against Eurocentric beauty standards, Afros crowned kings and queens. Braids graced disco divas and inspired the blockbuster film *10. Voluptuousness, brown skin, and full lips* were celebrated in songs (The Commodores' "*Brick House*" and Sir Mix-a-Lot's "*Baby Got Back*"). James Brown's "*Say it Loud, I'm Black, and I'm Proud*" and activist chants, "*Black is Beautiful*" and "*Black Power*" championed pride. Every culture on earth deserves conservation. Surely, the hero's journey through the ages and a globally embraced culture are to be preserved. A phoenix rising over and over captivated the collective consciousness for half a millennium.

### 3.0 METHODOLOGY

The presented research for case studies draws from archival data, dated events, news articles, and an interview with Woni Spotts.

Case studies cover:

Rebellion and Abolition (Herbert Aptheker, 1937; National Park Service, 2015)

The Foundation of America (National Archives, 2008)

Historic Districts (National Archives, 2021; Kate Quealy Gainer, 2021)

Jim Crow Laws (C. Vann Woodward, 2001)

Medical Apartheid (Harriet A. Washington, 2008)

The Wild West (National Park Service, 2021; National Park Service, 2021)

Military Honors (Matthew Margis, 2017)

The Statue of Liberty (National Park Service, 2015)

The Black American Ethnicity (Science.org, 2014)

Soul Food (National Park Service, n.d.)

Politics (Heather Stephenson, 2020)

Crime (AP News, 2022)

Humanitarianism (Michael Bonner, 2021)

Sports and Competitions (Library of Congress, n.d.)

Music and Dance (National Park Service, 2021)

Entertainment: Hollywood and Comedy (University of Arizona, n.d.; Betti Carol VanEpps, 1999; Cinemontage, 2020)

Censorship (General Research Division, The New York Public Library, 1921-12)

Inventions and Innovations (National Park Service, 2021)

The case studies generated three lists. Fifty sports and competitions were dated and cataloged. The athletes were analyzed by a genealogist. Forty music and dance genres were cataloged by publishing or recording dates. The artists were analyzed by a genealogist. Copyright infringements were noted. Inventors were researched for U.S. patents. NASA astronauts and inventors were analyzed by a genealogist. In the real-time case study, there were several organizations and articles verifying Woni Spotts' travels (The Travelers' Century Club®, 2019; Daley Arthur and Tori

Omega, 2022; August 24; Udodiong, I. 2019, July 10; Black History, 2019, Pointdujour, 2020, December 7; Woni Spotts, @wonispotts, 2019, October 10; Woni Spotts, 1964)

### **Historical Case Studies**

The presented case studies will analyze untold, reframed, stigmatized, and fetishized Black American history and culture.

### **Rebellion and Abolition**

As a deception, Eurocentrists painted slaves as happy and content. There were hundreds of revolts, escapes, and mutinies (e.g., Robert Smalls) (Herbert Aptheker, 1937). The political landscape changed with the rise of abolitionists and activists (e.g., Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Dred Sam Scott, Nat Turner, William Wells Brown, Paul Cuffee, William Howard Day, Charlotte Forten Grimke, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Lewis Hayden, Josiah Henson, Paul Jennings, Katherine "*Kate*" Brown, Charlotte L. Brown, Robert Fox, Elizabeth Jennings Graham, Sallie Robinson, Ida B. Wells, Booker T. Washington, etc.).

### **The Foundation of America**

The first foundational cities in the United States of America were built by Black American architects, craftsmen, and laborers (e.g., Benjamin Banneker, Wallace A. Rayfield, John A. Lankford, George Washington Foster, Vertner Woodson Tandy, Julian Francis Abele, Paul Revere Williams, Clarence W. "*Cap*" Wigington, etc. (National Archives, 2008). Railroad companies used the enslaved to build entire railroads in the East and the South. Black Americans patented railroad inventions (e.g., the Real McCoy, mechanical, lubricants, etc.). Eurocentrists praised immigrants as the laborers, the inspiration for the Statue of Liberty, and the Chinese (paid labor) were credited with constructing full railroads in the west. When challenged, Black Americans were described as involuntary immigrants. The violent transatlantic syndicate that forced individuals across the ocean to the Americas were criminals. The individuals were crime victims, not immigrants seeking a better life.

### **Historic Districts**

More than a place to live, historic Black American communities were a safe harbor from the storm. Since the end of the Civil War and the Great Migration, Black Americans have lived in cities, suburbs, and rural settings in every state. Racial terrorism, gentrification, and reckless immigration policies destabilized neighborhoods nationally. The destruction of human lives and property lay hidden in old newspaper clippings (National Archives, 2021; Kate Quealy Gainer, 2021).

### **Jim Crow Laws**

Statues of Confederate soldiers and slave owners cast a shadow on cities in the United States of America. Lynch mobs, cross burnings, desecrated cemeteries, and voter intimidation terrorized the emancipated. Forced sharecropping, sundown towns, and stolen land forced migration to the north. There were race riots (e.g., Paragould, Tulsa/Black Wall Street, East St. Louis, Ocoee, etc.) and massacres (e.g., Ebenezer Creek, Devil's Punchbowl, Elaine-Red Summer, Colfax, Wilmington, North Carolina, Atlanta, Elaine Arkansas, Rosewood, etc.), all genocidal events. While paying taxes like other citizens, school funding, higher education, fair wages, land grants, housing, banking (i.e., tens of millions looted from the Freedman's Bank), company pensions, insurance, GI Bills, and VA loans were denied. To the present day, Black Americans have been preyed upon

by corrupt banks offering predatory lending. The gains during the Reconstruction Period (1865–1877) vanished. During the Jim Crow era (1870s-1950s), visitors of all races used exemption badges, pins, and documentation to use public facilities and patronized businesses. Race-based laws were designed to restrict Black Americans.

Black American men wore turbans to disguise themselves as foreigners. A Texas slave, William Ellis successfully "*passed*" and evaded segregation. He changed his name to "*Guillermo Eliseo*," learned Spanish, and pretended to be a Mexican businessman.

Foreigners of African descent dined in a restaurant as Olympic gold medalist Muhammad Ali was banned. After the incident, Ali threw his medal into the Ohio River.

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, a Ghanaian, encountered a barber exclaiming, "*I do not cut n\*\*\*\*er hair.*" Kofi Annan replied, "*I am not a n\*\*\*\*er. I am an African.*" Kofi Annan's hair was cut (Stanley Meisler, 2008).

### **Medical Apartheid**

Medical apartheid is a reality in the United States of America. Subjecting the enslaved to painful experiments advanced in the field of gynecology. The "*Tuskegee study*," forced sterilizations, specimen theft (e.g., Henrietta Lacks), high infant mortality, and environmental pollution are the result (Harriet A. Washington, 2008).

### **Wild West**

The Buffalo Soldiers constructed national parks while protecting settlers, stagecoaches, wagon trains, and railroads. The regiments patrolled, paved roads, drew maps, blazed trails, fought fires, and removed grazing livestock, rustlers, poachers, and loggers. Tales of charismatic lawmen and cowboys mesmerized the country. When Wild West characters graced the silver screen, the images were of European descendants. Black American cowboys began as ranch hands and ended as stars in the Rodeo Hall of Fame (National Park Service, 2021).

### **Military Honors**

During the American Revolution, Black Patriots rose the fame. Crispus Attucks sparked the American Revolution as the first American killed during the Boston Massacre. Portrayed as a "*brave and gallant soldier*," Salem Poor fought courageously in the Battles of Bunker Hill and Valley Forge. George Washington's assistant, William "*Billy*" Lee, served as a valet, rode in fox hunts, and organized Washington's personal affairs (i.e., delivering messages and organizing paperwork). James Armistead Lafayette served as a fearless spy during the American Revolution. Black Americans honorably served in the War of 1812/Free Men of Color, The Civil War/United States Colored Troops, Indian Wars/Buffalo Soldiers, Spanish-American War/Buffalo Soldiers, WW1/ Harlem Hellfighters (369 Infantry Regiment, formally 15th New York National Guard Regiment), and WW2/Tuskegee Airmen, the Air Force's first "*Top Gun*" contest winners in 1949 (Matthew Margis, 2017), every war in what is now the United States of America. Private Willie Duckworth, a Black American WW2 soldier created a cadence, the Duckworth Chant, "*Sound Off!*" The patriotism of Black American soldiers was buried by Eurocentrists (Hannah-Jones, 2019; Joseph T. Glatthaar, 1996).

*"Without the military help of the Black Freedmen, the war against the south could not have been won"* - President Abraham Lincoln (National Park Service, 2016).



## Statue of Liberty

The Statue of Liberty, a gift from France, honored the Union's Civil War victory and the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. The broken chains around the feet symbolize the end of slavery. Originally a tribute to the Civil War victory and the Emancipation Proclamation, the Statue of Liberty's meaning was hidden (National Park Service, 2015).

## The Black American Ethnicity

Black Americans lived for centuries with scattered genealogies. Fanciful tales of descending from kings and queens filled the void. Before the dawn of DNA, scientists believed all African descendants were closely related. The demographics in Egypt, North Africa, and the Middle East have changed over the millenniums. Discovering sub-Saharan ancestry in ancient Egyptians and Moors, vindicated Afrocentrists, a victory against Eurocentrists. As with pan-Africanism, pseudo ideologies (Hebrew Israelites, "Moors," etc.) dimmed the light of Black American history and culture. Though Black Americans share haplogroups with Pharaoh Rameses the III (E1b1a/E-V38), Moors/Levant (J, H, etc.), and Native Americans (A, B, C, etc.), Black Americans are not Egyptian, Levantine, or Native American. European haplogroups are far more common in Black Americans than Egyptian, Levant, or Native American haplogroups (Science.org, 2014; Derek C Johnson, et al., 2013; Marc W Allard, 2005). The Lemba in Zimbabwe carry the Cohen modal haplotype, a characteristic of the Jewish priesthood (Mark G. Thomas, et al., 2000). Black Americans rarely share genetics with the Lemba. Black Americans originate from five to six continents.

