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THE AFRICAN DREAM IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (LATE OF 19TH _ EARLY OF 21ST CENTURY)
“FROM THE WHITE SUPREMACY TO THE BLACK PRESIDENCY”

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Dedication

At the outset, I have to thank “Allah” who guides and gives me the patience and capacity for conducting this research.

I would like to express my gratitude to my family especially My Mother who encouraged me greatly in this project and to my brothers, my sisters and my husband.

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Abstract

Most of the Africans decided to emigrate, leave their countries of origin, and go to the American Continent. Most of them were looking for freedom, and others were looking for wealth in the new continent, which they believed were abundant. Not all Africans had immigrated to America voluntarily; some of them were in fact taken by force, which were exploited to work in agriculture. The migration of Africans to America was unique in contrast to migratory groups, where most Africans came to North America as servants, trapped in a brutal system of human exploitation. Most of them led a difficult life that last for centuries and they have fought a long battle for freedom, dignity and decent life in the American society. So, this research sheds light on the issue of African-Americans and the way they freed themselves from slavery and the challenge of white rule for centuries until they realized their purpose during the elections of 2008. In my research, I am trying to address many significant events in African-American history from the end of the 19th century, which saw the movement to abolish slavery in the American Continent until the year 2008 that witnessed the realization of the African dream when Obama became president.

Key Words

*Freedom

* African-Americans

*African Dream

*White Rule

*Slavery

*Barack Obama

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General Introduction

The European desire of making relations with Africans, especially in the economic domain, was considered as the source that undoubtedly led to the expansion of the slavery disaster from the African Continent to the rest of the world. Most of the victims of this Trans-Atlantic Trade were Africans; the latter were targeted to be brought forcefully to the British North America during the establishment of the first colony of Virginia. They were obliged to serve their masters in the domain of plantation, especially in Tobacco.

The enslaved people suffered a lot under the system of slavery. They were treated as a property to be sold and bought at any time. Many issues are to be dealt with in this research like the opposition to slavery to simply show that the black enslaved people were also human-being like others, and they used to live their own lives which seemed to be quite different from the one of their masters. They suffered from the white supremacy which was imposed on them forcefully, believing that the black community did not deserve the American citizenship, but blacks were considered no more than slaves. This racial ideology against blacks was the daily suffering of many coloured people who were deprived of their individual liberties and separated from their families.

The African-Americans demanded equal treatment in all areas and entered into a confrontation with the white through the riots they were waging until they were freed from white supremacy, the abolition of racial discrimination, the winning of the vote and stand for election. Obama's arrival to power was a clear significance of the realization of the African dream in America. At first glance it appeared that Africans now have a homeland with security and equality. The purpose of my research, then, is to answer the following question: Did President Obama satisfies the needs of the Black Community? As possible answer, one may suggest that Obama made an evolution in achieving equal rights for African-Americans where they have the right to vote and practice various activities freely, and participated to the provision of employment in many areas. For that, this work divided into three chapters; the first chapter sheds light on the African- Americans challenge against enslavement. Next, the second chapter tackles the struggle against the white supremacy and African-Americans Civil Rights Movement. Finally, chapter three discuss the issue of the realization of the African Dream when Obama became president. The issue of black presidency was my interest in my topic, and Obama's personality inspired me.

Chapter One

The African-Americans Challenge against Enslavement

Introduction

Slavery was adopted throughout the American colonies in the 17th to 18th centuries, and African slaves helped build the new nation into an economic powerhouse through the production of lucrative crops such as tobacco and cotton. By the mid-19th century, America's westward expansion and the abolition movement provoked a great debate over slavery that would tear the nation apart in the bloody civil war. Though the Union Victory freed the nation's four million slaves, the legacy of slavery continued to influence American history, from the Reconstruction era 1865 to the Civil Rights Movement 1960 that emerged a century after emancipation.

The first chapter deals with the most important period of time in the African Americans history. It is about African Americans challenge against Enslavement. Before engaging deeply into the subject of the Anti-Slavery and the Reconstruction era, a historical background should be referred to in order to show that this disaster of human exploitation start in the American continent after the period of the establishment of the first British colony Virginia.

1.1. Historical Views on Slavery

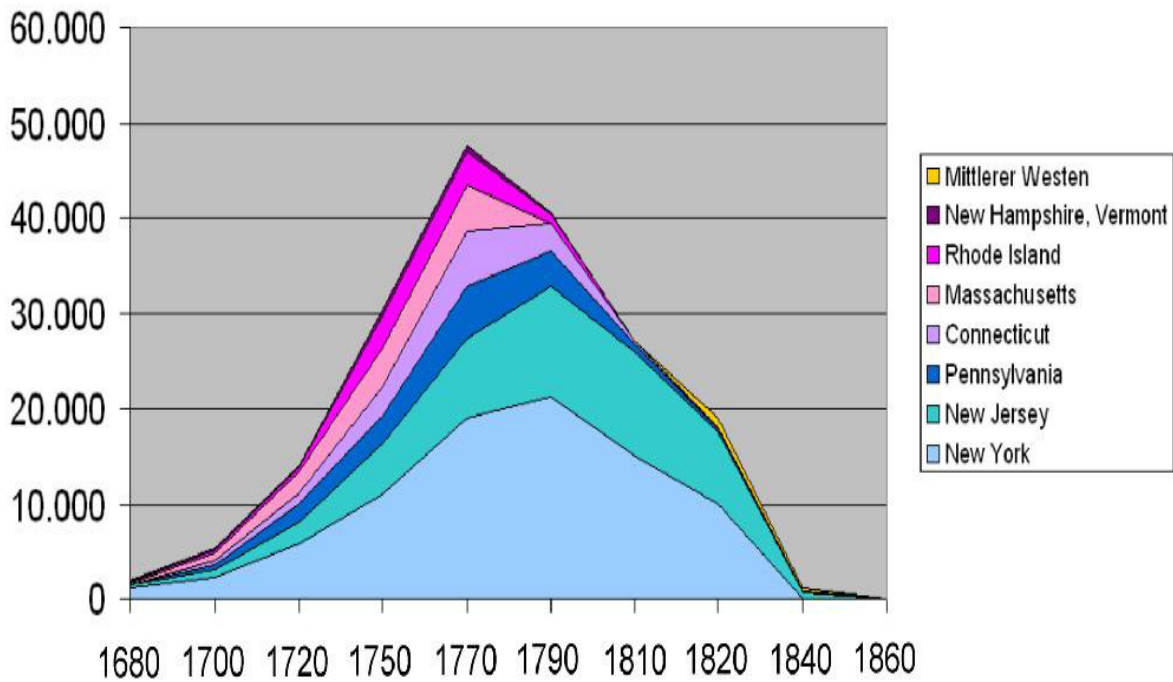
According to some specialists in the field of civilization, slavery had been adopted before written records were dealt with. It is so in the sense that the earliest or the old known records in ancient times referred to slavery as an institution already established and not as a new one. For instance, slavery in the United States started to take place after the English colonists established their first colony Virginia in 1606. More than a decade later, Virginia

witnessed an important event in American history; it was the arrival of a Dutch warship carrying twenty (20) African slaves. This process of enslavement continued and lasted more than two centuries until it was banned by the thirteen amendments of the constitution of 1787 that succeeded to make union between Americans under a powerful and centralized government after the failure of the Article of Confederation.

