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Black Americans Facing Racial Obstacles
(1890-1980)

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Dedication

I dedicate this work :

*to my dear parents for their supports
to my brothers and my sister to all
my family and my friends*

Aknoledgement

First of all , I thank ALLAH for his help, guidance and patience he has given me in my life.

Special gratitude to Miss LARBI NERIMEN and all teachers for being with me all along my work, supporting and helping me all the time.

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ABSTRACT

This study aims at presenting the different racial obstacles and kinds of discrimination that the black Americans suffered from, starting with the bad treatments under slavery to racism and the different racial segregation laws that separated blacks whites , and how they challenged hurdles to achieve equality and get their full civil rights like any other white citizens. The most important events that were done for the aim of equality and freedom were: Harlem Renaissance Movement, Civil Right Movements and Freedom Riders, in which the blacks sacrificed their lives to secure their rights, they could defy all the obstacles and proved themselves in the American society which took them a long period of suffering, struggle and fighting to achieve their goals and to prove that the color of skin is not considered as a level of superiority or inferiority .

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The United States of America is considered as the most powerful country and a symbol of freedom, liberty and democracy, but the reality may prove something else, especially when understanding the black American issues. Those blacks ached and suffered for a long time from various types of segregation and racial discrimination which dominated their lives. They attempted and made efforts to achieve a goal that their rights would be recognized as any other white citizens, and to be integrated in the American society as American citizens. The black Americans fought for their freedom, justice and equality, they desired to prove that the color of skin does not divide people into superior and inferior, and that there is no relation between race and intelligence. They wanted to eliminate oppressions and beliefs of white supremacy, and to improve themselves in the American society enjoying all their civil rights.

In this research, we tried to give an understanding of the period that the black Americans had spent starting from their arrival to America as slaves almost in 1619 until the development of many blacks' **status**. **Many of them** became famous and more accepted in the American society by their influence despite the different obstacles they faced. So, what were the racial obstacles that the black Americans faced? and how they could challenge them?

This extended essay is divided into three chapters. The first chapter deals first with the origin of the black Americans from being slaves, their living conditions under racism, and the different kinds of racial discrimination which were based on various segregation laws that separated them from the whites, principally Jim crow laws and separate but equal laws. All these problems of discrimination that faced the black Americans made their life a sort of misery, pain and sufferance. All these would motivate them to react and develop their condition in every aspects of life including: literature, politics, art and sport. Their main purpose was to show the others that they deserve to be accepted as American citizens, and to be fully integrated in the American society.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Therefore , the questions that should be asked: What were the obstacles of racism that faced the black Americans ? What is the first reaction of the black Americans to prove themselves in the American society ?

The second chapter reviews the period of blacks awakening. Starting from Harlem Renaissance Movement in 1920, which played a big role in the development of black community in every domain, literature, music and sport, with an analysis of the influence of the black works over the whites. Then moving to Civil Rights Movement and its leader Martin Luther King Jr, this non violence movement gave a good result to blacks. Finally the freedom rides, its fighters and their sacrifice looking for equality between the two races. So we tried to answer these questions: what were the different black movements to get their rights? What were the consequences of these movements?

The third chapter deals with the achievements of many black Americans in different domains: music, politics, sports and media. It emphasizes more on the way they affected the American society to prove that they were able to develop their country like the whites do, and that the black skin does not mean inferiority. We tried then to shed more light on the case of Michael Jackson, Oprah Winfrey, Michael Jordan and Jesse Jackson, their works and their impact on the American society. These questions should be asked: who are those black Americans ? what made them famous? What is their impact on the American society? and how they could influence it ?

Chapter One

BLACK AMERICANS IN THE PERIOD OF
1600-1890

1 Introduction

When the United States became an independent nation, the blacks who lived there were slaves, they were not considered as citizens, they were not granted their basic rights and lived in racial situation. The content of this chapter aims to review the period of slavery that the black Americans had faced from 1619 and to state the segregation laws that separated them from the American society, what motivates them to develop their situation and prove themselves as American citizens.

So, what were the problems that faced the black Americans? how could they challenge them? and what were the causes which led the black Americans to live under the pressure of segregation and racism.

2 Definition of Racism

Before defining racism, it is important first to define the term ‘Race’, what

is race?.Race is a social construct that artificially divides people into different sub-groups ,possessing a definite combination of various physical characteristics (skin color, facial form, or eye shape), cultural history, geographic origin and ethnic classification: for example, the Blacks or African-American, Asian, American Indian.(William, Mourey, and Warren 01).

Racism is a universal phenomenon that is expressing the ideas and views that one group of people have about another ,based on the concept that these two groups are separated by race, and focus on the thought that the group who has racist perspectives, sees itself as to be superior to the other. Racism is the outcome of a complex interaction of individual dispositions, social qualities and values, and institutional practices. It is represented in the behaviors and actions of the members of the society ,and is supported in the ideology of popular culture. (Tove 43,59)

According to Arthur Kriegel (1983); ‘Racism is an ideological-scientific system which divides the contemporary human species would only result in half-breeds inferior to the favored race’ (p.143).

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An other definition show that Racism is represented in any behaviors, activities , or any social policy that classified persons or groups by their color, it is the belief in superiority of one race over other, partiality against or grudge of other races, or discriminating behavior towards people of another race .The subordination of persons of color in the United States executed on an individual level, as well as in the actions and systems of different organizations, companies and corporations. (Wing Sue 31)

3 Black Americans and the Period of Slavery

Christopher Columbus, an Italian adventurer, discovered America in 1492, many explorers from Spain, Italy and France followed his route and continued his discovery, they started looking for gold and the development of agriculture since the land was productive and possessed different natural resources, so for that they needed workers especially laborers .

At first the Europeans tried to enslave Native Americans or the Amerindians to work in the fields and mines ,they exploited and made them work hard .But the native Americans could not resist under the bad working conditions, most of them died from overwork and disease, so they started to escape since they knew the land very well, thus, the Europeans looked for other sources of laborers, they thought to enslave the Africans who were stronger ,healthier, could support the hard conditions, and they knew the agriculture very well because they had worked in farms in their native lands.(O'Callaghan,04)

The Europeans started to establish the first colonies in North America on the eastern coasts, in 1607 the English established the first colony which was Jamestown (actually known as Virginia), those expected to find gold and to get richer, wealthier and stronger. In 1620 the pilgrims sailed from England to the New World and established the Plymouth Colony (Massachusetts), by the end of the seventeenth and the beginning of the 18th century, more colonies were established in America, which separated the land into three parts; The New England colonies (Connecticut, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island), The Middle Colonies

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(New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania), The Southern Colonies(North and South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Maryland).¹

African slaves worked for free , with no wages. They had to be purchased in Africa and shipped across the Atlantic Ocean. However, masters owned their slaves and could buy and sell them freely as if they were goods or animals. The Africans had no friends or family in the Americas and their dark skin made it difficult for them to escape, since they could easily be identified.