In an effort to hide the forced ad-mixture present in Black Americans, European descendants classify Black Americans as "*African American*" and of solely West African lineage. Afrocentrists use "*African American*" to tie Black American history and culture to Africa. Black Americans have DNA from Africa, Europe, Asia, the Americas, and Oceania. Ethnogenesis began after the first generation to half a millennium in what is now the United States of America. Within the Black American population, there are no mono-ethnic backgrounds and mono-racial backgrounds are rare (Science.org, 2014; Derek C Johnson, et al., 2013; Marc W Allard, 2005). Black Americans have at least two sources of Austronesian DNA (Daniel B. Domingues da Silva 2019). Black Americans have DNA from two founding populations (Pontus Skoglund, 2015). Besides West African DNA, Black Americans have at least two sources of North African, East African, and South African DNA (David Eltis and David Richardson, 2010).

The saying, "*Black Americans are just a boat stop away*," overlooks lineage, culture, DNA, and generations of separation from the Caribbean. Ships from Africa anchored in the Caribbean. There, human cargo faced the brutal practices of "*breaking*" and "*seasoning*" before sailing to North America. Africans transported from the Caribbean to North America are not Caribbeans in North America. Ethnogenesis (an amalgamation of African, European, Native American, and Austronesian DNA) created Black Americans.

Due to absentee ownership, Caribbean, Central American, and South American plantations were governed by overseers of African ancestry. Slave populations were 80–90%, outnumbering Europeans. Black Americans were outnumbered by Europeans, forcibly bred, and had twice the birthrate of Caribbeans. Under the protection of the Catholic Church, Caribbeans, Central Americans, and South Americans sought refuge from the horrors of slavery, paid for freedom, created racial castes, and married (including other races). Caribbeans, Central Americans, and

South Americans celebrate European Catholic lent festivals (e.g., Carnival, J'ouvert, etc.). Jamaicans cook with Indian curry and practice Rastafarianism, the culture of Ethiopian holy men (e.g., dreadlocks, ganja smoking, the green, yellow, and red flag, etc.). The United States of America adopted the one-drop rule. Caribbeans, Central Americans, and South Americans celebrate multiculturalism, often having Asian last names. Jamaica's motto is "*Out of many, one people.*" In stark contrast to Black Americans, Caribbeans, Central Americans, and South Americans are encouraged to "*mejorar la raza*" by marrying European descendants or African descendants with light skin. While blues artist Billie Holiday sang "*Strange Fruit*," Caribbeans serenaded bananas, "*Banana Boat/Day-O*" and embraced multiculturalism, "*One Love.*"

### **Soul Food**

From the slave quarters to sprawling plantation kitchens, Black Americans developed soul food (National Park Service, n.d). West African okra soup and rice were linked to Louisiana Creole/Cajun gumbo and jambalaya. Afrocentrists tying okra (not a soul food staple) with the creation of soul food is as senseless as tying tomatoes (a species native to the Americas) and Native Americans with the development of Italian cuisine.

Gumbo, red beans and rice, and jambalaya are Louisiana Creole/Cajun cuisine. Okra is a thickener rarely used in gumbo. Jambalaya uses tomatoes, a species native to the Americas, not Africa. Portuguese, Spanish (paella), and French cuisines influenced dishes from Thieboudienne/Jollof in colonial Africa to Jambalaya in the Americas. Beginning in the 1860s, the French imported broken rice from Indochina into Africa. In French colonial West Africa, a Senegalese chef, Penda Mbaye, created Thieboudienne/Jollof rice to replace a barley-based dish.

A lot of soul food's ingredients are not native to West Africa (okra, collard greens, corn, beans, etc.). Okra was cultivated in Egypt and reportedly used in Brazil and Surinam. In North America, okra seeds were used in poultices and coffee-esque drinks. Collard greens appeared 2000 years ago in Ancient Greece. Corn and beans originated in the Americas. Rice cultivation began 9000 years ago in China and 1500 years ago in Africa. In the Americas, there were isolated culture enclaves unrelated to the enslaved masses. The Gullah Geechee people held onto African customs (e.g., religion, folklore, weaving, wood carving, and rice-based cuisine). Gumbo, red beans and rice, and jambalaya are Louisiana Creole/Cajun cuisine. Black Americans created two distinct cuisines (e.g., soul food and Louisiana Creole/Cajun) that bear no resemblance to European or African cuisines in flavor or texture. European descendants rebranded "*soul food*" as "Southern cuisine" and foreign-owned restaurants (Mama Jacksons, Paris, Juicy Pop, Paris, Gumbo Yaya, Paris, etc.) misrepresent "*soul food*" with poor preparation and by serving African and Caribbean cuisine.

### **Politics**

Symbolic representation no longer pacifies the masses. The grassroots shout, "*no tangibles no vote.*" Black American voters are expected to vote for Democrats even when policies work against survival. Since the 1900s articles have warned of the impact of immigration on Black Americans. As the Congressional Black Caucus 'ethnic makeup trends toward foreigners of African descent, the focus shifts to foreign affairs (immigration, deportation, natural disasters in foreign countries, honor killings, female genital mutilation, SARS, Boko Haram, child brides, etc.) and away from Black Americans (reparations, police brutality, education, employment, poverty, etc.). Foreigners of African descent and POC labeled as "*Black American activism*" created organizations (e.g.,

NAARC, N'COBRA, BLM, etc.) funded by European descendants. Goal-oriented, lineage-based movements (e.g., Foundational Black Americans (FBA), Freedmen, American Descendants of Slavery (ADOS) faced opposition from Foreigners of African descent and POC journalists, board members, and activists placed as leaders on Black American lineage-based reparations boards (AB 3121: Reparations Task Force (2022; Snejana Farberov, 2023). A Harvard Kennedy School article, "*Disinformation creep: ADOS and the strategic weaponization of breaking news,*" was retracted. Authors: Mutale Nkonde, Maria Y. Rodriguez, Leonard Cortana, Joan K. Mukogosi, Shakira King, Ray Serrato, Natalie Martinez, Mary Drummer, Ann Lewis, and Momin M. Malik (Harvard Kennedy School, 2021).

### **Crime**

Black Americans live peacefully in every state and in ex-pat communities around the globe. There is no organized crime or monitoring by the United Nations or Interpol. From the early 19th century until the present day, billions flow through organized international criminals (e.g., Italian Mafia, Irish Mob, Russian Mafia, Armenian Mafia, Asian Gangs, massage parlors, Caribbean gangs, and cartels from south of the border). Statisticians release crime numbers focused on disorganized crime in impoverished Black American neighborhoods. In affluent areas, crime numbers are kept down and property values are kept high by undercharging, early release programs, legislative acts (e.g., Proposition 47, etc.), and law enforcement not charging suspects or reporting crime statistics to the FBI. Twenty-six children died in the Sandy Hook Elementary school shooting in 2012. The FBI listed zero murders in Newtown, Connecticut, in the same year (AP News, 2022). Illegal acts by any group with brown skin are labeled as "*Black American crime.*"

### **Exhibit 1**

Yosef Lifsh raced through an intersection while driving in a motorcade. Running the red light caused a collision that veered onto the sidewalk. Two South American children were struck by the car. One died, one was severely injured, and both were pinned under the wreckage. A Jewish ambulance arrived and drove the driver and passengers to the hospital. The accident and the ambulance driver's actions caused angry groups to form. The ambulance driver explained that he was frightened by the angry mob and unable to free the trapped children.

As tensions flared, a Trinidadian immigrant sought revenge by killing an innocent Jewish man with no relationship to the accident. For days, South Americans and Caribbeans rioted in the neighborhood. The false narrative of Black Americans rioting against Jewish people spread. The media knew the misguided vigilante was Lemrick Nelson, a Trinidadian, and the victim Gavin Cato was South American (Guyana). Black Americans were forced to have Black American-Jewish relations talks instead of South American/Caribbean-Jewish relations talks. If Chinese people rioted against Jewish people would the talks to curb the violence be between Cambodians and Jewish people? South American and Caribbean leaders were silent. In the end, South Americans and Caribbeans walked away unscathed. Black Americans were stigmatized and associated with rioting.

### **Exhibit 2**

A "*Black*" man pushed an Asian woman onto train tracks in New York. The background was suppressed and false narratives of Black Americans killing Asians spun out of control. According to the FBI, European descendants in the United States of America commit 80–90% of hate crimes

against Asians. Later it was discovered that the suspect was a mentally disturbed Haitian immigrant, Simon Martial.

### **Exhibit 3**

An article showed a group of “*Black*” organ traffickers. Nigerian immigrants Ike Ekweremadu, Beatrice Ekweremadu, and Dr. Obinna Obeta, were found guilty of organ trafficking.

### **Exhibit 4**

A brawl broke out in an Asian nail shop, 888 Happy Red Apple Nails. The media showed images of violence between “*Black Americans*” and Asians. Later, the customers were found to be Caribbean immigrants fighting with Asian immigrants (John Leland, et al., 2018).

### **Exhibit 5**

Somali immigrants imported violent gangs (e.g., Somali Hot Boyz, Somali Mafia, Madhibaan with Attitude, etc.) into Minnesota. The media suppresses the last names. The idea of violent “*Black American*” gangs circulates.

### **Exhibit 6**

Foreigners of African descent have operated multiple international auto theft rings for decades. The suspect’s last names were suppressed until arrests. Barbu Gay Gay, Sterling Idokogi, and Mustapha Kamara were arrested in 2015. Mohamad Fornah was arrested in 2012. Abdul Aladin was arrested in 2021.

### **Exhibit 7**

On public transportation, Fiston Ngoy, a Congolese immigrant was accused of raping a woman in Philadelphia. A nameless mugshot and a story about a brazen “*Black*” rapist spread.

### **Exhibit 8**

Mamadou Diallo, a foreigner of African descent shot and killed “*Black*” men in SeaTac, Washington. Diallo distinguished between Africans and Black Americans.

### **Exhibit 9**

An epidemic of Nigerian uxoricide (wife killing) generated news coverage. Black Americans were forcibly included in a narrative about domestic violence (Bola Bolawole, 2023).