As previously mentioned, the first group of black African slaves arrived to Jamestown¹ after being captured from a Spanish ship. These black slaves were taken against their will to join the indentured slaves already in Virginia. So, the period of the seventeenth century witnessed an active slave trade in the whole country that exploited innocent human beings against their will to serve a white minority of slave owners in the American society. The graph below represents the statistics over slavery in a period of two centuries.

Figure 01: The slave population in the period between 1680 and 1860

¹ The Jamestown settlement in the Colony of Virginia was the first permanent English settlement in America. It was the first colony where the British Empire began. Established by the Virginia Company of London as "James Fort" on May 4th, it served as the capital of the colony for 83 years, from 1619 until 1699. Howard, Z. "*A People's History of the United States*". printed in the United States of America, 2001, p.28



Source:<http://www.google.fr/imgres?imgurl=https://upload.wikimedia.org>. Accessed on April 14th, 2018.

The graph above shows the increasing number of slaves within the American continent in the period between 1680 and 1860. The number of slaves increased from 5000 slaves in 1700 to more than 45000 in 1770. So, within two centuries, the number of slaves increased of more than 40000. This indicates that the Americans were interested in practising slavery and bringing slaves from Africa to be exploited in the field of plantation in USA, especially in the Southern part of the country.

According to historians, ninety five percent of slaves lived in the south and constituted the third of southern population. In the 19th century, the labour of African Americans contributed efficiently in the enhancement of the United States wealth. There was an exchange of slaves between African traders themselves and Europeans. Africans were not safe even in their countries because of the conspiracy of African traders within the African society against their brothers. The slave exchange formed a triangular trade between three continents: Europe, Africa and America. These continents witnessed a violation of human rights against a large number of Africans who found themselves face to face with a bitter reality that divided the society between two social classes, one which considered itself as the one that ought to run

the country and to exploit the remaining minority for its benefits, and another class which had to serve the previous one and had no right to claim or rebel against. The map below shows the main routes that Europeans followed during this process of international trade that emerged after the commercial contacts between European and African traders (see Map 01)

Map 01: The Atlantic Slave Trade Route



Source: https://www.maps.com/ref_map.aspx?pid=11318) Accessed on April 14th, 2018

If anyone goes deeply into the map, he may notice that this trade takes the form a triangle between three significant parts of the globe; between Europe, Africa and the American continent. Although most African slaves brought to the New Land World were forced to learn cultivation techniques and work habits vastly different from those of West Africa, a small minority of slaves were desired precisely because their prior skills in Africa paralleled those economic activities evolving in north and South America. Some West African slaves who had extensive experience in cattle were rising specifically brought to the Texas frontier. Other slave familiar with West African cotton cultivation was highly prized by planters spreading the Cotton Kingdom. However the South Carolina rice planters made the most extensive use of recently arrived Africans familiar with the rice cultivation. The map below shows these Afro-American mercantile contacts (see Map 02).

Map02: The Triangle of Slave Trade 16th and 18th century



Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triangular_trade(Accessed on April 14th 2018).

As it has been already mentioned, the establishment of the first colony Jamestown witnessed the arrival of the first group of African slaves to the new land. This historical event leads us to shed light on this illegal trade within the first British colony Virginia.

The latter was established in 1607 as the first British colony in the North America. People in this area, were interested a lot in plantation. This domain urgently needed slaves who were exploited in working for the benefit of their masters who, in turn, guaranteed their clothing and feeding.

1.2. The Role of the African-Americans in the Revolution

In his book titled “the Negro in the American Revolution” in 1961, Benjamin Quarles² said:

The African American was “a participant and a symbol. He was active on the battlefronts and behind the lines ...The Negro’s role in the Revolution can best be

² Benjamin Arthur Quarles was an African- American historian, administrator, scholar, educator, and writer. Major books by Quarles included “the Negro in the Civil War” (1953), “the Negro in the American Revolution” (1961), and” Lincoln and the Negro” (1962). He demonstrated that Blacks were active participants in major conflicts and issues of American history.

*understood by realizing that his major loyalty was not to a place north a people, but to principle. Insofar as he had freedom of choice, he was likely to join the side that made him the quickest and best offer in terms of those 'unalienable right' of which the president Thomas Jefferson had spoken.*³

African-Americans served in Massachusetts⁴ companies and in state militias⁵ of northern states. The Rhode Island regiment at Yorktown was three-fourths black. African-Americans also served in the navy; 5,000 African-Americans served in the war.

Many African-Americans fought with the British since the British commander, Sir Henry Clinton (was a British army officer and politician), offered freedom to slaves who would fight for the King (Dr, Martin Luther King). The British used the runaway slaves as guides, spies and labourers (carpenters, blacksmiths, etc.). By using the African-Americans as labourers, whites free to be soldiers.

Many slaves left when the British evacuated after the end of the war. Quarles said:

*"Thousands of Negroes were taken to other islands in the British West Indies...Practically all the black immigrants were slaves. Many had been brought in as slaves, but many others who came expecting to be free were seized by those holding no legal title..."*⁶

The Continental Army had two all-black units and a third unit came from Haiti (a country in the Caribbean occupying the western third of the Island of Hispaniola). The First Rhode Island Regiment had ninety-five ex-slaves and thirty freedmen. This unit served throughout the entire war. Another unit was Boston's Bucks of America, led by George Middleton⁷. Very few facts were known about this group. They gave Boston merchant's property as recognition for protection and Governor John Hancock⁸ awarded them a special medallion and flag.

³Quarles, Benjamin. *The Negro in the African-American Revolution*. New York: w.w.Norton&Co, 1961.

⁴ Massachusetts was an English settlement on the East Coast of North America in the 17th century, was officially known as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, it was the most New England region of the north-eastern United States.

⁵Militias were an organization that operated like an army but those members were not professional soldiers. Peter Kolchin. "American Slavery, 1619-1877". Published by the Penguin Group, 1993, p 99.

⁶Quarles, Benjamin. *The Negro in the American Revolution*. New York : W.W. Norton&Co, 1961.