In the 1600s, the Spanish, Portuguese, British, Dutch, and French began taking Africans into their colonies in Brazil and the Caribbean. In the 1700s,

English sailors called the voyage of slave ships from Africa to the Caribbean “the Middle Passage” because it was the middle leg of the triangular trade which referred to the movement of trade ships between Europe, Africa, and the Americas. European ships sailed to Africa with trade goods. After trading these goods to Africans for slaves, Europeans then carried the slaves across the Atlantic Ocean to the Americas. The ships then returned to Europe sometimes empty and sometimes with sugar as cargo. By the mid-1700s, about 1.4 million slaves worked on the production of sugar (Kachur 24).

The slave trade became a major part of the economy of four continents, employing thousands of people and involving millions of dollars. By using African slave labor on plantations, Europeans made large profits that they could never have made from small settler farms.(Ibid 25)

Most of African slaves in America had to work very hard from sunrise to sunset. They were used on plantations and cultivating for a variety of tasks such as: picking cotton, harvesting sugar cane, rice and tobacco .They worked also in building railroads, carpentry , weaving ,cooking, washing clothes , glassblowers, fishermen, bakers and carriage drivers. They were stripped of their rights and freedom, slaves were beaten, separated from their families, and worked continually.

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pDukq8npXBk>

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They were not considered citizens and so were not granted the basic rights of citizens in the U.S. Constitution.²

1-3-1 The Abolition of Slavery 1863

In the late 18th century, the abolitionist movement began in the North which was an anti-slavery movement for the abolition of slavery. In United States history, it was called abolitionism, or the abolition movement. It valued personal freedom and believed that all men are created equal over time. the country started to

divide into North and South. With the beginning of the nineteen's century the

fifteen states in the North rejected slavery and had become a free states (New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont, Wisconsin), while for the Southern states (slave states), slavery still existed, and the laws forbade the black Africans from the right of education, marriage, owning property, or even to get their own freedom. (Arkansas, Alabama, Mississippi, Missouri, Louisiana, Texas, Delaware Maryland, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, Virginia, Kentucky , and with the compromise of 1850 California was no more a slave state). (Kachur 23)

The suffering of Black Americans or African-Americans under the bad living condition ,and bad treatment practiced by the whites ,obliged them to made several important revolts to get their rights and freedom. The proclamation of emancipation signed by the president Abraham Lincoln on the first January, 1863, during the American Civil War, gave the freedom to all slaves.(Terry Fiehn 08)

1-4 Black Americans Under Racism

After the end of slavery, the Black Americans had faced another big problem which was Racism, while the whites in the American society had an ideology that they were superior to the blacks , they believed that they **couldn't live** in neighborhood with them, they started to think about segregation between the two

²http://historyonthenet.com/slave_trade/how_slaves_lived.htm

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racism and separate their properties from the black ones which led to discrimination and the implementation of segregation laws.

In America , racism against Black Americans was considered as the most noted and prominent form of American racism. Black Americans were suffering from many problems in every aspect of life, politically, economically and socially, African Americans were kept out of society. blacks and whites were not granted equal treatment, they were granted lower level of education, they had not an access to good schools, they had not right to vote as American citizens, they lived in injustice and poverty when they were denied from jobs.³

1-4-1The Ku Klux Klan

The Ku Klux Klan (KKK), is white preeminent terrorist organization that was initially framed in 1865, it is composed of white, Anglo-saxon, Christian American nationals, who think that their race and religion are superior to those of different color and religions. It has for the most part focused on black Americans, It has likewise been against Semitic and hostile to Catholic, and has restricted the migration of each one of those it doesn't see as. Klan activists ,considered that black Americans were inferior and had no moral sense ,and they were the cause for most criminalities in America, they were the focal point of lower and working-class white fears (Bullard 04).

There were three different movements of KKK in the United States , The first Klan was established in 1865 by Tennessee veterans of the Confederate Army , it developed in the after-math of the Civil War ,and rapidly spread throughout the South, its aim was to restore white sovereignty in after the American Civil War, this first movement was reacting straightforwardly to new economic and political freedoms and opportunities that had been conceded to former slaves, the numbers of free workers and the size of the electorate had increased significantly.(McVeigh 199)

³<http://www.yale.edu/ynhti/curriculum/units/1992/1/92.01.07.x.html>

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A number of white men wore sheets and hoods and utilized brutality and intimidation to ensure their earlier points of priority and preference, they justified and supported their activities by giving false excuses in terms of the natural superiority of the white race and by drawing on racial stereo-types that characterized black Americans as dangerous degenerates, at last ,the first klan stopped and ended in the 1870s, to some extent in view of a crackdown from the government, however just as economic domination over blacks in the South was being reformed through a debt peonage system and political dominance was being reformed through disfranchisement. (McVeigh 199)

In 1915, the second Klan was established , the founder of the klan was William Joseph Simmons in the light of urbanization and industrialization, Many historians mentioned that the second Klan was extremely less violent than the first, Most Klan members did not did not take part in savage acts, but they expressed their views in other ways , this klan was also responsible for establishing the most famous image of the Klan which was the burning cross ,its activities were primarily social and political, this period was known by enormous migration from eastern and southern Europe, and the Great Migration of African Americans to the North, its influence and membership declined in the middle 1920s because of public revulsion against excessive violence and great publicized scandals involving different national leaders (Idem)

Around the 1950s, the third Klan started, this Klan was made in Birmingham, Alabama. As a free loyal group, right now 5,000 individuals have a place, it is thought to be a subversive or terrorist association that framed collusions with southern police divisions before, this group contradicts the social equality development and integration, They emphatically oppose social change, correspondingly to the second Klan's point of view. (Ibid 200)

1-4-2 Racial Segregation Laws

The Black Americans faced many problems in every aspect of life, the segregation laws put them aside as second class citizens, unlike the whites who

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were considered superior. Under these segregation laws the black Americans were treated in racial manner, especially in social services such as: restaurants, swimming pools, buses and schools , where they lived separately from the whites. The segregation took place when slavery was abolished after the civil war in the 19th century , it started first with the Jim Crow Laws which was a racial system applied in the southern states .(Hill 41)

1-4-2-1 Jim Crow Laws

The term Jim Crow Laws refers to a series of laws operated in the Southern states between 1877 and 1965 which legalized racialism and segregation, its aim was a separation of people based on race (Black and white). Moreover, it was considered as a way of life that impose inequality between whites and Blacks, the first believed that they were the chosen people, they had the authority, power, and wealth, however the blacks were considered as second class citizens, they had no freedom, no justice and no wealth . (Vincent 01)