### **Exhibit 10**

The media made Black Americans the face of gangs and crack. European descendants in the United States of America used crack and cocaine more than Black Americans (Dan Weikel, 1995). Caribbean, Central American, and South American gangs are decades-long drug suppliers to the United States of America (Constantine Report, 2015; Journal of Crime and Justice, 1993; Duane Blake, 2003).

Referred to by the FBI as “*the most violent and notorious criminal organization ever in America,*” the Shower Posse was the epitome of drug dealing ruthlessness (Duane Blake, 2003).

### **Humanitarianism**

Black American humanitarians have touched every corner of the planet. Unfortunately, ungratefulness and denial are voiced by the collective. The Immigration and Nationality Act of

1965 removed quotas on Asians (Indians), Arabs, Mexicans, Central Americans, South Americans, Caribbeans, Africans, etc.

At a time when Chinese Americans were scapegoated as the “*Yellow Peril*,” Frederick Douglass publicly criticized the Chinese exclusion act. Douglass also advocated for Chinese and Japanese immigration. Black Americans strongly opposed Japanese internment, the Vietnam War, the Philippine-American War, and the United States of America's Colonial rule in the Philippines. The Dalit Panthers, Polynesian Panthers, and Australian Black Panther Party were inspired by Black Americans.

### **The Asian Response to Black American Humanitarianism**

Notorious customer service in an Asian store caused the death of Latasha Harlins. Beginning in 2020, Black Americans were accused of violence against Asians. The FBI reported European descendants in the United States of America as the primary source of violence against Asians (Jennifer Lee and Tiffany Huang, 2021). Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA) filed a lawsuit against Harvard University for Asian Americans. The organization opposes anti-discrimination programs. At the same time, Asians use HBCUs and diversity programs designed for Black Americans (Vijay Jojo Chokal-Ingam, 2016). On June 30, 2020, the California Civil Rights Department sued Cisco employees for discriminating based on Hindu caste. On September 20, 2022, the Hindu American Foundation sued the California Civil Rights Department saying the caste system was not part of Hinduism.

It is a local problem, but one capable of much wider mischief, for “*as long as caste in India does exist, Hindus will hardly intermarry or have any social intercourse with outsiders; and if Hindus migrate to other regions on earth, Indian caste would become a world problem.*” (B. R. Ambedkar, 1916).

In 1945, during WW2, the 761st Tank Battalion liberated Gunskirchen, a subcamp of the Mauthausen concentration camp.

“*We took 23 cities in three days,*” recalled Baldwin, who fought with the U.S. Army’s all-black 784th Tank Battalion. “*We were really moving. We were taking the cities, meaning killing Germans, and running them out. We came in and freed them. We liberated them. To know I had a role in the liberation of Holland means a lot.*” -Cpl. James W. Baldwin, awarded the certificate of appreciation from the Embassy of the Netherlands.

### **The Jewish Response to Black American Humanitarianism**

Stuart E. Eizenstat is opposed to reparations for slavery. Eizenstat voiced no public opposition to reparations for European Holocaust survivors, interned Japanese, children injured by vaccines, Army drug experiment victims, 3-Mile Island nuclear radiation victims, forced sterilization victims, Indigenous survivors of colonialism (e.g., Comanches, Kiowas, Apaches, Cherokees, Delawares, Chickasaws, Wyandots, Shawnees, Sioux, Ottawas, Chippewas, Cheyennes, Arapahos, Seminoles, Creeks, Oneidas, Kiowas, Six Nations, Alaska natives, Guamanians, Hawaiians, Samoans, Micronesians, etc.), foreign nations, etc. (Stuart E. Eizenstat, 2019). Reparations are being paid for abuses from the 1800s to the present.

Latin American sentiments were clear when Black Americans created Black and Brown alliances. Black American civil rights activists supported the founder of the United Farm Workers, Cesar Chavez, and inspired the Brown Berets.



### **The Latin American Response to Black American Humanitarianism**

*“Let the Negro fight his own battles. His problems are not mine. I don’t want to ally with him,”* said President Felix Tijerina of the League of United Latin American Citizens (Brian D. Behnken 2011).

*“Latin Americans of Mexican descent belong to the Caucasian race and therefore white,”* John J. Herrera, President of the League of United Latin American Citizens (Arnoldo De León, 2001, p. 126).

*“We are NOT and have never been a civil rights organization. Personally, I hate the word,”* said Hector Garcia, founder of the American GI Forum (Stephanie Cole and Alison Marie Parker, 2004, p. 136).

Black Americans were pushed from neighborhoods and local politics with violence and threats (Kate Mather 2016; David Zahniser et al., 2022).

In 1935, 20,000 protestors in New York, Chicago, Detroit, etc., marched to support Ethiopia against Italian Americans in support of Italy’s invasion of Ethiopia (Ruth Ben-Ghiat, 2020). John Charles Robinson, the *“Brown Condor,”* volunteered to lead Tuskegee aviators against Italian forces as a commander in the Ethiopian Air Force. (Michael Bonner, 2021).

Globally, the Congressional Black Caucus was instrumental in ending apartheid. Black Americans boycotted Apartheid-owned companies (Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, n. d.). Meetings, letters, and petitions address deportations, African trade deals, Caribbean disasters, SARS/police brutality, Boko Haram, institutionalized domestic violence, child brides, honor killings, forced marriages, FGM/female genital mutilation, terrorism, starvation, and genocide. Black Americans objected to savage portrayals of Africans in cartoons, advertisements, film, television, and magazines (e.g., National Geographic and National Wildlife). Black Americans donate millions to charities (e.g., individually, through religious organizations, and fundraising concerts). Foreigners of African descent benefit from Black American political systems, HBCUs, diversity programs, and scholarships.

### **The African Response to Black American Humanitarianism**

Africans still profit from the transatlantic slave trade. Revenue is generated by memorials, museums, slave castles, and doors of no return. Black Americans are charged to view slave exhibits (instead of donations to impoverished Black Americans), gouged, and called ethnic slurs (e.g., akata, jareer, abeed, mayate, obruni, lost, etc.). Using tourist traps (e.g., Year of Return), Africans prey on misplaced reverence for the *“motherland”* and longing to connect. Interactions often end with scams, robberies, kidnappings, or death (e.g., Mame Lena Diop, 75, and Nzinga Janna, 69). Concentration camp tours are not led by the children of Nazis.

Guyana (South America) and Belize (Central America) are members of CARICOM (a Caribbean organization). The African Union made Arab countries members and Israel an observer. CARICOM and the African Union memberships and reparations petitions are closed to Black Americans based on country and ethnicity. African and Caribbean leaders have demanded membership in Black American organizations and reparations petitions.

A 2016 letter jointly signed by the Secretary-General of the NUD, Dr. SKC Ogbonnia, and Executive Director of Political Affairs, Bayo Oluwasanmi, states, *“The Nigerian-Americans trace*

*their history in the United States back to over centuries ago and have contributed immensely in all spheres of US national development.”* By painting Black Americans as simply Nigerians in America, Nigerians shamelessly claimed Black Americans’ historical achievements and culture for half a millennium.

For years, ethnic slurs towards Black Americans by Africans went unchallenged by high-profile foreigners of African descent (Cynthia Erivo, Ihuoma Ofordire, Luvvie, Burna Boy, etc.).

Austin Chenge, a Nigerian immigrant ran a campaign on the promise to end Black History Month.

### **Sports and Competitions**

During the late 1800s, Black Americans formed sports teams. Athletes were synergized with an against-all-odds mental and physical strength. By 1904, George Coleman Poage competed in the Olympics and medaled, two firsts for Black Americans. In no time, there were barrier-breaking performances in over fifty sports and competitions. Crowds were thrilled by the Negro Leagues, Harlem Globetrotters, and New York Rens. Soon, European descendants capitalized (Dick “Lefty” O’Neal, 2009). Athletics offered a rare moment of fairness. To belittle the victories, athletes were not selected for sponsorships, management, coaching, and team leadership (Library of Congress, n.d). Later, foreigners of African descent were recruited over Black Americans. Baseball’s audience shrunk along with its talent (Mark Armour, Daniel R. Levitt, 2021; Patrick Schilling, 2018). African, Caribbean, and South American athletes do not dominate international sports. Foreign athletes immigrate and integrate into Black American sports culture to thrive. The list below shows the first Black American barrier breakers in sports and competitions.

#### **Track and Field**

Jesse Owens set three world records and won four gold medals in the 1936 Olympics.

George Poage, the first Black man to win a medal in the 1904 Olympics.

Alice Coachman Davis, the first Black woman to win a medal in the 1948 Olympics.

Wilma Rudolph shattered records, won three Olympic gold medals and the “*fastest woman in the world*” title in 1960.

#### **Boxing**

Joe Gans/Joseph Gant “*Old Master*,” the first Black American lightweight boxing champion from 1902–1908. Inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1990.

Jack Johnson, the first Black American heavyweight boxing champion from 1908-1915.

Joe Louis, “*the Brown Bomber*” world heavyweight boxing champion from 1937-1949.

Muhammad Ali, a Black American heavyweight boxing champion, Olympian in 1960, and iconic activist and entertainer.

#### **Baseball**

William Edward White, Moses Fleetwood Walker, and Weldy Wilberforce Walker were the first Black Americans to play in Major League Baseball in 1879 and 1884.

Jackie Robinson, Leroy Robert “*Satchel*” Paige, Willie Mays, and others reigned in the Negro Leagues from the 1920s-1940s and were the first Black champions in Major League Baseball.

## **Hockey**

Free Blacks from the United States of America founded Canada's Colored Hockey League of the Maritimes in 1895.

## **Cycling**

Marshall Walter "Major" Taylor, "*The Black Cyclone*," world champion cyclist from 1901-1909.

## **Football**

In the 1920s, Fritz Pollard and Robert Wells Marshall were the first two Black players in the National Football League.

## **Equestrian: Horse Racing**

Black jockeys (e.g., Isaac Burns Murphy, Oliver Lewis, Jimmy Winkfield, Willie Simms, Alonzo Clayton, etc.), dominated thoroughbred racing in the 1800s. After glorifying the sport, Black riders, trainers, and groomers were met with violence and Jim Crow laws. Hall of Fame jockey Isaac Burns Murphy won the Kentucky Derby three times. Before Murphy's rise, Oliver Lewis won the first Kentucky Derby aboard Aristides in 1875.