⁷George Middleton (1735-April 6, 1815) was an African-American Revolutionary War, a Prince Hall Freemason, and a community civil rights activist in Massachusetts. James A. Rawley, *Race and Politics: "Bleeding Kansas" and the Coming of the Civil War* Philadelphia, 1969), pp, 257-262.

⁸ John Hancock was an American Merchant, statesman, and prominent patriot of the American Revolution. He served as president of the 2nd Continental Congress and was the first and third Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Russell, John H. "Coloured Freedman as Slave Owners in Virginia". April 16th, 2008. <https://dinsdoc.com/mecklin-1.htm>.

1.3. Establishment of the Anti-Slavery Society

Some members of the Anti-Slavery Society considered the organization to be too radical. They objected to the attacks on the U.S constitution and the prominent role played by women in the society. Some leaders, such as William Lloyd Garrison (was a prominent American abolitionist, journalist, and social former, he was best known as the editor of the newspaper The Liberator) and Frederick Douglass (was a prominent American abolitionist, author and orator, born a slave, escaped at age 20 and went on to become a world-renowned anti-slavery activist) were as committed to women's rights as they were to the abolition of slavery. Others, such as Arthur Tappan (was an American abolitionist from Massachusetts), and James Birney (was an abolitionist, politician, and attorney born in Danville, served as the presidential nominee for the anti-slavery Liberty Party) disagreed with this view. The abolition of slavery became the policy of the Liberal party (was one of the two major political parties in the United Kingdom), the Free-Soil party (was a short-lived political party in the United States active in the 1848) and Republican Party (was one of the two major political parties in the United States). The Anti-Slavery Society was dissolved after the passing of the 14th Amendment⁹ and the Reconstruction Acts in 1867.

Western Historians and African-American leaders in the west have long contended that this region differed in both its attitude toward and treatment of African-Americans. At one level they are correct, the very nature of frontier society; its rough egalitarianism (was a political doctrine that holds that all people should be treated as equal from birth) born of newly emerging societies, allowed African Americans a freedom often absent elsewhere in the United States. Yet the west was not the racial paradise its promoters often claimed, for the very reasons its newness and ability to be created by settlers that usually provided the context for black freedom. White settlers hoping often generated legislation which either excluded African Americans or made them unwelcome.

Ten percent of the black population was legally classified as free before the civil war. Despite their small numbers and their marginalization in American society, these women and men often dedicated their careers and often gave their lives to the cause of freedom for those still held in bondage. Those not actively engaged in the Anti-Slavery struggle nevertheless tried, given the limitations imposed upon them by the larger society, to raise the standard of living and improve the quality of life for themselves and other free blacks, hoping in manner to hasten the day when prejudice and discrimination would no longer determine black lives.

⁹ 14th Amendments was an amendment to the U.S Constitution, ratified in 1868, defining national citizenship and forbidding the states to restrict the other persons.

1.4. The African-Americans in the Reconstruction (1865-1880)

As a country, America has gone through many political changes throughout her lifetime. Leaders have come and gone, all of them having different objectives and plans for the future. As history takes its course, though, most of these “revolutionary movements” come to an end, one such movement was Reconstruction. Reconstruction was a time period in America consisting of many leaders, goals and accomplishments. Though, like all things in life, it did come to an end, the resulting outcome has been considered both a success and a failure.

When Reconstruction began in 1865, a broken America had just finished fighting the Civil War. In all respects, Reconstruction was mainly just that. It was the point where America attempted to become a full running country once more. This, though, was not an easy task. The memory of massive death was still in the front of everyone’s mind, hardening into resentment and sometimes even hatred. The south was virtually non-existent politically or economically, and searching desperately for a way back in. Along with these things, now living amongst the population were almost four million former slaves, who had no idea how to make a living on their own. They had been freed by the 13th amendment¹⁰ in 1865, and in the future became a great concern to many political leaders. Still, it was no secret that something had to be done. So, as usually happens, political leaders appeared on the stage, each holding their own plan of Reconstruction, each certain their ideas were the correct ones. One of the first people who came up with a blueprint for Reconstruction was the president at the time, Abraham Lincoln¹¹. The “Lincoln Plan” was a very open one, stating that after certain criteria were met a confederate state could return to the union. To rejoin, a state had to have ten percent of voters both accept the emancipation of slaves and swear loyalty to the union. Also, those high ranking officers of the state could not hold office or carry out voting rights unless the president said so.

1.4.1. Plans for Reconstruction

After the war, the country had to be reunited. This period was called Reconstruction. Some northerners wanted to punish the south. Lincoln asked people to forget their anger. He wanted the defeated states to set up state governments and rejoin the Union quickly. Republicans in Congress wanted to change the south and protect the rights of African

¹⁰13TH Amendments was an amendment to the U.S Constitution, ratified in 1865 abolishing slavery.

¹¹ Abraham Lincoln was 16th president of the United States; saved the Union during the American Civil War and emancipated the slaves; was assassinated by Booth (1809-1865).

Americans. Lincoln was shot on April 14th, 1865 by John Wilkes Booth. His assassination shocked the country.

There were basically three plans Reconstruction:

1. Lincoln's plan was simple with a few exceptions, Lincoln offered pardons to any confederate who swore allegiance to the union and the constitution. He announced a general amnesty would be granted to all who would take an oath of loyalty to the United States and promise to obey all federal laws to slavery.
2. Johnson's plan was towards the Southern states, he planned; a state needed to abolish slavery before being readmitted, pardons will be granted to those taking a loyalty oath, a state was required to repeal its secession ordinance before being readmitted.
3. The Radical Republican plan was meant to aid newly freed slaves (known as freedmen) and to punish the south. It first passed several laws helping newly freed slaves, such as Civil Rights Acts. It passed a series of laws known as the Reconstruction Acts. These laws were opposed by Johnson.

Vice President Andrew Johnson (was the 17th president of the United States) became president. He put Lincoln's plan into action. Southern states had to abolish slavery. Most passed Black Codes¹² to limit the rights of African-Americans. Congress set up the Freedmen's Bureau¹³ to provide support for poor blacks and whites. In 1867, Congress put the south under military rule. Soldiers forced states to obey Congress and pass laws letting all men vote. In 1868, congress impeached Johnson. They said he broke laws. Some southerners supported Congress. They were called scallywags. Some northerners went to the South just to make money. They were called carpetbaggers.

During Reconstruction, Congress created three amendments to the Constitution. They gave the national government more power over the states. The Thirteenth Amendment ended

¹² Black Codes were laws passed by southern states in 1865 and 1866 in the United States after the American Civil War.