The origin of the term Jim Crow came from a popular song titled "Jim Crow" around 1830 written by Thomas Dartmouth "Daddy" Rice, who was a white actor , he blackened his face and hands with burnt cork ,and danced while singing the lyrics to the song, "Jump Jim Crow." With a black dialect, the song had 44 verses, the first was:

Come listen all you gals and boys,

I's jist from Tuckyhoe,

I'm goin to sing a little song,

My name's Jim Crow. (Idem)

The black Americans lived in very bad racial situation under the Jim Crow laws which forbade any relation between the two races and kept them separated, to the point that it limited even the dignity of Black-Americans, they became more isolated from the society in every aspect of life : the following is a sampling of laws from different States:

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Buses: All passenger stations in this state operated by any motor transportation company shall have separate waiting rooms or space and separate ticket windows for the white and colored races. Alabama

Intermarriage: All marriages between a white person and a negro, or between a white person and a person of negro descent to the fourth generation inclusive, are hereby forever prohibited. Florida

Restaurants: All persons licensed to conduct a restaurant, shall serve either white people exclusively or colored people exclusively and shall not sell to the two races within the same room or serve the two races anywhere under the same license. Georgia

Prisons: The warden shall see that the white convicts shall have separate apartments for both eating and sleeping from the negro convicts. Mississippi

Libraries: The state librarian is directed to fit up and maintain a separate place for the use of the colored people who may come to the library for the purpose of reading books or periodicals. North Carolina

Child Custody: It shall be unlawful for any parent, relative, or other white person in this State, having the control or custody of any white child, by right of guardianship, natural or acquired, or otherwise, to dispose of, give or surrender such white child permanently into the custody, control, maintenance, or support, of a negro. South Carolina.⁴

1-4-2-2 Separate But Equal

In searching for a way to keep the races apart on various means of transportation, without clearly supporting a social structure that trumpeted the concept of black inferiority, Southerners furthered the concept of "separate but equal." The concept managed to give nearly everyone a system that did not appear blatantly racist, Blacks and whites would be able to use the various systems of transport ,without having to come in close contact with one another. Whites could have their railcars; blacks could have cars of their own that would be the same as

⁴<http://www.ferris.edu/jimcrow/links/misclink/examples/homepage.htm>

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the cars used by whites. Many Southerners considered the idea a means for whites to meet blacks halfway. (McNeese 36)

In 1881, Tennessee was the first Southern state to use the concept of "separate but equal" in dividing its system of transportation. Other states soon passed their own "separate but equal" laws, Florida came next; then Mississippi; Texas, and North Carolina. Florida's law appeared even more "generous" than Tennessee's, its additional wording included the phrase "no white person shall be permitted to ride in a Negro car or to insult or annoy Negroes in such car".(Idem)

As these laws were being written, redefining the interaction between the races, blacks did not support them, regardless of how much the laws appeared to accommodate blacks, one underlying truth could not be ignored for long, These laws generally were created for one reason: It was a seemingly civilized way to practice segregation, and to remind blacks that they were considered so inferior and that whites did not want to share a public means of transportation with them. (Idem)

1-5 Black Americans: the 1890's Social and Cultural Advancement

In order to show that the black Americans could resist under the racial situation ,and prove that they deserve to be American citizens just like the whites, it was more important for them to work and develop their own culture.

1-5-1 Education

There were developments in Churches ,which played an important role for the educations of Blacks. The Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church can trace its beginnings to an organizational meeting held in November 1890 in Salt Lake City, **and in 1890's in Spokane, Washington, a small group of African Americans citizens gathered to consider the propriety of organizing another church. The name Calvary Baptist church was adopted, the church served as an agency for improvement of the social and moral conditions among African Americans. It promoted education largely by encouraging its members to become Bible readers,**

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and also encouraging the formation of literary societies among its people. (Hope 313)

Another sign of the development of the black Americans was William Frank Fonvielle, who was a black American student at Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina in 1893, and became after an editor of his college newspaper.(Idem)

1-5-2 Literature

A number of black Americans emerged during that era, and had given evidence to the intellectual growth which was reflected in literary activities. One of the most known writers was Fredrik Douglass (1818-1895) who brought his career **up to date in his book “In the life and the time of Fredrik Douglass” which was enlarged in 1892, besides to Booker.T. Washington’s “up from slavery 1900”, this book was to become one of the classics in American biography success stories.**(Ibid 319)

Countless women were also contributing in literary activities; Octavia V. Rogers Albert (1853-c.1890) wrote **“The House of Bondage”** a collection of narratives based on interviews of many men and women once enslaved, Octavia died after finishing her work and had not the chance to see it reach the public, a year after her death, her great book was published in a book form.(“Bolden”)

Lucy A. Delaney (c. 1830-c.1890s) wrote a book in which she recounted her dramatic life story once young in the slavery era, where she wanted to enthuse her people to create the best of their freedom. *From Darkness Cometh the Light; or, Struggles for Freedom*, was published in 1891.(Idem)

In 1892, Amanda Smith (1837-1915) published her great book *An Autobiography: The Story of the Lord's Dealings with Mrs.AmandaSmith, the Colored Evangelist*. Smith wanted to raise money from her autobiography in order to help the homeless black children, and with the donations that received and

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support of her public. In 1899 she succeeded to open an orphanage in Harvey: the Amanda Smith Industrial Home.(“Bolden”)

Those literary works influenced many black Americans and even numerous whites, they motivated the blacks to resist the bad living condition and struggle for their freedom.

1-5-3 Media and Sports

The black American media developed ,especially newspaper such as *The New Journal and Guide* which was an African American newspaper based in Norfolk, Virginia, focusing on the national African Americans news, sports and literature since 1900 , Indianapolis Freeman, the first black illustrated newspaper which was published by Edward E. Cooper in 1888 ,and Baltimore Afro-American a weekly newspaper published in Baltimore, Maryland, 1992 (Hope 322)

In sports, different black athletes came to light and prove themselves in every sports such as: Harry Lew (1884-1960) became the first professional African Americans basketball player when he joined the new England league in 1902

.Marshall Walter Taylor(1878-1932) an African American cyclist who won the world 1-mile cycling championship in Montreal 1899.Jack Johnson 1878 was the first black American to win the World Heavy Weight Boxing Champion in 1910.William Henry Lewis and William Tecumseh Sherman Jackson were the first known black players on a white college football team when they played at Amherst College in Massachusetts. Lewis was team captain for the 1891-1892 season. George Henry Jewett 1870-1908 was an American athlete who became the first African-American football player.(Ibid 323)

1-6 Conclusion

To Sum up, the black Americans who were not considered as citizens and prevented from their rights were strongly working in the development of America in spite of the different problems of segregation and racism that they had faced, they

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wanted to show that they were as equal as any other white American, so they started to prove themselves in different aspects of life.