## **Basketball**

Before the NBA, there were independent Black basketball teams (e.g., the Harlem Globetrotters, the New York Rens, etc.) during the "*Black Fives Era*" from 1904-1950.

Ora Washington (1899-1971) reigned as a twelve-year American Tennis Association champion from 1929-1937. Washington was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in 2009 and the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2018.

Don Barksdale, the first Black American to medal in basketball in the 1948 Olympics.

In 1950, Earl Lloyd, Charles Henry Cooper, and Nat "*Sweetwater*" Clifton were the first Black NBA players.

Harold Hunter became the first Black man to sign an NBA contract and coach the US Olympic team.

Wilt Chamberlain (1936-1999), Oscar Robinson (1938), and Bill Russell (1934) (first Black NBA superstar and coach) were the first-generation of superstars.

## **Tennis**

Lucy Diggs Slowe (1885-1937), the first Black American woman to win a major sports title. In 1917, Slowe won the American Tennis Association's first tournament. Ora Washington (1899-1971) won eight national singles titles, twelve national doubles titles, three mixed doubles titles, and played professional basketball. Althea Gibson (1927-2003) won eleven grand slam tournaments and ranked top 10. Arthur Ashe (1943-1993) won three grand slam tournaments and ranked number one.

## **Golf**

John Shippen, the first Black professional golfer in 1896.

Dewey Brown, the first Black member of the PGA (Professional Golfers' Association) in 1928.

Charlie Sifford, the first Black man to play with the PGA (Professional Golfers 'Association in 1961.

Joe Louis, the heavyweight boxing champion, fought for diversity in golf.

### **Soccer**

Briana Scurry, a World Cup champion, an Olympic gold medalist, a United States women's national soccer team member from 1994-2008, and the first Black American in the National Soccer Hall of Fame.

### **Lacrosse**

Lucien Alexis Jr.'s presence created controversy during segregated sports. Alexis Jr. is believed to be the first Black collegiate lacrosse player, in the 1940s.

Tina Sloan Green, the first Black woman to play for the United States women's national field hockey team and the United States women's national lacrosse team in 1969. Sloan Green was inducted into the US National Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 1997, the International Women's Sports Hall of Fame in 1999, and the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame in 2013.

Jim Brown, NFL and lacrosse champion, claimed the title of the first Black American in the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 1983.

Cherie Greer Brown reigned as a three-time World Champion, All-American, Olympic gold medalist, and in the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 2009.

### **Rodeo**

Cowboys herd animals, rope calves, ride bulls/broncs, and wrestle steers. Black American rodeo stars (Myrtis Dightman, Freddie "Skeet" Gordon, Willie Thomas, Harold Cash, Glynn Turman, Tex Williams, and James Thomas) followed in the footsteps of trailblazers, Bass Reeves, John Ware, Bose Ikard, Nat Love, and Bill Pickett, the first Black cowboy inducted into the National Rodeo Hall of Fame.

### **Equestrian: Polo, the Sport of Kings**

2011 National Champions "Work to Ride" Black Polo Team

### **Motorsports/Nascar**

Wendell Oliver Scott, the first Black American to win a race in the Grand National Series. Scott inspired the film Greased Lightning and was inducted into the International Motorsports Hall of Fame (1999) and NASCAR Hall of Fame (2015).

### **Mountaineering and Exploring**

Matthew Henson (1866-1955), the first recorded Black explorer to travel to the North Pole.

Barbara Hillary (1931-2019), the first Black woman to visit the North and South Poles.

Sophia Danenberg (1972), the first Black woman to climb to the summit of Mount Everest.

Woni Spotts (1964), the first Black woman to travel to every country and continent by September 2018.

Kai Lightner (1999), an award-winning professional rock climber and pioneer.

### **Aviation**

Bessie Coleman (1892-1926), the first Black American woman to hold a pilot's license.

### **Swimming**

Cullen Jones, an Olympic gold medalist in 2008 and 2012, Olympic silver medalist in 2007 and 2012, and the first Black person to hold a world record in swimming.

### **Surfing**

Black surfers in the 1950s (e.g., Nick Gabaldon) rode the waves on California's segregated beaches. Diving into uncharted waters set the stage for Montgomery "Buttons" Kaluhiokalani's (1958-2013) thrilling switch foot surfing and Larry "Rubberman" Bertlemann's (1955-) idolized surfing and skateboarding style.

### **Water Polo**

The first Black man to compete in the U.S. Water Polo World Championship. Kerr, an Olympian, played in multiple national and world championships in 1998-2010 and is a mentor and coach.

### **Beach Volleyball**

Dain Blanton, the First Black American to win an Olympic gold medal in 2000 in beach volleyball.

### **Sailing**

Teddy Seymour, the first Black American to sail around the world in 1987.

### **Fishing**

Alfred Williams, the first Black man, sponsored by Ranger Boats in 1988-2003, champion fisherman, touring with Bassmaster, FLW, etc.

### **Gymnastics**

Dominique Margaux Dawes, Olympic gold medalist in 1996, three-time Olympian, 10-year National Gymnastics team member, and the first Black person to win an individual medal in gymnastics. Dawes paved the way for future Olympians, gold medalists, and Team USA champions (e.g., Gabby Douglas, Simone Biles, and others).

### **Ballet**

Janet Collins (1917-2003), the first Black prima ballerina.

Alvin Ailey (1931- ) Award-winning choreographer

Raven Wilkinson (1935-2018), the first Black woman to dance with a major ballet company.

Debra Austin (1955- ), the first Black principal dancer with a major ballet company.

Misty Copeland (1982- ), the first Black principal dancer in American Ballet Theater's 75-year history.

### **Cheerleading**

Impact Xtreme, the first Black American squad to win a national championship title in 2021.



## **Bodybuilding**

Before the civil rights era, Leroy Colbert's 21-inch arms graced the covers of strength magazines. The presence of Black bodybuilders in the 1950s paved the way for Ronnie "The King" Coleman, the first Black bodybuilder to win eight consecutive Mr. Olympia competitions from 1998-2005. Coleman was inducted into the International Sports Hall of Fame in 2016.

## **Martial Arts**

In the 1970s, Black champions were masters of martial arts. Vic Moore, Jim Kelly, Moses Powell, Ron van Clief, Thomas "LaPuppet" Carroll, and Warren Lewis.

## **Wrestling**

Lloyd "Butch" Teaser, an Olympic medalist in 1973 and the first Black American to win a gold medal in a World Wrestling Championship.

## **Fencing**

Peter Westbrook, the first Black fencer to win a national title and a U.S. Olympic medal in 1984.

## **Archery**

Dallas Jones, the first Black U.S. Archery Champion in 2017.

## **Paralympic**

Bonnie St. John, the first Black American to medal at the Paralympic Winter Games in 1984.

## **Decathlon**

Milt Campbell, the first Black decathlon champion, and Olympic silver and gold medalist in 1952 and 1956.

## **Ice Skating**

Debi Thomas, a World Champion Figure Skater in 1986 and the first Black Winter Olympics medalist in figure skating in 1988.

## **Speed Skating**

Shani Davis, the first Black Olympic gold medalist in 2006 in an individual speed skating event.

## **Bobsledding**

Vonetta Flowers, the first Black American athlete to win a gold medal at the Winter Olympics in 2002.

## **Skateboarding**

Marty and Clyde Grimes, the first Black pro skateboarders in the 1970s.

## **Roller Skating/Derby**

Darlene Anderson, the first Black professional roller derby skater in 1958.

## **Double Dutch Jump Rope**

Black teams have dominated the American Double Dutch League Championships since its founding in 1973/74.

### **Bowling**

George Branham III, the first Black Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) national and world champion in 1993.

### **Billiards**

Cisero Murphy, the first Black American to win national and world billiards titles. Murphy was inducted into the Billiard Congress of America Hall of Fame in 1995.

### **Poker**

Phil Ivey, Poker Player of the Year titlist, World Poker tour titlist, and the first Black inductee in the Poker Hall of Fame in 2017.

### **Dominoes**

Jerome Wooten, a Black multi-champion ranked best in the world by the Professional Domino Association in the 2000s.

### **Checkers**

Carl Sylvester “*Buster*” Smith, an eleven-time, Top Master in the American Pool Checkers Association Division Championship from 1967.

### **Monopoly**

Brian Valentine, a United States Monopoly Representative. Valentine competed at the 2015 World Championship in Macau.

### **Chess**

Emory Andrew Tate Jr. (1958-2015), a Black five-time chess champion in the Armed Forces and an International Master of Chess.

### **Spelling Bees**

Marie C. Bolden, the 1908 National Education Association Spelling Bee Champion in the first national spelling contest in the United States of America.

### **Academic Competitions**

There are Black American champions in spelling, science, math, debating, etc.

### **Awards**

Black Americans have won Oscars, Grammys, Emmys, Tonys, Golden Globes, Beauty Pageants, Nobel Peace Prizes, Military Honors, and awards in Dancing, Choreography, Art, Literature, Teaching, Humanitarianism, etc since the early 1900s.

### **Music and Dance**

Black American music and dance genres are monetized and stigmatized by Eurocentrists, drumcirclized by Afrocentrists, doppelgängerized by foreigners, and fetishized by the globe. Award shows, halls of fame, and museums centered on music eclipse the originators of the genres.

From the beginning, European descendants had an unhinged reaction to Black American music and dance.

*“Our music (jazz) is strictly white man’s music...My contention is that the Negroes learned to play this rhythm and music from the whites...The Negro did not play any kind of music equal to white men at any time,”* said Band Leader, Nick LaRocca (Anna Hartwell Celenza, 2007, p. 109).

*“Monkey talk, jungle squeals, grunts and squeaks, and gasps suggestive of calf love are camouflaged by a few feverish notes and admitted in homes where the thing itself, unaided by scanned music,” would be stamped out in horror. The fluttering music sheets disclose expressions taken directly from the cesspools of modern capitals, to be made the daily slang, the thoughtlessly hummed remarks of school boys and girls,”* said Henry Ford of jazz (Harold David Brackman, 2000).