¹³Freedmen's Bureau 1865-1972, during the reconstruction period after the American civil war ; the U.S Bureau of Refugees, freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, established to help freed people achieve economic stability and secure.

slavery, Black Codes still limited the right of African Americans. To protect those rights Congress passed the Fourteenth Amendment, It gave blacks full

citizenship. Southern states had to ratify this amendment to rejoin the Union. The Fifteenth Amendment¹⁴ recognized the right of African American men to vote. But African Americans faced a long struggle for equal.

1.5. The Southerners Opposed to Abolition of Slavery

During the late of 18th to mid-19th century, a growing opposition to slavery was taking place in the United States. This growing opposition was visible in the ways; people were beginning to speak out against slavery through abolitionist movements.

Whites without slaves often aspired to own slaves eventually, and the young men who fought in the Civil War were a demographic that could reasonably expect to own a slave in the future. Slavery was good for the Southern economy generally, just as it was good for the Northern and British economies too. In addition, there were non-economic reasons for Southerners to fight. Their land was invaded, Southern culture was different than Northern culture, and Southerners fought also because their state decided to fight, and they performed their duty.

The opposition of Southerners to the contribution of slaves to the development of agriculture in the South and their urgent need to maintain this development, unlike the North, which was witnessing the development of labour market, which was indispensable for the labour force. In some southern areas, especially in the lower South as in South Carolina and Georgia, the majority of slaves lived and worked on cotton plantations. In addition to plantation, they also participated in other activities. For instance, they worked as carpenters, mechanics, drivers and traders. Besides men, black women collaborated by taking care of families especially children as well as cooking and weaving. Some slaves worked as house servants by providing services for their master's. For these reasons, the Southerners were against ending slavery because there were no alternative to slaves in their service and serving agriculture.

¹⁴15th Amendments an amendment to the U.S constitution, ratified in 1870, prohibiting the restriction of voting rights on account of race, colour, or previous condition of servitude.

The South wanted the spread of slavery because they wanted more power in the congress. For this reason, the South was outraged when California was admitted as a free state; the Southern feeling of powerlessness within the government, signified by the election of Abraham Lincoln would eventually aid the decision to secede.

1.6. Northerners Supporters of Abolition of Slavery

Throughout American history, the differences between the Northern and Southern states had often been the cause of divisions between the two. The American Civil War was based on more than one issue; slavery became a considerably important topic as the war went on. By the start of the Civil War, there were a variety of different factors which caused the North to oppose slavery. The important factor was simply racism; Northerners did not want to live with blacks, especially when they looked at states like Indiana¹⁵ which had large numbers of Southerners and attempted to exclude blacks from setting in the state. Politics represented another reason that Northerners did not want to spread of slavery; the North and South had separate, distinct cultures; the Southern economy was based primarily on slave labour, while the North used a competitive labour market. As a result, the two sides had starkly different interests. The South had reasons to preserve slavery; the North had their own reasons for opposing it. If slavery spread or was permitted in newly admitted states that meant that pro-slavery South both wanted these seats. So, the North didn't want slavery to spread because they wanted to have the majority in government. The reality was that North's opposition to slavery was based on political and anti-south sentiment, economic factors, racism, and the creation of a new American ideology.

Northern Abolitionist focused much of their attention on fellow Northern. They hoped to convince the citizens of the Northern states to force the south to eliminate slavery. But even though slavery no longer existed in the North, bigotry against black people was still common throughout the region. Free blacks in the North endured all kinds of discrimination in the areas of housing, education, and legal rights. Poor white labourers worried that emancipated blacks would come up from the South and take their jobs, rich Northern merchants who conducted business in the South though that abolition might diminish their profits.

Finally, many Americans living in the North were concerned that abolitionist activities would disrupt the stability of the union itself.

¹⁵ Indiana was a state of the north-central United States. It was admitted as the 19th state in 1816. The area was controlled by France until 1763 and by Great Britain until 1783. The Indiana Territory was formed in 1800. Indianapolis was the capital and the largest city.<https://www.thefreedictionary.com>. accessed on May 16th, 2018.

Conclusion

Throughout the centuries, African Americans faced the hardships of racism and segregation within the United States and around the world. There has been an end to slavery and African Americans gained the rights obtained by the Declaration of Independence. In

order to capture the dream of equality, racism and segregation must be put to an end and must all look at one another as brothers and sisters.

The first part of my research work will discuss this issue of African American challenge against the process of slavery and the way the black community succeeded to split the American society into two sides, one for slavery and another for their process of abolition and emancipation. But before dealing with this point, a historical view on slavery talked about the beginning of enslavement in America. So, thousands of black Americans had become involved in the war. Many were active participants, some won their freedom and others were victims. This means that the opposition to slavery the most important issue in 19th century in American politics and society. The situation under enslavement was very hard for blacks. In other words, the Blacks enslaved people got tired of the slave life and decided then to challenge the situation by engaging into a battle and resistance against this disaster of human exploitation.

The next chapter will discuss the struggle against the white supremacy and the African-Americans Civil Rights Movements which means the Civil War ended black slavery, under the leadership of Martin Luther King from 13 years.

Chapter Two

The Struggle against the White Supremacy and African-Americans Civil Rights Movement

Introduction

In the year 1863, during the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln announced the signing of the Declaration of liberation of slaves and declared that all slaves in the states were free, after a long struggle aimed at freeing them from white supremacy and abolishing the policy of racial discrimination against the slaves.

The second chapter, hence, tackles the struggle against the white supremacy and African-Americans Civil Rights Movement. For that, one will shed light on many significant events starting from the participation of the African-Americans in World Wars (I-II). Then, more emphasis will be put on the way they liberated themselves from slavery and challenged the white supremacy for centuries till they fulfilled their dream of Liberty and Equality. All these issues of struggle and the way the African-Americans freed themselves will be discussed in the following chapter.

2.1. The African-Americans in World War I and II

More than one and a half million African-Americans served in United States military forces during world war. They fought in the pacific, Mediterranean, and European war.

War on two fronts focuses on African-American soldiers, and on the military and post-military accomplishments of other African-American soldiers. Though they lost many battles along the racial frontlines due to the persistence of racial inequality and violence in the

immediate aftermath of World War I, their sacrifice, courage, and military accomplishments laid the foundation for a more racially just society for all Americans.

2.1.1 World War I (1914-18)

Between 1914 and 1918, the world entered a decisive period with the outbreak of World War I. The war directly impacted all African-Americans, male and female, northerner and southerner, soldier and civilian. Blacks people contested the boundaries of American democracy, demanded their rights as American citizens, recognizing the significance of World War I was essential to developing a full understanding of modern African-American history and the struggle for black freedom.