Chapter Two

BLACK AMERICAN REACTION

TOWARDS RACISM

Chapter2: The Black American Reaction Towards Racism

2-1 Introduction

The Black Americans suffered from many problems, such as :racial discrimination and the bad treatments under the white counterparts ,which forced them to search solutions to these problems, and to improve themselves as American first class citizens. They took the defy throughout non-violence to demonstrate that they have capacities and competences, and to prove that the color of the skin does not mean to be superior or inferior. The blacks started with Harlem Renaissance in 1920s,the cultural revival, then the Civil Rights Movement that began in 1950s , and the Freedom Rides in 1960s.

2-2 Looking for Freedom

The Black Americans had limited freedom even after slavery was abolished. The whites still believed in slavery, and that black people were useless and should not be free. Few blacks had jobs, when the opportunity came along for a job, they were the last on the list, numerous blacks were homeless, they were the first to be laid off, and suffered unemployment twice-three times harder than whites , they had bad school graduation ,they also received less aid than whites, and were excluded from some charities, Black men are 8 times more likely to be put in prison for committing the same crime as a white person. ⁵

Thus, the Black-Americans could not live under this racial condition, and wanted to be free from racism that formed an obstacle to their life, they were obliged to prove themselves as American citizens, with no difference between them and the whites. Many important events were done to make equality between the two races such as: Harlem Renaissance, the Civil rights Movement and the Freedom Rides, these events were very influential on account of the role which they played in encouraging the blacks and even the whites to refuse the racial situation , and look for a new life with equality, justice and without racism. ⁶

⁵ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i_L36nnKsIE

⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0En7jgdgp5g>

Chapter2: The Black American Reaction Towards Racism

2-2-1 WEB Du Bois

William Edward Burghardt Du Bois, called Willie, was born on February 23,1868, in Great Barrington ,Massachusetts, to Alfred and Mary Du Bois , he was a scholar, an intellectual, and an activist who tackled the issues of African Americans in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. (Moore 37)

He is generally recognized as a central figure in the history of Afro-American politics, a major contributor to more than a half-century's debate over the condition of and proper goals ,and strategies for blacks in the United States and more broadly, peoples of African descent, worldwide. He enjoyed an unusually long and prominent career as a scholar, essayist, and activist, he was a pioneer in the formation of sociology as an academic discipline in the United States. He is the author of dozens of essays and books, including the renowned *THE SOULS OF BLACK FOLK*, and the founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).(Fontenot and Morgan 70)

Du Bois became one of the first black American scholars to study in Europe, and the first African-American to earn a PhD at Harvard. He took twenty six years to settle on a career as a black man in a white culture. He learned that the barrier of color created two worlds: a dominant white society and a separate Negro community. He became a part of both worlds, here was the task for a young man's lifetime to set his talents as the mediator between two cultures. (Wald 194)

He focused his study to put science into sociology, he did a research on the Black Americans and their different problems by analyzing all the facts , he rejected the idea that the blacks were inferior, attributing the problems of African Americans to white prejudice, Du Bois became the voice of the black community, he talked about their sufferance and bad living conditions, many whites wanted that the education of blacks be primarily industrial , and that black students in the South must learn to accept white supremacy, Du bois fought a lot against this issue.(Bulmer and Bales 172)

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2-2-2 Harlem Renaissance Movement 1920-1930

The period from 1920 to 1930 was a significant period in the history of black Americans in which there was great achievements in different aspects of life.

2-2-2-1 Location

Harlem, is a neighborhood in the northern section of the New York City, situated between 110th and 155th streets in northern Manhattan, it is an important and effective place for the blacks in the United States, Harlem became famous place primarily because its location in New York City, which considered as the most significant city in the United States, it was called “The Race capital of America,” **Harlem** played a big role in the history of the African Americans , especially in the development of African American culture, music, art and as a place for birth of different black associations and organizations , and the emergence of many black leader.(kathleen and Huber 186)

Harlem began as an affluent white suburb of New York City. But unfortunately at the beginning of the 20th century lots of houses crumbled , different owners of “the African-American Realty Company” started to help many black migrants from the West Indian islands and the southern states by buying and renting a lot of apartments in Harlem for them. As a consequence of the first wave of the great migration, by the 1930s Harlem witnessed a great increase in population nearly 200,000 , including persons of all social classes who developed in Harlem, almost two-thirds of **New York’s black population**, This high density and diversity of black population, led to the development of the Harlem Renaissance, a literary and cultural revival, that coincided with and helped to the appearance of the Civil Rights Movement.(Smith 169)

The apparition of Harlem as the prominent black American urban center at the same time with the rise of New York City as the literary and cultural center of the country , gave the attention on Harlem and its community of black writers

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and poets, it stays a significant place in the historical awareness of black people throughout the world, the evidence of its continuing significance , was the decision by President Bill Clinton to locate his post-presidential office there. (Wintz and Glasrud 01)

2-2-2-2 The Movement

Harlem Renaissance is considered as the most important event in 20th century black American intellectual and cultural history. It is a literary-cultural renewal and flourishing that evolved in Harlem between the late 1920s and 1930s, presented by black intellectuals who tackled the social and economic problems although the renaissance is best known as the first cultural movement to give authentic expression to that African-American experience , and to display artistic pride in Blackness.(Idem)

In the early years of the 20th century, black social status became weak, many had tried to move to the north but poverty , social discrimination and unemployment were the only things that faced them. As a reaction to this, African-Americans showed a strong desire in changing the wrong image that was given by the society, so they began in different cultural fields, thus the movement points the period in African American literary development during which Black writers could demand their creativity in ways that were not previously available to them.(Lowe 02)

Although the Harlem Renaissance began in Harlem, the movement's impact was felt across the United States in the areas of music, literature, and art, after World War I finished the Harlem Renaissance helped to transform the image of African Americans and the culture of the United States.(Jones 22)

The Harlem Renaissance affected the American culture exceedingly, and for good, during this time, there were amazing developments in all kinds of culture, it aimed to recreate a unique black American identity and celebrating black voices in the arts, combating racism and maintaining a unique quality of

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life. Owing to this movement great achievements were witnessed in various cultural fields such as: literature, music, art, and even sport.