Superior dance acts (e.g., the Nicolas Brothers, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, John W. Bubbles, etc.) were rendered invisible to Fred Astaire (taught to tap dance by John W. Bubbles).

There were laws and global campaigns to censor “race records.” Black American music was banned in the United States of America, the United Kingdom, NAZI Germany, Italy, Japan, China, and Russia, referred to as “n\*\*\*er music, music of the lower races, jungle music, and enemy music (General Research Division, The New York Public Library, 1921-12).

Under the control of European descendants, country music became "hillbilly" and "country and western." Rock and roll became “heavy metal” and “hard rock” with shrill deafening sounds, guitar slamming, mosh pit dancing, and satanic lyrics.

Afrocentrists connected drum circles to the layered, complex compositions found in Black American music.

*“Jazz is known all over the world as an American musical art form and that's it. No America, no jazz. I've seen people try to connect it to other countries, for instance to Africa, but it doesn't have a damn thing to do with Africa,”* said Art Blakey (Arthur Taylor, 2009, p.242).

Modern African musicians Fela Kuti, Orlando Owoh Julius, and Ken Agyapong Jr. have publicly stated that afrobeat and highlife rest on the foundation of Black American music (John Darnton, 1977; Tejumola Olaniyan, 2004; Alexander Stewart, 2019, p. 104).

*“It was incredible how my head was turned. Everything fell into place, man. For the first time, I saw the essence of blackism (Black Nationalism). It's crazy; in the States, people think the Black power movement drew inspiration from Africa. All these Americans come over here looking for awareness. They don't realize they're the ones who've got it over there. Why we were even ashamed to go around in national dress until we saw pictures of blacks wearing dashikis on 125th St... I realized that to be a great man you have to have a great country behind you. I had no country, just a bunch of Africans running around in suits trying to be Englishmen. I decided to come back and try to make my country African.”* (John Darnton, 1977).

*“I started out playing Highlife and was the first to modernize it with Rock, Jazz, and R&B. It was Afrobeat, but my record company called it Afro-Soul,”* said Orlando Owoh Julius (Garhe Osiebe, 2022).

*“Jazz has formed the foundation for Ghana’s cultural and music scene. South African Amapiano, R&B...and it’s a genre that continues to grow with each new generation,”* said Ken Agyapong Jr., an Afrochella founder (Laura Kiniry, 2021).

Academics (e.g., Eve Stoddard, 2016.), authors, journalists, and award shows credit Caribbeans, Mexicans, and South Americans as hip-hop and rap originators. There are no recordings or videos pre-dating Black American hip-hop or rap (R. River, R., 2003; National Park Service, 2021).

*“I was listening to American music in Jamaica. That’s who inspired me. A lot of the records I played were by James Brown,”* said DJ Kool Herc, Jamaican (Ricky Vincent and Boots Riley, 2013, p. 121).

*“False equivalencies were drawn between Rap and Reggae. Jamaican toasting?”* *“Naw, naw. No connection there. I couldn’t play reggae in the Bronx. People wouldn’t accept it. The inspiration for Rap is James Brown and the album Hustler’s Convention,”* said DJ Kool Herc, Jamaican (Steven Hager, 2014, P. 64).

There are thoughtful ways to share culture. Dizzy Gillespie experimented with Latin rhythms, collaborated with Latin percussionists, and created Latin jazz (Dizzy Gillespie and Al Fraser, 2009, p. 313). The genre *“blue-eyed soul”* organically blossomed out of mutual respect and appreciation for Black American music (Lee Cooper, 2018). The list below shows the first Black American entertainment originators.

### **Work Songs**

The enslaved and imprisoned chain gangs (1600s-1900s) sang work songs. *“It was a ‘long, loud, musical shout, rising and falling and breaking into falsetto.”* -Frederick Law Olmstead, 1853

### **Spirituals and Gospel**

*“Slave Songbook”* (1867)

### **Barber Shop Quartet**

Unique Quartette, *“Mamma’s Black Baby Boy”* (1893)

Dinwiddie Colored Quartet, *“Down At The Old Camp Ground”* (1902)

### **Ragtime**

Scott Joplin, *“King of Ragtime”* Chicago World's Fair performer (1893) *“Please Say You Will”* (1895)

George Washington Johnson, *“The Laughing Song”* (1896)

Along the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, ragtime with honky-tonk piano players evolved.

### **Jazz**

Charles *“Buddy”* Bolden *“The First Jazzman”* (1895) *“Funky Butt”* aka *“Buddy Bolden's Blues”*

Versatile Four, *“Down Home Rag”* by Wilbur Sweatman (1916)

Joseph Nathan Oliver, *“King Oliver”* *“New Orleans Stomp”* (1923)

### **American Folk**

Elizabeth *“Libba”* Cotten *“Freight Train”* (1904)

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (2022)

Paul James and Fred Williams were sued for copyright infringement of the song *“Freight Train”* (1904).

## **Blues**

W. C. Handy, "*Memphis Blues*" (1912) "*St. Louis Blues*" (1914)

Mamie Smith and her Jazz Hounds, "*Crazy Blues*" (1920) Grammy Hall of Fame (1994)

Muddy Waters "*The Father of Chicago Blues*," "*Country Blues*" (1942), "*I Be's Troubled*" (1942)

Otis Rush, Buddy Guy, and Magic Sam played guitar-based blues which inspired rock and roll.

## **Country**

Deford Bailey, "*Harmonica Wizard*," Grand Ole Opry founder (1925)

Deford Bailey And The Golden Echo Quartet (1927)

"*Pan American Express*" (1927) "*Hesitation*" (1927)

Country Music Hall of Fame (2005)

*From the mid-1600s, the enslaved were portrayed on paintings as musicians (The Old Plantation circa late 1700s) and recorded as plantation party entertainment. Before the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, the banjo was associated with the enslaved. Later, Black Americans were mocked in minstrel shows by banjo-playing performers in blackface. As a child, James Charles Rodgers, "The Father Of Country Music" was taught the banjo and guitar by Black American railroad workers. Hank Williams referenced Rufus "Tee Tot" Payne saying, "All the musical training I ever had was from him." Black Americans are the originators of country music.*

## **Boogie Woogie**

Pinetop Smith, "*Pinetop's Boogie Woogie*" (1929)

## **Big Band Jazz and Swing**

The Duke Ellington Band, "*King Of Swing*" "*Soda Fountain Rag*" aka "*Poodle Dog Rag*" (1914) Cotton Club performer (1927)

Cab Calloway and His Orchestra, "*Minnie The Moocher*" (1931) Cotton Club performer (1931-1940)

*Count Basie's Big Band* (1935) "*One O'Clock Jump*" (1937)

Lionel Hampton Orchestra (1940) "*Flying Home*" (1939)

## **Scat**

Louis Armstrong, "*Heebie Jeebies*" (1926)

The Mills Brothers, "*Tiger Rag*" (1931)

Cab Calloway, "*Hi-De-Ho*" (1934)

Ella Fitzgerald, "*A-Tisket, A-Tasket*" (1938)

## **Rock and Roll**

Black Americans used the words "*Rock and Roll*" (to have sex) colloquially and in music lyrics. Trixie Smith, "*My Man Rocks Me With One Steady Roll*" (1922).

Robert Johnson, "*Cross Roads Blues*" (1936) "*Terraplane Blues*" (1936)

Sister Rosetta Tharpe, "*Rock Me*" (1938)



Arthur Crudup, *“That’s All Right Mama”* (1946)

Wynonie Harris, *“Good Rockin Tonight”* (1948)

Jackie Brenston, *“Rocket 88”* (1951)

Bo Diddley, *“Bo Diddley”* (1955)

Chuck Berry, *“Maybellene”* (1955)

Little Richard, *“Tutti Frutti”* (1955)

*“We recorded ‘Rocket 88 ’and you know that’s why they say ‘Rocket 88 ’was the first rock ‘n ’roll song, but the truth of the matter is, I don’t think that ‘Rocket 88 ’is rock ‘n ’roll. I think that ‘Rocket 88 ’is R&B, but I think ‘Rocket 88 ’is the cause of rock and roll existing.”* -Ike Turner

Roy Hamilton, the man behind Elvis Presley’s style and voice, signed with Okeh Records in 1953, a subsidiary of Columbia Records.

*“I think when Willie Dixon turned on the radio in Chicago twenty years after he wrote his blues, he thought, “That’s my song [Whole Lotta Love].” ... When we ripped it off, I said to Jimmy, “Hey, that’s not our song.” And he said, “Shut up and keep walking.”* -Robert Plant, *“Led Zeppelin IV”*

### **Punk Rock**

Death Band (Bobby, David, and Dannis Hackney), *“Spiritual • Mental • Physical”* (1974-76)

### **Grunge Rock**

Tina Marie Bell and Bam Bam, *“Villains (Also Wear White)”* (1984)

### **Military Cadence**

Willie Duckworth (WW2 soldier) *“Duckworth Chant/Sound Off!”* (1944)

### **Doo Wop Boy Bands**

The Ink Spots, *“My Prayer”* (1939)

The Turbans, *“When You Dance”* (1955)

The Jackson Five, *“I Want You Back”* (1969)

### **Bebop**

Dizzy Gillespie, *“Woody’n You”* (1942)

Coleman Hawkins, *“Rainbow Mist”* (1944)

Thelonious Monk, *“Round Midnight”* (1944)

Charlie *“Yardbird”* Parker, *“Now’s The Time”* (1945)

Miles Davis, *“First Miles”* (1945)

John Coltrane, *“Giant Steps”* (1959)

### **Jump Blues**

Louis Jordan, *“Is You Is Or Is You Ain’t My Baby?”* (1944)

Jump Blues, A Precursor Of Rhythm And Blues And Rock And Roll.