The impact of the World War I¹⁶ on African-Americans, especially on the soldiers who served in the perceptibly more tolerant French society, transformed the black community and served as an important, yet often overlooked, episode in the civil rights movement. Despite strong white resistance to blacks serving in the war, between 1917 and 1919 the mind-set of American blacks was fundamentally and permanently altered by African-Americans experiences during that conflict. To understand the civil rights revolution in the era following World War II¹⁷, one must consider the African-American experience in the years of the First World War.

During the war, the generally amicable relationship between the African-American soldiers and French soldiers, French citizens, and colonial African and Asian troops led to new black identity. The patriotic service of the African-American soldiers, the war's lofty aims for democracy, and rapid demographic changes all contributed to opening a new front in the battle for civil rights. Likewise, these changes fostered the "Harlem Renaissance" and positive self-image for African-Americans, often described as the "New Negro".

President Wilson's desire to make the world safe for democracy served to re-energize African-Americans claims that democratic America could no longer tolerate racial hypocrisy. Conversely, for many whites, the war advanced and intensified their aspirations to retain their racial hegemony. But, unlike many of the lofty goals of the war, prideful African-Americans heightened intolerance of political change did not fall victim to the passing of time. These

¹⁶ World War I was a war between the Allies and the Central Powers from 1914 to 1918. (<https://books.google.com>)

¹⁷ World war II the war between the Axis and Allies, beginning on September 1st , 1939, with the German invasion of Poland and ending with the surrender of Germany on May 8th, 1945, and of Japan on August 14th, 1945.(<https://www.historyonthenet.com>)

changes found expression in their music, political writings, and cultural organizations and represent an important advancement in their long struggle for equality in America.

2.1.2 African-American Soldiers in World War II (1936-45)

Millions of Americans fought in the military during World War II. Including nearly one million African-Americans, African-American soldiers played a significant role in World War II. The events of the World War II helped to force social changes which included the desegregation of the United State military forces. This was a major event in the history of Civil Rights in the United States. The U.S military was still segregated during World War II. Segregation is when people were separated by race or the colour of their skin. Black and White soldiers did not work or fight in the same military units. Each unit would have only all white or all black soldiers.

At the start of the war, African-American soldiers were generally not a part of the fighting troops. They worked behind the fighting lines driving supply trucks, maintaining war vehicles, and in other support roles. They served as fighter pilots, tank operators, ground troops, and officers.

2.1.3. African-American Soldiers after the War

When WWI ended on November 11th, 1918, African Americans hoped that their patriotic sacrifices would have a positive impact on race relations and expand the boundaries of Civil Rights. The impact of World War I on African Americans often received less attention than the effects of the Civil War and World War II. Because racial conditions failed to improve significantly after the war, to contrary, World War I brought change for African-Americans and their place in American society the Great Migration transformed the demographics of black communities in the North and the South. The war effort allowed black men and women to assert their citizenship, hold the government accountable, and protest racial injustice. Military service brought thousands of black men into the army, exposed them to fight for their country, black people claimed to democracy as a highly personal yet deeply political ideal and demanded that the nation live up to its potential. World War I represented a turning point in African-American history, one that shaped the course of the black experience in the 20th century.

2.2. The Ku Klux Klan 1866

At the end of the American Civil War in 1866 the Ku Klux Klan formed. It believed that after the Civil War in America white citizens faced many problems due to the release of African-American slaves. They feared that these slaves would rise up and form a revolt against white Americans. They gave no mercy for anyone or anything. Driven by the dream of a world with only one master race, it often used violence and took the law into their cause. They didn't start as a violent group, or to promote white supremacy. When slavery ended the Ku Klux Klan knew that African-Americans wanted to take control of everything politically. If this happened whites felt that African-Americans would turn society around on them. Its power as an image and idea during the nineteenth and early twentieth century's; its re-emergence as a national organization during the late 1910s; the twin but historically related pathways that led to the creation of two organizations bearing its name.

2.3. Ku Klux Klan Re-emergence (1920s)

The rebirth of Ku Klux Klan was due to the massive rise in immigration, the movement of African Americans from the south to the North cities, race riots, and strikes, problems caused by industrialization and urbanization¹⁸, the anti-immigration of series of terrorist attacks in America. The groups targeted by the 1920s Ku Klux Klan included the new immigrants, African-Americans, Jews, Catholics, Asians and any groups who represented "Un-American" values or beliefs, such as organized labour. The leader of the 1920s Ku Klux Klan was William J. Simmons, a former Methodist preacher, who founded the New Ku Klux Klan in 1915 in Atlanta, Georgia. The rebirth of the second Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s was well organized; it held rallies, picnics, parades and marches all around the United States.

The most famous event staged by the Ku Klux Klan was the march down in Washington on August 8, 1925 which succeeded in attracting national attention.

2.4. Martin Luther King, the African American Hero

Martin Luther King was a man with a dream who made a big difference in African-American lives in the past and today. King worked with movements that led to black citizens from segregation. King dreamed as a young boy that the world would be equal, and blacks would have equal opportunity. He grew up in the late of 20s and 30s when African-Americans were still segregated. At the age of 24 years old King became a minister, a great leader and a

¹⁸Urbanization was the new immigrants and the African-Americans who had moved during the Great Migration flocked to the industrialized cities. Robert A; Goldberg, "the Ku Klux Klan in Madison, 1922-1927". PP 32-34.

believer. He believed in achieving his childhood dream of making a difference and ending segregation one and for all. King worked very hard, and with his success, he began with the Montgomery bus Boycott¹⁹ weeks after his “I have a Dream” speech King was assassinated. December 1st, 1955, was when the Montgomery bus Boycott began; when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white man on the bus. Parks was arrested and put in jail for disobeying the city segregation laws. He was invited to lead the Montgomery Improvement Association²⁰ that was formed by blacks to boycott the buses. He accepted and every black person joined in together as one and stopped riding the buses. They decided to do this with nonviolence, because violence did not solve anything. So, the black’s car pooled, walked, rode bikes, and used the Negro taxis as means of transportation. The Boycott made a huge impact, because many African-American rode the busses to get around. Without blacks the bus system profit declined dramatically. During his participation with the bus Boycott, King was arrested for boycotting. As time progressed with the movement thing began to get crucial, because people were being beaten and King’s house was bombed. However, all blacks kept their nonviolent approach through it all. King stated *“I want you to go home and put down your weapons. We cannot solve this problem through retaliatory violence. We must meet violence with nonviolence. We must meet hate with love”*²¹

King did not want African-American citizens to put violence in the white’s action, because it would not solve a thing. The Montgomery bus Boycott was successful, and the city ended this movement. And the African-American could sit anywhere they pleased on the bus. Martin Luther King was a man of much wisdom during his time. He changed the nation of the United States, he was a major contribution to the Civil Rights Movement, he was a loyal leader of it, and those contributions have profound effect even today.