The literature, art and music of The Harlem Renaissance told the story of the past, present and often the future of black Americans in the United States and gave a voice to a group of people who had been seen as less than whites since slavery. There were many artist, musicians and writers of The Harlem Renaissance. (Smith 169)

2-2-3 Harlem Renaissance Developement

2-2-3-1 Jazz Music

Jazz was the sound of the 1920's. Jazz music was musical style that originated in New Orleans around the 1920's and it is made from complex styles, propulsive rhythms, improvisatory, virtuosic solos, melodic freedom, as some call it free spirit, night clubs were perfect places where jazz music was played that attracted many people to come and dance into the night. Jazz became more famous , spread from New Orleans to Chicago and developed into the nightclubs of Harlem. Many jazz musicians emerged in these nightclubs and became very popular such as: Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington, and singers such as: Bessie Smith, Ella Fitzgerald. The most famous nightclub in Harlem was the Cotton Club, it made stars of many black American performers, but only white customers were allowed in the club.(Martin and Waters 69)

Louis Armstrong 1901-1971, was a charismatic performer, that brought thousands of smiles on peoples faces when he played his trumpet, he was loved for his jazz style of playing his trumpet, he not only did he play the trumpet but he sang, he was also a comedian, film star and so much more, he traveled sharing his daring trumpet styles and sang to large audiences, he brought whites and blacks together at parades. He recorded many songs such as "Star Dust" 'La Vie En Rose" And "What a Wonderful World." (Sundem 86)

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2-2-3-2 Art and Theatre

Apollo Theater was a significant theater founded in 1913 on 125th street in the Harlem neighborhood of New York City. It was an important place for black American popular music, it was considered as the central and the most famous theatre on Harlem, and it **played a big role in Harlem's culture** s. The Apollo began to give way to musical revues ,in addition to introducing a vast number of rising stars, the Apollo quickly became a vital stop for any black entertainer. (Wallenfeldt 279)

In art, there was also an awakening , an example of the black American art development ,was Aaron Douglas(1899-1979), an African American painter and a graphic artist who had a huge impact in the Harlem Renaissance. Douglas was very well known for his powerful artwork that showed the struggles of black Americans, making him win multiple awards for his art. Douglas painted hundreds of paintings such as Birth o' the Blues. Evolution of Negro Dance, Flight. (Louis Gates and Higginbotham 161)

2-2-3-3 Literature

At that time , there was a strong activity of African American literature, many writers and poets appeared with great efforts to attract the attention of readers from the whole American society, there was great literacy and artistic movement, sixteen black Americans writers published more than fifty volumes of poetry and fiction ,they continued attracting the attention over readers by producing more work from 1920s to 1930s (newspaper, magazine, poems), it was the first time in the history of the relation between communities in U.S.A that the blacks **succeeded to influence the white's culture**, among writers and poets of Harlem renaissance were: Langston Hughes, Claude McKay , James Weldon Johnson and Countee Cullen . (Appiah and Louis Gates 152)

Langston Hughes (1902-1967) , was perhaps the most well-known Harlem Renaissance writer, he was younger than McKay, whom he looked up to as a

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poet, Hughes spent most of his childhood in Lawrence, Kansas, moving to New York in 1921 to attend Columbia, he left Columbia in 1922 because of the racism there and the attraction of the black poetry movement in Harlem, throughout the 1920s and 1930s, he developed his unique style of "jazz poetry," drawing from everyday black American language, jazz rhythms, and American poets. (Appiah and Louis Gates 253)

James Weldon Johnson , was an African American writer ,who became one of the leader of the Harlem Renaissance, he was born on June 17, 1871, in Jacksonville, Florida , he founded the newspaper of **“The Daily American”**, and became a member the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People). He wrote many stories and poems from personal experience and other African Americans his famous works: *God's Trombones* (1927) ,*The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* (1912) he died on June 26, 1938, in Wiscasset, Maine. (Oakes 184)

2-2-3-4 Sports

The 1920s are often referred to as the “golden decade” of American sports. Black athletes had a significant presence during the Harlem Renaissance, they were extremely popular in the sports events which highlighted the black social calendar, the principal sports in which black athletes found success during the 1920s and early 1930s were: boxing, baseball, basketball, football, and track. (McDonald 128)

Football, was one of the few sports open to blacks in the 1920s, in spite of the gradual drawing of the color line eliminated African Americans from the professional ranks by 1933, after the formation of the American Professional Football Association (APFA) in 1919, the first successful black professionals came largely from white colleges, where many had been named to Walter Camp's influential All-American teams, a total of thirteen blacks played in the APFA from 1920 to 1933.(Wintz and Finkelman 996)

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Another sport in which the blacks excelled in, was track and field which was generally an amateur sport during the Harlem Renaissance. It produced some of the most significant athletic achievements by blacks. At the Olympic games of 1924 in Paris, blacks took gold and silver medals in the long jump and a bronze medal in the men's 10,000 meters and at the Olympics of 1932 in Los Angeles. Blacks controlled the sprint events, Thomas Edward Tolan won gold medals in the 100- and 200-meter dash, and his teammate Ralph Metcalfe won the silver and bronze medals. Edward Gordon of the University of Iowa also took a gold medal, for the high jump, four years later, at the Olympics of 1936 in Berlin, Jesse Owens's won four gold medals which would make a mockery of the Nazis white supremacist .(Wintz and Finkelman 996)

Chances for black female athletes during the 1920s and 1930s were severely limited, in part because of widespread suspicion that the strong athletic competition was unfeminine, in spite of such obstacles, black female athletes excelled in several sports during the Harlem Renaissance, They were prominent especially in track, by **the late 1930s, the Tuskegee women's team** took control of different events such as the AAU Nationals, as well, two black women were stars **on the segregated women's tennis tour: Isadore Channels** (who won four national titles between 1922 and 1926) and Ora Washington (who won eight titles from 1929 to 1937). (Ibid 997)

2-3 The Civil Rights Movement

The Civil Rights Movement was a program of protest and civil disobedience by the black Americans in the 1950s-1970s, they wanted to overcome racist policies and laws denying them their civil rights and freedom, the movement looked to guarantee equality under the law and to permit black Americans to have equal access to an impartial share in education, economic prosperity and political life, the movement was under control of the Blacks , but, to some degree, it was also interracial and supported by white allies, the movement involved national, regional and local organizations that occasionally

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worked together in various degrees and combinations, but at the same time, they kept their own particular, and changeable emphases , methodologies and approaches. The civil rights movement is considered as one of the most well known, well studied, and apparently the most defining period in the 20th century American culture, its impact and influence on later political struggles and social movements has been completely documented.(Newman 01)

The civil rights movement was foremost mattered with race and personal identity, for many of its participants. it was obviously that the objective of freedom for African Americans would necessitate all Americans to challenge racism within themselves and what it did to both white and black people. Black Americans conduct the movement, they really considered it as their liberation struggle and discovered a new sense of themselves in the empowerment they experienced, though in no way, African American spokespersons also saw their struggle as one over unification and integration, racial discrimination that strung along with it, prohibited black Americans from having the same life opportunities as whites. (J. Ling, Monteith 01)