### **Bluegrass**

John Lusk, Murph Gribble, Albert York (Fiddle, Banjo, and Guitar) “*Rolling River*” (twenty recordings in 1946)

### **Rhythm and Blues/R&B**

Ray Charles, “*Confession Blues*” (1948)

The Orioles, “*It’s Too Soon To Know*” (1948)

Little Richard, “*Tutti Frutti*” (1955)

Sam Cooke, “*You Send Me*” (1957)

James Brown, “*Please Please Please*” (1958)

Aretha Franklin, “*Aretha*” (1960)

### **Soul**

Rhythm and Blues morphed into Soul, with elements of Jazz, Funk, and Rock and Roll.

Sam Cooke, “*You Send Me*” (1957)

James “*Godfather Of Soul*” Brown, “*Try Me*” (1958)

Ray Charles, “*What’d I Say*” (1959)

Aretha Franklin, “*Aretha*” (1960)

### **Motown Sound**

Motown artists: Marv Johnson (“*Come To Me,*” 1959, the first Tamla/Motown recording), The Jackson Five, Diana Ross, The Supremes, Marvin Gaye, Mary Wells, The Marvelettes, The Dramatics, Smokey Robinson, The Miracles, The Chi-Lites, Eddie Kendricks, The Temptations, Martha and the Vandellas, The Four Tops, The Spinners, Gladys Knight and The Pips, The Commodores, The Funk Brothers, etc.

### **Funk**

James Brown, “*Out Of Sight*” (1964) “*Papa’s Got A Brand New Bag*” (1965) “*Cold Sweat*” (1967)

Funkadelic, George Clinton, “*One Nation Under A Groove*” (1978)

Preservationists of Funk: James Brown, Parliament and Funkadelic, Zapp and Roger, Rick James, The Gap Band, The Bar-Kays, L.T.D., The Ohio Players, Lakeside, Commodores and Lionel Richie, Cameo, Stevie Wonder, Earth Wind and Fire, The Ohio Players, The Brothers Johnson, Prince, etc.

### **Disco**

In 1920s Harlem, spacious city loft residents hosted “*rent parties,*” laying the foundation for the disco scene.

Barry White, The Love Unlimited Orchestra, “*Love’s Theme*” written/recorded (1965/1973)

Preservationists of Disco: Barry White, Isaac Hayes, Donna Summer, Evelyn “Champagne” King, Thelma Houston, Gloria Gaynor, Rose Royce, Chic, The Pointer Sisters, A Taste Of Honey, etc.

### **Philadelphia Sound**

Philadelphia Sound artists: Gamble and Huff, The Sound of Philadelphia-TSOF (1974), McFadden & Whitehead, The Three Degrees, Billy Paul, The Intruders, Teddy Pendergrass, Harold Melvin & The Blue Notes, The Delphonics, MFSB, The Stylistics, The Dells, The Trammps, Patti LaBelle, Sister Sledge, Blue Magic, The O’Jays, Frankie Beverly and Maze, etc.

### **House and Electric**

Jesse Saunders, “*On & On*” (1984)

### **Rap**

Beale Street Sheiks, recorded works (1927-1929)

Frankie “*Halfpint*” Jaxon, recorded works (1927-1960)

Fisk Jubilee Singers, “*Preacher's Delight*” (1937)

The Mills Brothers, “*Caravan*” (1938)

Louis Thomas Jordan, “*You Gotta Have A Beat*” (1940s)

Muhammad Ali, “*I Am The Greatest*” (1963)

Pigmeat Markham, “*Here Comes The Judge*” (1968)

“*K.C. The Prince of Soul*,” rhythmically rhymed over Disco recordings (1970).

In New York (Charles ’Gallery, formerly Frank’s Famous Restaurant in Harlem, A Bunch of Grapes, the Stardust Ballroom, the Apollo Theater, etc.), Anthony Holloway aka “*DJ Hollywood*,” created “*Disco Rap*” by turning MC announcements into continuous rhyming (using the words “*Hip Hop*” and “*throw your hands in the air*”) over the percussion sections of Disco recordings (1971-).

“*DJ Hollywood*,” Robert Keith Wiggins aka “*Keef/Keith Cowboy*,” and Kevin Smith aka “*Lovebug Starski*,” etc. Rhymed using the words “*Hip Hop*” over R&B, funk, soul, etc, genres, creating modern “*Rap*” and “*Hip Hop*” (late 1970s).

Fatback Band, Bill Curtis, “*King Tim III (Personality Jock)*” (March 25, 1979)

Tupac Shakur, “*Same Song*” (1991)

### **Evolution of Disk Jockeys**

Jack L. Cooper, radio disk jockey (1930s) National Radio Hall of Fame (2012)

Mary Elizabeth Goode/“*Mary Dee*” radio disk jockey (1940s-1960s) and used two turntables.

Jonathon Cameron Flowers, “*Grandmaster Flowers*” opened for James Brown at Yankee Stadium (1969) and used up to three turntables.

Pete Jones, “*Pete DJ Jones*,” radio disk jockey (1970s-1980s)

Anthony Holloway aka “*DJ Hollywood*,” performed in New York (Charles ’Gallery, formerly Frank’s Famous Restaurant in Harlem, A Bunch of Grapes, the Stardust Ballroom, the Apollo Theater, etc.) (1971- )

Fatback Band, Bill Curtis, “*King Tim III (Personality Jock)*” (March 25, 1979)

Darren “*The Human Beat Box*” Robinson (Big Buff, The Ox That Rocks, and DJ Doctor Nice) won a Radio City Music Hall talent contest (1983) “*Human Beat Box*” (1984)

Hip Hop’s econd generation of DJs speak...

“*I was listening to American music in Jamaica. That’s who inspired me. A lot of the records I played were by James Brown.*” -DJ Kool Herc, Jamaican

*False equivalencies were drawn between Rap and Reggae. “Jamaican toasting?” “Naw, naw. No connection there. I couldn’t play Reggae in the Bronx. People wouldn’t accept it. The inspiration for Rap is James Brown and the album Hustler’s Convention.”* -DJ Kool Herc

### **Evolution of Breakdancing**

Thomas Edison's early motion pictures, “*The Pickaninny Dance from The Passing Show*” (1894)

Mills Brothers, “*Caravan*” (1938)

Will Maston Trio, “*Dancing Boogie*” (1938)

Bill Bailey, “*The Cabin In The Sky*” (1943) “*Backslide/Moonwalk*”

James Brown, splits, boogaloo, shuffle, etc. (1960s-2000s)

Don “*Campbellock*” Campbell, *Soul Train* (1971-1973)

Sam Solomon, “*Boogaloo Sam*” and Timothy Solomon, “*Popin ’Pete*” *Soul Train* (1970s-1980s)

### **Hip Hop**

“*Hep/hip*” (wise, sophisticated, or street smart) first appeared in the Cincinnati Enquirer on May 9, 1903. “*Hop*,” a word used since the 1700s to describe informal dances (sock hop, Lindy hop, Virginia hop, etc.). On December 4, 1970, a headline in the Great Lakes Bulletin reads, “*Hip, Hop, Thuh-ree, Fo*” in relation to military marching.

### **Urban Graffiti**

Graffiti/graffio (origins Italian, meaning “*scratch*”) dates back thousands of years in ancient Greece, Pompeii, and Anatolia. Graffiti, style writing, aerosol, and tagging emerged during the 1960s in Black America's urban cities.

Originators of Urban Graffiti: Darryl McCray, “*Cornbread*” (first tag 1965)

### **Highlife**

Highlife, a West African music genre based on European brass bands. British colonists and sailors introduced “*Western music*,” Black American Jazz. The name “*Highlife*” originates from its aristocratic audiences and exclusive clubs. Highlife fuses Akan and Kpanlogo music traditions with Jazz and later Rock, Hip-Hop, and Afrobeat. E.T. Mensah, the “*King of Highlife*,” played with Louis Armstrong, which introduced West Africans to Jazz.

“*I started out playing Highlife and was the first to modernize it with Rock, Jazz, and R&B. It was Afrobeat, but my record company called it Afro-Soul.*”-Orlando Owoh Julius

*“Jazz has formed the foundation for Ghana’s cultural and music scene. South African Amapiano, R&B...and it’s a genre that continues to grow with each new generation.” -Ken Agyapong Jr., an Afrochella founder.*

### **Latin Jazz**

Latin rhythms were experimented with by Black American Jazz artists over the years. For authenticity, Dizzy Gillespie's band featured Chano Pozo in a 1947 Carnegie Hall performance. Collaborations with Chano Pozo and Mario Bauzá further developed Latin Jazz, a genre created in America.

*“Jazz is known all over the world as an American musical art form and that's it. No America, no jazz. I've seen people try to connect it to other countries, for instance to Africa, but it doesn't have a damn thing to do with Africa.” -Art Blakey*

### **Ska, Reggae and Dancehall**

Caribbean songs about boats, bananas, and multiculturalism (“*Banana Boat/Day-O*,” *One Love*,” etc.) were viewed as novelty acts in the United States of America. In stark contrast, Black Americans played Jazz and sang the Blues, as music genres evolved from churches, urban life, and a sense of freedom.

Roscoe Gordon’s “*Roscoe Rhythm*” accented the off beats. Gordon’s song, “*No More Doggin*” (1952) became a hit in Jamaica and the foundation of Ska, Rocksteady, and Reggae music. During a labor shortage following WW2, Caribbean workers discovered Black American dance/block parties. The workers returned home with newfound techniques, Black American albums, and deejaying equipment. The first commercially successful sound system, “*Tom the Great Sebastian*”, was founded by Chinese-Jamaican businessman Tom Wong. Later, Chinese Jamaicans worked behind the scenes as producers, technicians, and distributors of Reggae music. Caribbeans hosted “*blues parties*,” playing Black American music from sound systems. The tradition morphed into Dancehall music, popular in the Caribbean and the United Kingdom. Johnny Nash, a non-Jamaican, recorded the first international reggae hit, “*Hold Me Tight*” (1968). In Jamaica, Black American music played on radio stations in the Southern United States, inspired Bob Marley and future generations.