2.5. Civil Rights Acts 1964

The Civil Rights Movement was a struggle for social justice that took place mainly during the 1950s and 1960s for blacks to gain equal Rights under the law in the United States. The Civil War had officially abolished slavery, but didn’t end discrimination against blacks; they continued the divesting effects of racism, especially in the South. By the mid-20th century, African-Americans had had more than enough of prejudice and violence against them.

¹⁹ The Montgomery Bus Boycott was a civil rights protest during which African-Americans refused to ride city buses in Montgomery, Alabama, to protest segregated seating. (<https://www.history.com>)

²⁰ Montgomery Improvement Association was established on December 5th, 1955 in Montgomery, Alabama as a grassroots movement to fight for civil rights for African-Americans and specifically for the desegregation of the buses in Alabama’s city. (<https://www.blackpast.org>)

²¹ Dominique Jamet. “I have dream », Archipoche.2011.pp 352.

Nearly 100 years after the Civil War, the Civil Rights of African-Americans were limited by state laws and discrimination. Some Civil Rights were the right to vote, the right to equal treatment, and the right to speak out.

In the early 1950s, segregation was legal. Many Americans believed it should not be. African-Americans went to court to end segregation. In 1954, the Supreme Court ordered the desegregation of public schools.

An Alabama law said that African-Americans had to sit at the back of the bus. In 1955 in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of a bus. She was arrested. Her church organized a protest. African-Americans boycotted the buses were desegregated. This was the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Martin Luther King helped lead the boycott. He believed in nonviolent protest. He wanted people to fight back using peaceful actions. In 1956, the Supreme Court said that segregation on buses was illegal.

In 1960, African-Americans held sit-ins in 54 cities. They sat at lunch counters that only served food to white people. They would not leave until they were served. In 1963, Congress was discussing a bill to end segregation. Martin Luther King and other leaders organized a protest march in Washington to show support for the bill. The march on Washington got Americans to pay attention to the civil rights movement.

President Lyndon Johnson worked with Congress to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It banned segregation in schools, at work, and in public places. The Voting Rights Act backgrounds the right to vote.

In 1968, Martin Luther King was shot. People from all backgrounds continued the struggle for civil rights.

Conclusion

The service of African-Americans in the military had dramatic implications for them. Black Soldiers faced systematic racial discrimination in the army and suffered hostility when they returned home at the end of the war.

Blacks in America have called for equal treatment in several areas that entered into a confrontation with whites in 1963 in the American Civil War. There were many examples of the marginalization of blacks and the difficulty of obtaining the rights and benefits enjoyed by their white counterparts. Blacks against white police racism have only accurately translated what Luther King, the historic leader of United States blacks, that “the riots are a language that is not heard is an ongoing process”.

The next chapter will discuss the issue of the realization of the African Dream and the participation of the African-Americans in politics. Also shed light Obama’s electoral campaign and his wife Michelle’s contribution to the election, as well as their most important achievements.

Chapter Three

The Realization of the African Dream: “Obama in the White House”

Introduction

The African in America were marginalized, their mission was to work in agriculture and serve their masters in their homes. They were exposed to racial discrimination, where they had no right to participate in any kind of activity; especially the state affairs. The Africans wanted nothing more than to live free in an equality society and had several revolutions to decide their fate. 21st century was a period of acceptance. The world has changed tremendously from a time when race determined every part of a person’s future to a time when the content of a person’s character may have just as much sanction as the colour of his or her skin.

The African-Americans contributed to the 2008 presidential election in order to realize the African dream in America which was equality. November 4th, 2008 became a watershed day in world history; the election of America’s first black president, a man with a father from the world’s poorest continent, became the leader of the world’s richest and most powerful nation. It has been a long campaign, almost for two years.

3.1. The African-American in politics

Black politics in the United States since the end of the Civil War has been centred on the quest for inclusion that Martin Luther King, Frederick Douglass²², and Shklar²³ described and had at its goal not only the full political inclusion of African-Americans but also full economic and social inclusion. As Shklar states, citizenship was not a static concept and has changed over the years on the ground. Consequently, black political struggle for citizenship has evolved as well both in content and specific goals. The range of political activity that were discussed includes black ideologies and public opinion and how they have changed, the massive social movements that shaped a nation and slowly won blacks greater standing within the nation, as well as black efforts to utilise electoral politics both to become represented in the nation's political institutions at all levels and to make those institutions more accountable to African-American interests.

Obama was not the first black presidential candidate in American history. Others had paved the way for him in the post-civil rights era. They include Shirley Chisholm²⁴, the first African-American woman ever to hold office in congress, in 1972 and Reverend Jesse Jackson²⁵, in 2004. However, the three former contenders' prospects for winning were more than bleak. They actually never thought they could win and they did not even mean to win, aiming rather at acting as political forces that would influence the course of events, so that they would influence the course of events, so that black interests would be taken into account in the national agenda. Before the 2008 historic election, black presidential candidates saw their prerogatives as particularly limited, and indeed they were.

3.2. Presidential Election in the U.S 2008

During the presidential election campaign, the major party candidates ran on a platform of change and reform in Washington. Domestic policy and the economy eventually emerged as the main themes in the last few months of the election campaign after the onset of

²²Fredrick Dauglas was an African-American social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer, and statesman.

²³Shklar was a political theorist, and worked at Harvard University as professor of Government.

²⁴ Shirley Chisholm was an American politician, educator, and author; she became the first black woman elected to United States congress in 1968. In 1972, she became the first black candidate for a major party's nomination for president of the United States, and the first woman to run for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. (<https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki>)

²⁵ Jesse Jackson was born October 8th, 1941, in Greenville, South Carolina. In 1965, he went to Selma, Alabama, to march with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In 1980s, he became a leading national spokesman for African-Americans. (<https://chaicagotribune.com.topic/racism>)

the 2008 economic crisis. The 56th quadrennial United States presidential election was held on November 4th, 2008.

Democrat Barack Obama, then junior United States Senator from Illinois, defeated Republican John McCain²⁶. Nine states changed allegiance from the 2004 election; each had voted for the Republican nominee in 2004 and contributed to Obama's sizable Electoral College victory. The selected electors from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia voted for president and Vice President of the United States on December 15th, 2008. Those votes were tallied before a joint session of Congress on January 8th, 2009. Obama received 365 electoral votes, and McCain 173.²⁷

There were several unique aspects of the 2008 election. The election was the first in which an African-American was elected President. It was also the first time two sitting senators ran against each other, the 2008 election was the first in 56 years in which neither an incumbent president nor a vice president ran, Bush was constitutionally limited from seeking a third term by the Twenty-second Amendment²⁸, Vice President Dick Cheney chose not to seek the presidency. It was also the first time the Republican Party nominated a woman for Vice President (Sarah Palin, then Governor of Alaska). Additionally, it was the first election in which both major parties nominated candidates who were born outside of the contiguous United States. Voter turnout for the 2008 election was the highest in the least 40 years.