By the late 1960s the term 'black power' (political slogan) dominated the Civil Rights Movement, this helped and encouraged black Americans to continue self-determination, enormous grassroots activism marked the era, an unparalleled black rebellion, assisted by thousands of first-time protesters and freedom fighters of all ages, made a groundswell of participation in the freedom struggle. These collaborations gave the movement energy ,vitality and activity, guaranteeing its survival after relapses in spite of brutal opposition by whites insurgency, the black freedom struggle received amazing support from white allies, while blacks primarily lead the civil rights movement, whites were more eager to help than at any time before, they granted money, gave their skills, and even gave their lives in order to help the issue. The period was also featured by widespread white kindness for the black freedom struggle in a country controlled educationally, politically, and economically by whites, this Favorable climate

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had a positive influence on the movement's opportunities to make gains and good results .(Ezra 01,02)

In the period from 1954 to 1968, the three main branches of US government (legislative, executive, judicial) supported the freedom of the blacks, the Congress passed a collection of civil rights laws and social liberties that closed constitutional loopholes and gave the federal government the capability to enforce and obligate the anti racial discrimination statutes, during the period when Lyndon Johnson was a president , the White House supported the movement through speeches, with executive orders, and by mobilizing federal resources, the African American were given a considerable international backing, the United Nations accepted and adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, furthermore a lot of members questioned the moral authority of the United States on the basis of its treatment of blacks.(Idem)

The black freedom struggle was featured by exceptional philosophical thoughts during the Civil Right Movements. The ideology of integration dominated the movement, creating patriotic overtones that placed its primary objectives as first-class citizenship and full access to American society for blacks. Churches were central to the civil rights movement, contributed as both spiritual guides and meeting places, giving the movement overt moral authority, joining righteous people , Christian faith, and crowd protest, the peaceful freedom fighters took to the streets a campaign that had already been launched within the courts.(Idem)

The leaders of this movement were intellectuals, among them Martin Luther King, King years were influenced by a sympathetic mass media that kept the black freedom struggle in the news and portrayed its participants as protagonists, on a daily basis, in newspapers and on television, Americans were faced with positive images of the civil rights movement being positioned as the nation's moral conscience.(Shevitz 39)

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2-3-1 Martin Luther king

Martin Luther King, was born in Atlanta, USA on 15th of January 1929. He was a Baptist minister and a leader in the civil rights movement, he is famous for his work on human rights and is known around the world as a man who promoted peace, non-violence and equal treatment for people of different races. He worked extremely hard to try to make people understand that black people in America should be treated in the same manner as the whites.(Braybrooke 585)

Martin's father was a pastor of a leading Black Church in the city (King's grandfather and great grandfather were also preachers) and he grew up in wealthy conditions of the "black bourgeoisie. He studied hard at Booker T. Washington High School that permitted him to pass two classes in high school. At the age of fifteen King commenced to go to college of Morehouse, where he gets a degree in sociology. Then he acquired his doctor's degree in theology from Boston University. In 1953 he married Coretta Scott and had four children. When Dr.King became a priest, he helped many people by offering them with sermons in and making them comprehend what was fair and what was not. King attended meetings and visited ill people and he felt he was really helping people. (Smith 198)

King's life was full of courageous actions. In 1955, he worked hard to stop segregation on public buses in Montgomery, Alabama. Under segregation, black people could only sit in the back of a bus. However, if a white person wanted that seat, the black person would have to move. Dr. King and other black people chose not to ride any bus until the segregation stopped. In 1956, the United States Supreme Court said blacks could sit anywhere they wanted on a bus. Dr. King kept working to end discrimination. He wanted all people to have equal rights, no matter the color of their skin, he knew that the black people could make the country change, he said the change could happen without using violence. People looked at him as a good man and took his advice. He supported blacks work together to win equality.(Newman 07)

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King's words are known throughout the world for example the use of "I have a dream" every year on his birthday, But King's dream that people not be judged by the color of their skin was not his only dream, he had many. He dreamed of ridding the world of poverty and violence, he dreamed of communities based on love for people instead of love for things, those dreams came from many places: his family and friends, people he worked with and people he met while traveling, people from different continents with different religions and of different races. Those many, different people also learned from him, as King's ideas about non-violence and justice helped to change the world. In 1968 he was shot and murdered in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was preparing to lead a protest campaign for better wages and working conditions for striking African-American garbage workers (Manheimer 07)

His “I HAVE A DREAM” speech is among the most celebrated and familiar in the history of America , and his birthday is one of only three celebrated as a national holiday ,he is only the third person to have his own national holiday and the first black person to be honored with a holiday that is celebrated all across the country.(Smith 198)

2-4 The Freedom Riders

The Civil rights activists needed to spread their revolts all over the states of America, in order to get more uprisings to halt the segregation, they had to organize clusters known as The Freedom Riders to travel all across the countries of America.

During the 1960s ,when the civil rights issues were developed, numerous people from the North and the South integrated in an effort to provide a sense of equality, to the African-Americans who were suffering under the racial discrimination of many people living in the South. One of these groups was called the freedom riders.

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The Freedom Riders were clusters of civil rights activists constituted of blacks and whites, men and women, old and young who were mostly students or collegians, some of them were part of the Congress of racial equality, who set on to travel by buses in various states, in the aim to defy the segregations in buses, restaurants, waiting rooms. On May 1960, a group of civil rights movements sent many contributors for a nonviolent freedom rides, boarding trains, buses heading up to the south, in order to break down the segregation laws on inter-state transportation (At bus station the whites went into blacks-only zones and the

black did the opposite) . The following September, over 70.000 students' whites and blacks had participated in that movement and almost 3,600 who traveled across more than 20 countries were stopped for their contribution in the movement (Arsenault 205)

The major objective and purpose of the Freedom Riders was to stop the Jim Crow laws in the Deep South in public transportation. while the bus systems of segregation had been canceled by the court ruling in the 1960 ,which based on the segregation of interstate buses and rail stations, black Americans were still incapable to use the busing system freely as a white person could. Another objective that the Freedom Riders had ,was to perform all acts under the regards of non-violence , as Martin Luther King was telling the crowd when he spoke, the only way that the African-American community would be truly freed from the harsh realities of lingering segregation was through protests which were dedicated to non-violence.(Charles 190)

The Freedom Riders set out on May 4, 1961 from Washington D.C. to start their honorary "Journey of Reconciliation" through the Deep South, although they faced many problems during the beginning of their rides.(E. Schwartz 10)