### **Afrobeat**

*Fela Kuti, James Brown and the invention of Afrobeat*, Alexander Stewart, p. 104

### **Dance Genres**

Buck Dance, Tap Dancing, Boogie-woogie, Cakewalk, Swing, Ragtime, Charleston, Jitterbug, Twist, Jive, Jookin, Hand Jive, Lindy Hop, Crip Walk, Cabbage Patch, Dougie, Humpty, Urban Street Dances (Boogaloo, Popping, Locking, Robot, Worm, Centipede, Turfing, Krumping, Jerk, etc.), Roller Disco, Moonwalk, Hammertime, Soul Train Line, and HBCU Marching Band dances.

### **HBCU**

HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) perform intricate marching steps with stylized brass band music. (1800s-)



## **Hollywood**

From technology to superstardom, Black Americans were at the forefront of entertainment, a history rarely spoken of. Lewis Latimer invented carbon filament and worked with Thomas Edison. The innovation led to the film projector (Cinemontage, 2020). In the 1890s, Berlinger, Columbia, and Thomas Edison recorded Black Americans. “*Something Good-Negro Kiss*” (1898) portrayed Black American life with tender romantic scenes. Born in 1884, Oscar Micheaux was one of the first Black American filmmakers. Micheaux’s father was born enslaved to French Huguenots in Kentucky (Betti Carol VanEpps, 1999). The 1900s ushered in the first superstars (Josephine Baker, Lena Horne, Eartha Kitt, Pearl Bailey, Dorothy Dandridge, Theresa Harris, Katherine Dunham, Joyce Bryant, Nia Mae McKinney, Ruby Dee, Ossie Davis, Paul Robeson, and Diahann Carroll).

## **Stand-Up Comedy**

Stand-up comedy began in the early 1800s with “*black-face*” minstrel shows, followed by vaudeville (late 1800s-1930s). Later, the Chitlin’ Circuit (1930s-1970s) featured Black American entertainers (the University of Arizona, n.d).

## **Inventions and Innovations**

Between the mid-1800s and the mid-1900s, Black Americans registered 50,000+ patents. Inventions, innovations, and achievements in agriculture, mechanics, medicine, architecture, technology, science, mathematics, astronomy, space travel (astronauts), and NASA’s race to space moved the United States of America forward. Academics rarely write about Black American inventors (National Park Service, 2021). The list below shows Black American inventors and innovators.

### **Lewis Howard Latimer**

An expert draftsman, Latimer improved Thomas Edison's light bulb with carbon filament. The innovation kept the bulb lit. Latimer worked with Alexander Graham Bell on the telephone. Latimer defended Bell in court against a rival inventor seeking the same patent.

### **Emmitt Mchenry**

Using McHenry’s complex codes, .com, .net, .edu, .gov, etc., browsing the internet and emailing without understanding computer science was made possible.

### **Henry Sampson**

Pioneer of the cell phone and awarded several patents.

### **Jesse Eugene Russel**

Pioneer of the cell phone and awarded several patents.

Father of 2G communications and patents that made mobile technology possible.

### **Mark Dean**

Invented the isa systems bus and the GHz RISC processor chip.

### **Gerald A. Lawson**

Pioneer of video games.

**John Henry Thompson**

Invented lingo programming and XObjects.

**Marc Regis Hannah**

Developed 3-D special effects graphics technology used in films.

**Valerie Thomas**

Innovator in 3-D and invented the illusion transmitter used by NASA.

**George R. Carruthers**

Invented the first observatory on the moon, the far ultraviolet camera/spectrograph, used in the Apollo 16 mission.

**Roscoe L. Koontz**

Invented the collimator and pinhole gamma-ray camera.

**James Edward West**

Invented the electroacoustic transducer electret microphone.

**Dr. Daniel Hale Williams**

Pioneer in heart surgery.

**Patricia Era Bath**

Invented LASERPHACO for laser eye surgery.

**Otis Frank Boykin**

Invented resistors for guided missiles and control units in pacemakers.

**Ernest Everett Just**

Pioneer in marine biology and zoology.

**Charles Richard Drew**

Pioneer in blood transfusions and blood banks.

**Garrett Augustus Morgan**

Invented the three-position traffic signal and the gas mask.

**Benjamin Banneker**

Astronomer, mathematician, surveyor, naturalist, and almanac author.

**Alexander Miles**

Pioneer in modern-day elevator design.

**Granville Tailer Woods**

Invented the multiplex telegraph and railway devices.

**Benjamin Thornton**

Invented the predecessor to the answering machine device.

**Philip B. Downing**

Invented an electrical railway switch and the modern-day street postal mailbox.

**Henry Brown**

Invented a strongbox for personal valuables.

**Charles B. Brooks**

Improved the street sweeper.

**C. R. Patterson and Son's Cars**

Produced automobiles of superior quality to Henry Ford's mass-produced Model T.

**David N. Crosthwait Jr.**

Invented heating systems for large buildings, the vacuum pump, thermostat control, and the automobile turn signal.

**Frederick Mckinley Jones**

Invented the portable refrigeration machine, a unit for military air conditioning, the self-starting gas engine, and movie projector devices.

**Booker T. Whatley**

Tuskegee University professor, horticulturist, and author.

**Henry Blair**

Invented the corn planter and a mechanical cotton planter.

**Thomas Elkins**

A dentist, abolitionist, surgeon, and pharmacist who improved the refrigeration apparatus and the modern toilet.

**George Washington Carver**

Agricultural scientist and inventor specializing in soil regeneration, crop rotation, and composting.

**Augustus Jackson**

Perfecting ice cream preparation techniques and manufacturing as a White House chef.

**George Speck/Crum**

Created potato chips.

**Percy Lavon Julian**

Researcher, chemist, and pioneer in chemical synthesis of medicinal drugs from plants.

**Shirley Ann Jackson**

Telecommunications research led to the touch-tone telephone, portable fax, fiber optic cable, solar cells, call waiting, and caller ID.

**Woni Spotts**

## **NASA Engineers Mathematicians Scientists Astronauts**

(Katherine Johnson (calculated the moon landing), Mae Jemison (the first Black woman in outer space), Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Jeanette Scissum, Melba Roy, Annie Easley, Ronald McNair, Fred Gregory, Robert Satcher, Leland D. Melvin, Stephanie Wilson, Joan Higginbotham, Michael P. Anderson, Guion S. Bluford Jr, Charles F. Bolden, Yvonne Cagle, Robert L. Curbeam, Benjamin Alvin Drew, Winston E. Scott, Bernard A. Harris Jr., etc.).

## **Real-Time Case Study**

### **Woni Spotts: the First Black Woman to Travel to Every Country and Continent**

The story began long before Woni Spotts' birth. Charles Robert Hamilton, Spotts' great-grandfather was born enslaved in 1850. After the Union Army's liberation of South Carolina, Hamilton, aged 10, served as a Union Army orderly, settled in Ohio, and married Ellen Bowles after the Civil War (Lima News 1933, October 10). Charles Robert Hamilton's daughter, Lenora/Lena Marian Hamilton married Hardin Allen Spotts, becoming Marian Hamilton Spotts. Marion Hamilton Spotts' contributions to education, charitable organizations, and Civil Rights are displayed at the Amistad Research Center (Amistad Research Center 2021, November 24; Spotts).

Roger Hamilton Spotts was born in 1928, in Cincinnati, Ohio to Marian and Hardin Spotts. Spotts' career as a composer, performer, and music director spanned decades. Spotts played the saxophone and piano with dozens of music icons, Dizzy Gillespie, Ray Charles, Count Basie, Lionel Hampton, Papa John Creach, etc. (IMDb, (n.d.)). Betty Spotts (née Mosley) played the Fender Rhodes and sang in live venues and on televised variety shows (IMDb, (n.d.)). The couple married in 1959. By 1964, Woni Spotts was born in Los Angeles, California. Roger Hamilton Spotts' contributions to entertainment are displayed at the Amistad Research Center (Amistad Research Center, Roger Hamilton, 1928 Repository).

The close-knit family traveled internationally with music as the centerpiece. With an overprotective mother and a fearless father, life was unpredictable. Spotts was asked to host a documentary by Nolan Davis, author of *"Six Black Horses"* (1971), a friend of the family (La Rouge, M. (n.d.)). The documentary, *"Passing Through"* (1989) had the lofty goal of filming in every country and continent in four years. The crew was instructed to capture capital cities, culture, museums, and nature. A vegan and animal lover, the teen protested the harsh treatment of animals. The crew lingered in areas with vulnerable children and connected with charitable organizations. From 1979 to 1982, Spotts traveled to what are now 165 countries. After four years of filming, a fifth year loomed. Once the expeditioners returned to California, funding and enthusiasm waned. Nolan Davis and the crew (i.e., chaperone, two cameramen, and two pilots) became involved with other projects.

As time passed, Spotts attended an international university, formed an eCommerce company, and continued philanthropic activities (funding micro-loans, charities, and preserving endangered cultures). From 2014 to 2018, Spotts honored a vow by planning expeditions to the 30 countries the documentary missed. The territories explored between 1980 and 2018 were Greenland, Antarctica, Tahiti, Easter Islands, The Galápagos, Hawaii, Transnistria, Western Sahara, Socotra, Tibet, the Canary Islands, Cyprus, Wales, Scotland, Tibet, Vatican, Palestine, Kosovo, Taiwan, Siberia, Somaliland, Kashmir, Channel Islands, Santa Catalina Island, etc. On September 17, 2018, Woni Spotts traveled to every country and continent at 54 years, 8 months, and 11 days old (The Travelers 'Century Club®, 2019, August 24; Udodiong, I. (2019, July 10).

When stories of the history-making adventurer were publicized in 2019, news circulated online. Unbelievably, death threats were received and editors received demands to remove articles. A critic stated that Spotts' travels were null and void because of the Soviet Union's occupation during the 1980s. Based on the critic's standard of counting countries, the travel of older adventurers' was invisible. Jane Goodall never worked with chimpanzees in Tanzania. Its previous names were German East Africa and the United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar.