3.3. Political Life of Barack Obama

On November 4th, 2008, Senator Barack Obama was elected president of the United States over Senator John Mc Cain of Arizona. Obama became the 44th president, and the first African-American to be elected to that office. He was subsequently elected a second term over former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney²⁹.

²⁶ John McCain was born on August 29th, 1936, at Coco Solo in the Panama Canal Zone, he ran for president on the Republican ticket in 2008, losing to Democrat Barack Obama in the general election.

<http://www.mccain.senate.go> . Accessed on April 16th, 2018.

²⁷ <https://www.theguardian.com>. Accessed on 16th, 2018.

²⁸ 22nd Amendment to the U.S Constitution, ratified in 1951, limiting presidential terms to two for any one person, or to one elected term if the person has completed more than two years of another's term.

<https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki>. Accessed on April 16th, 2018.

²⁹ Willard Mitt Romney was born March 12th, 1947, was an American businessman and politician who served as the 70th Governor of Massachusetts from 2003 to 2007 and was the Republican Party's nominee for President of the United States in the 2012 election.

Barrack Obama's victory has become a great breakthrough for African-Americans since the civil rights movement. His life and career made it possible for them to feel equal to the white Americans and hope for a better future with doors of opportunity opened for them. For centuries African-Americans were denied basic rights of citizenship including the right to vote for the person who would lead the country they lived in. However, they have always claimed that they have been Americans. The Victory of one of them has shown that racism is no longer a vital issue in America and individuals are judged, as Martin Luther King had dreamt: "not by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character."³⁰

In addition to his brilliant strategy and political message, Obama had a unique personal story, which was well known due to his bestselling books "Dreams from My Father" and "The Audacity of Hope" that helped to galvanize millions of American citizens to endorse him. It was also his rhetoric that produced an incredible effect on his listeners. He used it for two reasons: to urge people to believe him and to tell his story, which had shown that the American Dream still lived in the hearts of the Americans and it can come true.

3.3.1. Early Life of Barrack Obama

Obama's father, also named Barrack Hussein Obama, grew up in a small village in Nyanza Province, Kenya, as a member of the Luo ethnicity. He won a scholarship to study economics at the University of Hawaii, his mother Ann Dunham³¹, a white woman from Wichita, Kansas, whose father had worked on oil rigs during the Great Depression³² and fought with the U.S Army in WWII before moving his family to Hawaii in 1959, Barrack and Ann's son. Barrack Hussein Obama, was born in Honolulu on August 4th, 1961. Not only was Obama the first African-American president, he was also the first to be born outside the continental United States.

³⁰ Dominique Jamet "I have a Dream", Archipoche, 2011. P 353

³¹ Ann Dunham was born on November 29th, 1942 in Fort Leavenworth; she was an American anthropologist who specialized in the economic anthropology and rural development of Indonesia. She was the mother of Barrack Obama, the 44th president of the United States.

³² Great Depression was the worst economic downturn in the history of the industrialized world, lasting from 1929 to 1939. It began after the stock market crash of October 1929, which sent Wall Street into a panic and wiped out millions of investors.

Obama's parents later separated, and Barrack went back to Kenya, he would see his son only once more before dying in a car accident in 1982. After remarrying an Indonesian man, Lolo Soetoro, Ann moved with her young son to Jakarta in the late 1960s, where she worked at the US embassy. In 1970, Obama returned to Hawaii to live with his maternal grandparents. He attended the Punahou School, an elite private school where, as he wrote in his 1995 memoir, "Dreams from My Father", he first began to understand the tensions inherent in his mixed racial background. After two years at Occidental College in Los Angeles, he transferred to Columbia University in New York City, from which he graduated in 1983 with a degree in political science.

In 1996, Obama officially launched his own political career, winning election to the Illinois State Senate as a Democrat. Re-elected in 1998 and again in 2002 Obama also ran unsuccessfully in 2000 Democratic primary for the U.S. In October 2002, he spoke against a resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq: *"I am not opposed to all wars. I am opposed to dumb wars....I know that even a successful war against Iraq will require a U.S occupation of undetermined length, at undetermined cost, with undetermined consequences"*.³³

In November 2004, Illinois delivered 70 percent of its votes to Obama (versus Keyes' 27 percent), sending him to Washington as only the third African-American elected to the U.S Senate since Reconstruction. In August 2006, Obama travelled to Kenya, where thousands of people lined the streets to welcome him. He published his second book "The Audacity of Hope" in October 2006.

3.3.2. Presidential Campaign 2008

On February 10th, 2007, Obama formally announced his candidacy for president of the United States. A victory in the Iowa primary made him a viable challenger to the early frontrunner, the former first lady and the then New York Senator Hillary Clinton³⁴, whom he outlasted in a gruelling primary campaign to claim the Democratic nomination in early June 2008. Obama's Campaign worked to build support at the grassroots level and used what supporters saw as the candidate's natural charisma, unusual life story and inspiring message of hope and change to draw impressive crowd's trip abroad. They worked to bring new voters,

³³ (<https://www.obamaspeeches.com>),2002 accessed on April 16th, 2018.

³⁴ Hillary Clinton was born on October 26th, 1947, in Chicago, Illinois. She was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2001; she became the first American first lady to ever win a public office seat. She later became the 67th U.S secretary of state in 2009, serving until 2013. In 2016, she became the first woman in U.S history to become the presidential nominee of a major political party. (<https://www.biography.com>) accessed on May 20th, 2018.

many of them young or black; they believed favoured Obama to become involved in the election.

A crushing financial crisis in the months leading up to the election shifted the nation's focus to economic issues, and both Obama and McCain worked to show they had the best plan for economic improvement with several weeks remaining, most polls showed Obama as the frontrunner. Sadly, Obama's maternal grandmother, Madelyn Dunham, died after a battle with cancer on November 3rd, the day before voters went to the polls. She had been a tremendously influential force in her grandson's life and had diligently followed his historic run for her home in Honolulu.