A lot of problems faced the groups. In the course of the first trip of the Freedom Riders from Washington to New Orleans on 4th May, there were six whites and seven blacks who boarded two buses which were expected to arrive

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on May 17th. One of the buses was stoned and then burned. While the others that reached Birmingham afterward the same day, were beaten by the riots, because no policeman was present there, even though the Birmingham police were aware by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) that there was a risk of violence. One of the rioters who stoned the bus was captured and he admitted that the riot was organized by the Ku Klux Klan. These people were capable to use violence and brutality with no legal backlash of their actions in Anniston, Freedom Riders were severely defeated and their bus was burned. After being rushed to the hospital emergency room, the African-Americans who arrived from the bus accident received little to no medical treatment, while the white Freedom Riders did. (Scribner 149,152)

The Freedom Riders began this courageous journey ,with one dream in their minds that they could live as American citizens and had all their rights, regardless the color of their skin, despite they were met with difficult circumstances such as arrests and mental scars which threatened their lives. The freedom riders wanted to guarantee that equality was still realizable even in the darkest part of the country, the 1960s gave a national dream of living in freedom without racial discrimination, and groups like the Freedom Riders wanted to guarantee that the limits of these freedoms did not exist only on paper, but were able to be used without fear or threat to their life. (Ruth Silver 142)

Thus, there was a lot of persecutions against those who took part in the Freedom Riders. The most important outcome was the establishment of the Freedom Riders Coordinating Committee which generated rides everywhere in the south with the participation of more people, black Americans obtained the rights to vote in 1870, thanks to the Fifteenth Amendments which was an amendment to the U.S. Constitution stated that The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. White local and state officials systematically retained blacks from electing across proper processes, such as poll taxes and literacy examinations, and across rude methods of fright and intimidation, that

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encompassed beatings and lynching. Thus, the Black Americans had to organize campaigns in order to get the right to. The Freedom Rides is considered as a historical example of the permanent effects that a group of people, who want a change and demand for its rights, can have. (Anderson 70)

2-5 Conclusion

After Harlem Renaissance Movement, the African Americans emerged in the American society and wanted a new life under justice and equivalence to the whites. Their revolt against racism to obtain their full right and equality in the American society started with a series of non-violent movements such as Civil Rights Movements (1950s-1970s) and Freedom rides (1960s). They succeeded to attract the American society due to their travelling in various States. In spite of all the obstacles that faced them they could get their rights such as the suffrage.

Chapter Three

The Integration of Black
Americans in the American Society

Chapter three: The Integration of Black Americans in The American Society

1 Introduction

The aim of this chapter is to review the period after 1970 focusing on the achievements of many black Americans in different aspects of life including : politics, sports , art and media, , with much focus on the way they integrated in the American society and contributed in the development of their country, thus, they had an effect and influence over the society. Among those bright people: Michael Jackson in music, Oprah Winfrey in media, Michael Jordan in Basketball and Jesse Jackson in politics. So what were their achievements? and how did they affect the American society ?

2 The Impact of Black Americans over the American society

Black American culture is the mixture of all what the African slaves brought to America, the segregation of blacks throughout American history, and how they had the greatest and the most profound effect on the American culture with theirs. Many different facets of culture were influenced by black Americans , such as: music, dance, art, and many others. They contributed to the development of these domains, this contributions were not only well praised, but they revolutionized them to be integrated in the American society, weather it was literature, art, or music. Black Americans started to become more acceptable and more integrated in the American society in which they had an impact on this society in different fields.(Boyd 01)

3-2-1 Music

Different black American artists challenged the obstacles of racism and became famous, and influenced the American society and even the world, one of those Black artists was Michael Jackson.

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2-1-1 Michael Jackson

Michael Jackson, a black American artist, was born on 29th August 1958 in Gary, Indiana. His family is composed of six brothers and three sisters , at the age of five years, Michael started working in a musical group which had a name of 'The Jacksons 5' , this group was composed of his brothers, he had a dance skill just like James Brown ,and he had a very nice voice since he was a child. In 1972, Michael started his professional career with the single 'Got to be there', also, Michael did a solo for the movie called 'Ben' ,and it became a number one hit.(Hombach 03)

'The king of pop' was every times the nickname of Michael. In 1982 the famous American composer Quincy Jones , produced the album of Thriller presented by Michael Jackson which had a big success and became the most influential music in history at that time when 53 million copies of this album were sold. Jackson succeeded to conquer huge fans from the entire world , and opened the gates for black Americans to occupy the popular culture scene. He is predicted for breaking the race barrier in American pop culture (Ibid 55)

Michael Jackson had a great effect on American culture and various different social orders around the globe, his incredible music, notable style and music features have reclassified American as well as worldwide popular society. In America Michael turned into the face of the modern Video age breaking down various racial obstructions, his charity works influenced a lot of people over the American society when he visited hospitals and orphanages to which he donated money, gifts, and resources. According to the Guinness Book of Records, Jackson donated an estimated \$300 million to charity in his lifetime.(R. Smit 208)

Jackson succeeded to conquer huge fans from the entire world ,and opened the gates for African Americans to occupy the popular culture scene. He is predicted for breaking the race barrier in American pop culture, he could influence the American society and even the world by his messages through singing , acting and dancing , despite of his death On June 25, 2009, Michael Jackson still has

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fans from all the world, Michael Jackson became the most influential artist of the 20th century.(R. Smit 208)

2-2Media

many

Media and especially television plays a central role as image maker, and in terms of its impact on attitudes, behavior, philosophy, politics and spending patterns of people around America and the world in general. The black Americans appeared in this domain and challenged the obstacles , among those who excelled in media Oprah Winfrey.

2-2-1 Oprah Winfrey

Oprah Gail Winfrey was born in the rural town of Kosciusko, Mississippi, on January 29, 1954. The illegitimate child of mother Vemita Lee and father Vernon Winfrey, an American media proprietor, talk show host, actress and producer , she has been world-famous television star for more than 25 years. Her programs are shown in different continents such as : Africa, Asia, and Europe. She has been both an actress and producer almost as many years as her television program has run. Adding to her fame and fortune, 16 years after reaching the pinnacle of television stardom, in conjunction with the Hearst Company, she launched The Oprah Magazine in 2000. Even though she closed The Oprah Winfrey Show at the end of 2010, publication of the magazine continued.(Magil 4029)

The television program of "Oprah Winfrey Show" is the well-known American TV show presented . The show debuted in 1985 to serve the Chicago market. Rapidly the show conquered its fans and became one of the most successful of the talk show hosts and the dominant black in the field. In few years with

Oprah's amazing attitude to communicate with her hosts and audience launched her

show into national syndication which attracted and increased the audience. Oprah is also well-known as generous person and also a successful actor, television viewer, book marketer, and promoter of employment for African Americans. (Garson 65)