Ironically, after the critic claimed to have visited every country, it was discovered that Syria was represented by Golan Heights, Israel on the itinerary. Two of the countries the critic completed announced name changes. Swaziland became Eswatini in 2018 and Macedonia became The Republic of North Macedonia in February 2019. Travelers' Century Club, founded in 1954, stated that countries are counted on the map, not by occupations or politics (Travelers Century Club, n.d.). By every travel organization's rules, entering Latvia under Soviet control counts as traveling to Latvia. Spotts physically stood in every country, walked in cities before they became capitals (Juba, Asmara, Kinshasa, Ouagadougou, and Windhoek), dined in regions that may one day become countries (Basque and Transnistria), and crossed borders into occupied countries, now defunct (e.g., the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, and Czechoslovakia).

Critics bounded from ageism to ethnic bigotry, stating that the title of "*first Black*" should be reserved for travelers with 100% African DNA. Black Americans created the term "*first Black*" to celebrate milestones. Black Americans are on average 24% European with DNA from five to six continents. With a genealogy study showing eight Black American great-grandparents, four Black American grandparents, and two Black American parents, Spotts' ethnicity is the standard for Black Americans.

Initially, Spotts was thrilled that an African descendant inspired international tourism. Unfortunately, the critic tried and failed to represent the typical "*Black American woman*." The critic complained of endless discrimination (including in Africa) and spewed anti-American rhetoric. Spotts feared Black American women and women, in general, would be turned off. Black Americans have been a global presence for centuries as elite military forces, iconic Olympians, world-class athletes, volunteers, teachers, award-winning entertainers, and ex-pats. Due to negative stereotypes (asylum seeking, immigration, international crime, ETC.), Africans and Caribbeans are treated differently.

On Instagram live, the critic glorified eating bushmeat by feasting on a pangolin, an endangered wildlife species. Animal rights activists were infuriated triggering petitions and an article in Africa Geographic (Africa Geographic, 2019, June 6). On the same day, the critic arrived in the "*last country*," Spotts' Wikipedia page was vandalized and later removed (Woni Spotts, 2019, October 10). Articles featuring the critic had to be re-edited several times to acknowledge the real first Black woman to travel to every country and continent. On February 25, 2023, Spotts was inducted into the Hidden History Museum in Los Angeles, California. Reminiscent of the fable, "*The Tortoise and the Hare*," the hare raced around in circles while the tortoise crossed the finish line. Spotts moved in silence, never posting on social media.

#### **4.0 FINDINGS**

The presented research showed centuries of untold, reframed, stigmatized, and fetishized Black American history and culture. In the case studies, foreigners of African descent (Africans, Caribbeans, Central Americans, and South Americans) practiced ethnocidal behavior in concert



with European descendants. Prolific abolitionists, patriots, politicians, and inventors were written out of history. Superstar athletes were obstructed or outshined by fictional characters (e.g., Rocky Balboa). Artists (actors, musicians, singers, dancers, etc.) were the most impacted. In recent years, ethical chroniclers have published books and journals acknowledging an inspiring portfolio of Black American works. The origins of music and dance genres with publishing and recording dates were clarified. The case study of Woni Spotts exhibited a microcosm of ethnocide in real time. Spotts' historic journey was invisible to the media, reframed, defamed, fetishized, and sabotaged.

## 5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Case studies showed centuries of fragmented narratives created biases and distortions. Black Americans were written out of history, reframed as background characters, stigmatized with skewed statistics, and fetishized globally to the point of ethnocide.

Entertainment icons and sports legends (Michael Jackson, Muhammad Ali, etc.) are shared around the globe. Black American scholarships, museums, HBCU clubs, organizations, and politics are open to foreigners of African descent. Black History Month, an American observance, faced criticism for not centering on foreigners of African descent. There are over one hundred countries in Africa, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America where over a billion African descendants' cultures are represented every day. By cosplaying Black Americans, foreigners open soul food restaurants, seasonal holiday stores (Black History Month, Juneteenth, Martin Luther King, etc.), and star in films featuring fabled Black Americans. "*black face*" skits mocked Black Americans in minstrel and vaudeville shows. After years of fighting against negative portrayals by European descendants and foreigners of African descent (e.g., Stepin Fetchit, a Jamaican), the Chitlin 'Circuit emerged. Foreigners of African descent built no parallel entertainment to Hollywood, were not humiliated by, and never fought against crude 1800s portrayals.

In stark contrast, foreigners of African descent gate keep homegrown celebrities (e.g., Bob Marley), athletes (e.g., Usain Bolt, and Pelé), cuisines, U.S.-based foreign scholarships, museums, foreign clubs in HBCUs, organizations (e.g., the African Union and CARICOM), politics, holidays (e.g., Carnival). Nollywood actor, Ghanaian Joseph Van Vicker faced death threats from Nigerians. Latin Americans resent the lack of roles in Hollywood and playing Black Americans and European descendants. Media companies (e.g., Televisa, etc.) in South America represent Spanish-speaking performers across the entire continent. "*What's mine is mine, and what's yours is ours...until it's all mine.*"

The presented research stands as a vital resource for preservationists. Music and dance genre architects were solidified by publishing and recording dates. Athletic events, inventions, and NASA scientists were recorded. Awe-inspiring innovators are uncovered every year. The goal to posthumously pay tribute to hidden history is a generational undertaking.

As a show of good faith, academics, journalists, and authors are challenged to write about inspiring geniuses, uplifting barrier-breakers, and root out poor scholarship.

Self-preservation is the path forward. Symbolism without substance is at the heart of Black American politics. The Congressional Black Caucus and other institutions' mission statements focus on foreign affairs. Caucuses and organizations representing Asians, Hispanics, Native Americans, Arabs, etc.) are laser-focused. Black Americans spend hundreds of billions annually. Divestment from parasitic businesses (e.g., no Black Americans employed, outgoing remittances, and no community ties) is key. Future activists are encouraged to rally and canvas door-to-door

with flyers. Offer silent support by paying for bail and legal expenses for protestors. Create organizations, fundraise, and obtain grants to fund the movement. Apply for commissions, write legislation, and run for office. Use social media to spread the message, and respond to “calls to action.” Afrocentrist and POC ideologies failed. The “power in numbers” theory is a myth. There are over a billion African descendants with eighty-nine United Nations seats and over one hundred countries in Africa, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. Forty million Black Americans have defended the interests of over 1.3 billion African descendants for decades with financial, political, civil, military, and humanitarian support.

With ingenuity, heroism, and humanitarianism, the survivors of the middle passage built the foundation of the United States of America. Around obstacles, ingenious inventors modernized civilization. Diamonds honed under oppression originated music worshipped by award shows and halls of fame. The sports dynamic of black versus white created empires. Placing the stars of the show in the audience is an unethical and ethnocidal act by a collective consciousness. The phenomenon is globalized, creating an epic battle for Black American culture with the world.

In the presented research in the real-time case study of Woni Spotts, passport stamps, photos, journals, letters, filming permits, receipts, airline tickets, tour companies, certificates, and itineraries were cataloged. Ultimately Spotts obtained verification from archivists, a travel club, and a tourism company. The tour companies used from 2014 to 2018 were Jacada Travel, Abercrombie and Kent, Steppes Travel, Brendan Tours, Kensington Tours, Enchanting Travels, TCS World Travel around the World by Private Jet, etc. Spotts earned certificates for Crossing the International Date Line (2-8-14), Sailing to Antarctica (12-22-14), First Class Galapagos Argonaut (12-20-14), Silver Status Award by the Travelers’ Century Club (4-19-19), Noun Travel (2019), and Gold Status Award by the Travelers’ Century Club (4-19-19). Spotts hosts virtual visits with school children about geography and travel. UK and International schools feature classes bearing Woni Spotts' name. As a tribute to the dozens of letters sent to family and friends from all over the planet, Spotts authored a poetic and artistic book titled, “*Letters from Everywhere*.” (2020).

The description from the book says, “*follow Woni Spotts as she...lives in an isolated yurt on the Eurasian steppe and in a hut on the Indian Ocean ventures into a dark mysterious cave surrounded by a dense forest carpeted with delicate blooming flowers roams through bustling bazaars, night markets, museums, and colorful festivals wanders around Holland's tulip fields, a castle's hedge maze, and the Cliffs of Moher praises the Hagia Sophia, Taj Mahal, and the Vatican's art. The templing flows into Angkor Wat, the Temple of Heaven, and the Tiger's Nest tours pyramids in Egypt, Roman Baths, Pompeii, and the Greco-Roman Empire finds lost cities in the Aztec, Maya and Incan worlds (Tenochtitlán, Chichén Itzá, Uxmal, Chacchoben, Edzna, Tulum, Palenque, Coba, Tikal, Caracol, Copan, Machu Picchu, Cusco, Sacsayhuaman, Sacred Valley, Ollantaytambo, Incan trail, Isla del Sol and Isla de la Luna, Tiwanaku/Puma Punku and Lake Titicaca) marvels at Moai on Easter Island, Stonehenge, and Moorish palaces in Granada, Seville, and Cordoba stands in awe of architecture in Rome, The Red Square, Park Güell, and Manhattan awakens in a hacienda in Mexico, a thatch-roof home on a farm, and a cave hotel in Santorini mulls over marriage proposals from Bedouin, Turkish, and Egyptian men forgets to breathe during heart-stopping checkpoints sails on an icebreaker under Antarctica's midnight sun and drifts on a dugout canoe in the South Pacific dives deep in a ship to explore the Great Coral Reef and celebrates New Year's Eve on the Nile slides on icy Scandinavian lakes and salt flats*

*from Patagonia to Utah spots animal crossings as elephants, monkeys, and bovines pass by sits atop camels striding through sand dunes in Arabian, Gobi, and Sahara deserts views panoramas from a lush rice terrace, the Swiss Alps, and the Himalayas discovers agricultural practices and tastes foods from around the globe spots penguins and whales in South Africa, Galapagos, and Antarctica bird watches near Iceland's sea cliffs, along Namibia's Skeleton Coast, and the Eastern Seaboard in the United States of America floats in a balloon over Cappadocia's unique landscape and over the Blue Hole in the Caribbean sea, rides by tuk-tuk in South East Asia and by jeep on a Serengeti safari meets traditional people in the Congo, Botswana, the Amazon, and the Siberian tundra returns home to the California coastline."*

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