On November 4th, lines at polling stations around the nation heralded a historic turnout and resulted in a Democratic Victory, with Obama capturing some Republican Centers (Virginia, Indiana) and key battle ground states (Florida Ohio) that had been won by Republicans in recent elections. Taking the stage in Chicago's Grant Park with Michelle and their two young daughters, Malia and Sasha, Obama acknowledged the historic nature of his win while reflecting on the serious challenges that lay ahead: *"the road ahead will be long, our climb will be steep, we may not get there in one year or even one term, but America, I have never been more hopeful than I am tonight that we will get there. I promise you, we as a people will get there"*³⁵

3.4. Michelle Obama as Presidential Spouse

In 2008, Barack Obama was elected as the 44th president of U.S. Obama and first lady Michelle Obama were the first African-American couple who went in the white house; Obama as a president and Michelle as a presidential spouse.

Michelle La Vaughn Robinson Obama was born on January 17th, 1964. She was an American lawyer and writer who was the first lady of the United States from 2009 to 2017. She was married to the 44th president of the U.S, Barack Obama, and was the first African-American First Lady. Raised on the south side of Chicago, Illinois, Michelle was a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Law School, and spent her early legal career working at the law firm Sidley Austin, where she met her husband. She worked as the Associate Dean at student services at the University of Chicago and the Vice president for community and External Affairs of the University of Chicago Medical Centre. Barack Obama and Michelle married in 1992 and had two daughters.

³⁵<https://www.obamaspeeches.com>. Accessed on May 17th, 2018.

Michelle Obama campaigned for her husband's presidential bid throughout 2007 and 2008, delivering a keynote address at the 2008 Democratic National Convention. She returned to speak at the 2012 Democratic National Convention, and again during the 2016 in Philadelphia, where she delivered a speech in support of the Democratic presidential nominee, and fellow First Lady, Hillary Clinton³⁶. As First Lady, Michelle Obama became a role model for women, an advocate for poverty awareness, education, nutrition, physical activity and healthy eating, and a fashion icon.

Though presidential and First Lady Rhetoric had largely been studied in isolation from one another, Obama's presence in the 2008 election was reveal that, in practice, the speech of the First ladies had become increasingly more educated, accomplished and engaged in the public sphere over the course of American history. Moreover, political husbands' had frequently cited their wives' activism and professional experience as asserts in their own presidential candidacy. Obama was no exception and, in fact, the use of her biographical narrative in the 2008 campaign reflects the importance of the First Lady's function in assisting her husband to realize his ambitions.

3.5. Obama's Achievements

Barack Obama was the 44th president of the United States of America. In 2009, he received the Nobel Peace Prize, before he became the executive head of the nation; Obama was a Federal Senator who represented Illinois. He was the first African-American stated for the presidency of the U.S.A. He elected by promising hope and change, but during his eight years in the white house he learned that governing was not always easy. His domestic agenda focused on a weak economy and expanding access to health care, His foreign policy doctrine was about negotiation over conflict. Despite successes, Obama's as the nation's first black president enters his final month in office.

3.5.1. The Achievements of Barack Obama

Obama's achievements in the first term were significant. He managed to put in place a range of economic and political reforms having allocated about 800 billion³⁷ dollars for these purposes. Obama also reached the reforming of health care system. Further, he finished the military mission in Iraq, and the last American military unit was withdrawn in 2010. Obama also brought in regulation to control the banks after they started making profits again. He

³⁷<https://washingtonmonthly.com/magazine>. Accessed on May 16th, 2018.

stated: “we are not going to let Wall Street take the money and run”³⁸ and imposed conditions. Obama has made positive steps to improve U.S-Russia over the missile defence system in Eastern Europe which Russia strongly opposed. He scrapped this idea and began talks with the Russia over issues such as Iran and North Korea, and the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty which was approved by the senate and became effective on February 5th, 2011. He made the aid funding to Pakistan conditional on its controlling terrorist activities.

During Obama presidency, student loan tax rates fell, gay marriage was legalized; Obama announced that he was in favour of full marriage equality was the most courageous thing, he had done since he entered the white house three and a half years ago. Coming after his successful strategy to get congress to repeal do not ask, do not tell so that gays and lesbians can serve openly in the military and the decision of his Justice Department to stop defending the defence of Marriage Act in Federal Court. And health care laws were dramatically changed, and he continued to deliver source of the most powerful speeches anyone has been heard. Barack Obama supported the Palestinian cause and called for the liberation of Palestine, he told Israel:”it cannot permanently occupy and settle Palestinian land” Obama’s presidency represented the evolution of America; his foreign policy was one of both successes and failures.

3.5.2. Michelle Obama’s Achievements

Michelle Obama was the wife of U.S president Barack Obama and the first African-American First Lady of the United States. She played a major role in her husbands’ presidential campaigns and her responsibilities increased manifold after becoming the First Lady. In this role she has focused on issues relating to women empowerment, children’s health and education, organic food movement, and national service. She advocated on behalf of military families, encouraged national service, and supported initiatives that help working women balance career and family. She encouraged students to complete a professional training course or a college or university degree by making them understand the significance of higher education. She participated in her husband’s career by writing her own speeches for Black’s campaigns.

2016, the final year of the first black president and first Black First Lady in the white house, the last eight years, Obama Administration has accomplished a lot, and shaken some

³⁸Barack Obama, “*The Audacity of Hope*”: *Thoughts on Reclaiming The American Dream*340 (2006).

things up in order to move this country forward. But do not forget about the accomplishments of president Obama's right hand, Michelle Obama. She has willingly taken on some of the most controversial issues in American history and went head to head to fight them.

Conclusion

The Realization of Blacks' Dream is very noticeable in the lives of many African-Americans, for the African-American struggle reigns Supreme as the dominant racial effort between the majority white race and minority ethnic groups. While it immediately appears that realizing one's blackness might be a damaging experience, it is also an experience that can take provide, or help one maintain power, which is important when living within a society obsessed with the idea of the American Dream.

The American Dream was often mocked but the election of Obama to its highest office does show too many people both within its borders and beyond, that anyone can become the greatest person possible through perseverance and hard work. The African-Americans suffered from the white supremacy which was imposed on them forcefully. They challenged the white supremacy for centuries and they liberated themselves from slavery till they realized their dream during the United States presidential elections 2008.

General Conclusion

The African-Americans were one of the largest of the many ethnic groups in the United States. They were slave's people who were brought from their African homelands by force to work in the New World.

The African-American life in the United States of America has been framed by migrations, forced and free. Because of the historical Transatlantic Slave Trade that transported millions of blacks from Africa to the colonial America, or the internal slave trade that again, transplanted many black Americans from the American North to the southern plantation regions, or yet again by another historical voluntary mass migration of African-Americans to the Industrial North in large numbers after the failure of Reconstruction, or the migration in the late of 20th century. The situation under enslavement was very hard for blacks; in other words, the black enslaved people got tired of the slave life and decided then to challenge the situation by engaging into a battle and resistance against this disaster of human exploitation until they realized their dream of living free in a society of liberty and equality and that Obama's success in the 2008 elections.

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