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Oprah Winfrey was not the first individual to host a syndicated program on TV. Yet she reformed the class. Also, with her amazing identity, her multi-stage marketable strategy and her persistent messages of inspiration and self-improvement, she figured out how to penetrate American life from all edges. Oprah made people reading Amid the 14 years of Oprah's Book Club, fans purchased a **huge number of Oprah's books**, Oprah has also supported many people understand to accept others who are not like them. (Garson 163)

Oprah has constantly credited the sufferance and function of the men and women included in civil rights movement for clearing a way for a poor African-American woman from the South to change into a darling billionaire businesswoman. Although she sometimes gets very tired, Oprah keeps going because she believes her show has a positive impact on society. When she is tired,

she summons up the lines from one of her favorite spirituals: "I'll run on, see what the end will be. I believe I will work on, see what the end will be". (Lowe 173)

Thus, Oprah Winfrey is considered as America's most successful woman and she is a true cultural phenomenon, a powerhouse of mega format whose influence is far-reaching trough the American society and the world, she has inspired Americans with her openness and compassion and vision of a better world, her motivational words pushed Americans to overcome negative thinking and live with hope, she proved that even the blacks could develop their society and country.

2-3 Sports

There are many examples of black Americans athletes who excelled in sports and proved themselves in this domain. They could influence the American society and even the world by their achievements. They demonstrated that they were able to develop their country as any other white citizens, one of those remarkable athletes is Michael Jordan.

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2-3-1 Michael Jordan

Michael Jeffrey Jordan one of the most popular athlete on earth, the son of James and Deloris ,was born on February 17 , 1963 in Brooklyn, New York. After **Michael's birth they moved all to Wilmington, North Carolina** , he was Professional basketball player and a symbol of the African Americans successful athletes. He holds the National Basketball Association, or NBA, all-time playoff records for points, scoring average, and steals, he dominated this sport from 1980 to 1990. He played a big role in leading his team, the Chicago Bulls, win six National championships in the 1990s. Each time the Bulls won the NBA title, Michael was named the Most Valuable Player, or MVP, of the finals, the MVP is the prize given to the best player in the NBA. His success in playoff games began before the Bulls were champions. On April 20, 1986, he set the record for the most points in one playoff game by scoring 63 points against the Boston Celtics.(Mury 643)

The success in the life and career of Jordan has had an impact over the American society. He changed the people's perspective on basketball, after his joining the NBA , this sport became very popular most of people want to watch it. He also influence the life of children when he became a prominent model and good example for them over the American society and event the world by affecting them to become a basketball players as well as good people, he had also an influence on the US economy while promoting different products and goods such as athletic commodities and video games, this attract many people to purchase these products , **as an example Jordan's** shoes the trademark of Nike Company is one of the most selling product today, this made him very rich , and according to this richness he helped sick children and supported different charities and many Athletic compounds which provide sport activities.⁶

Michael Jordan influenced many white Americans and changed their negative visions toward blacks that they were inferior. His achievements in

⁶<http://jjc.edu/ftp/wdc11/llucas/Influences.html>

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basketball and his charitable works as a good man affected and had a good impact over the whole American society and proved that even blacks have a role to develop their country.

2-4 Politics

In politics, some black Americans worked hard to prove themselves in this domain, one of the most famous black American politician, was Jesse Louis Jackson.

2-4-1 Jesse Louis Jackson

Jesse Louis Jackson ,a black American civil rights activist and famous politician, he was born on October 8, 1941 in Greenville, South Carolina. In the 1960s he started as a student activist, who associated later with Martin Luther King JR. Afterward **King's** assassination, Jackson carried on to become his successor.(Smith 186)

In 1971, Jackson founded Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity) in order to support black self-help and inspire children and teen to succeed and achieved broad audience for his liberal views , In 1984 Jackson created the National Rainbow Coalition, whose goal was to provide equal rights for African-American, these two organizations were integrated together later.(Idem)

In the 1980s he became a leading national spokesman for black Americans, and in 1983 he declared his candidature for the presidential nomination of the Democratic. He was concentrated on black people and the discrimination from whites, as well about the poverty in the black community. He won 3,5 million popular votes, placed him as the first serious black American who challenge for the presidential candidacy. He made his courage to struggle for world peace, civil and human rights, the popularity of Jackson spread exceedingly as an African-American leader and as politician, he became a well known man for civil rights issues. (Wallenfeldt 43)

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Jesse Jackson became famous with his beliefs. He saw that black Americans should take more political power in America, since many people did not accept the idea of successful black because of the color of his skin or the race. He could influence the whites through his good works and impressive speeches and a lot of them were voting for him.

3 Conclusion

In spite of different obstacles and the problem of racism, black Americans defied these hurdles and barriers. They proved that the difference in the color of the skin did not make people superior or inferior, intelligent or ignorant ,especially when they attained highest positions in the American society. They could affect the whites and proved themselves as real American citizens, they influenced the American society and changed the negative vision of the whites towards blacks .

GENERAL CONCLUSION

GENERAL CONCLUSION

During a long period in history, the black Americans were not considered as American citizens, they suffered from bad treatments under slavery, the different kinds of racism and discrimination. In spite of these problems, they could challenge them and prove themselves over the society as American citizens.

The first problem that faced the black Americans was slavery since their arrival to America from Africa across the Atlantic in slave ships in which many died. They were forced to work hard , treated as animals and considered as inferior with no rights until the abolishment of slavery. But after this, the black Americans faced another problem which was racism with different racial segregation laws that separated them from the whites and kept them isolated with no equality, no rights and injustice. Thus, the black Americans were obliged to challenge these problems and to struggle ,resist and fight under various obstacles for the aim to obtain their civil rights and freedom as any other white citizens.

Many important events were done for the goal of freedom and equality, the most significant were: Harlem Renaissance, Civil Right Movements and Freedom Rides, in which the blacks sacrificed their lives to secure their rights. The struggle was shaped by a huge loss in lives, mainly because of the violence. These sacrifices had a good result, finally the government recognized them as free and equal American citizens who would enjoy all civil rights.

The black Americans could defy all the obstacles and prove themselves as American citizens, especially when they reached a highest position in the American society in every aspects of live , politics, sports, literature and art. They achieved their goals and proved that the difference in the color of the skin did not make people superior or inferior. They became famous, popular and beloved more than any time before. They could influence the whites and changed their negative visions against blacks.

GENERAL CONCLUSION

The problem of racism against the blacks in America became less than before. The black Americans had more chances to live with the whites normally. But the problem of racism is still persisting and appearing in the attitudes, values and morals of different white citizens.

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