

***The Great Migration &
The Harlem Renaissance***

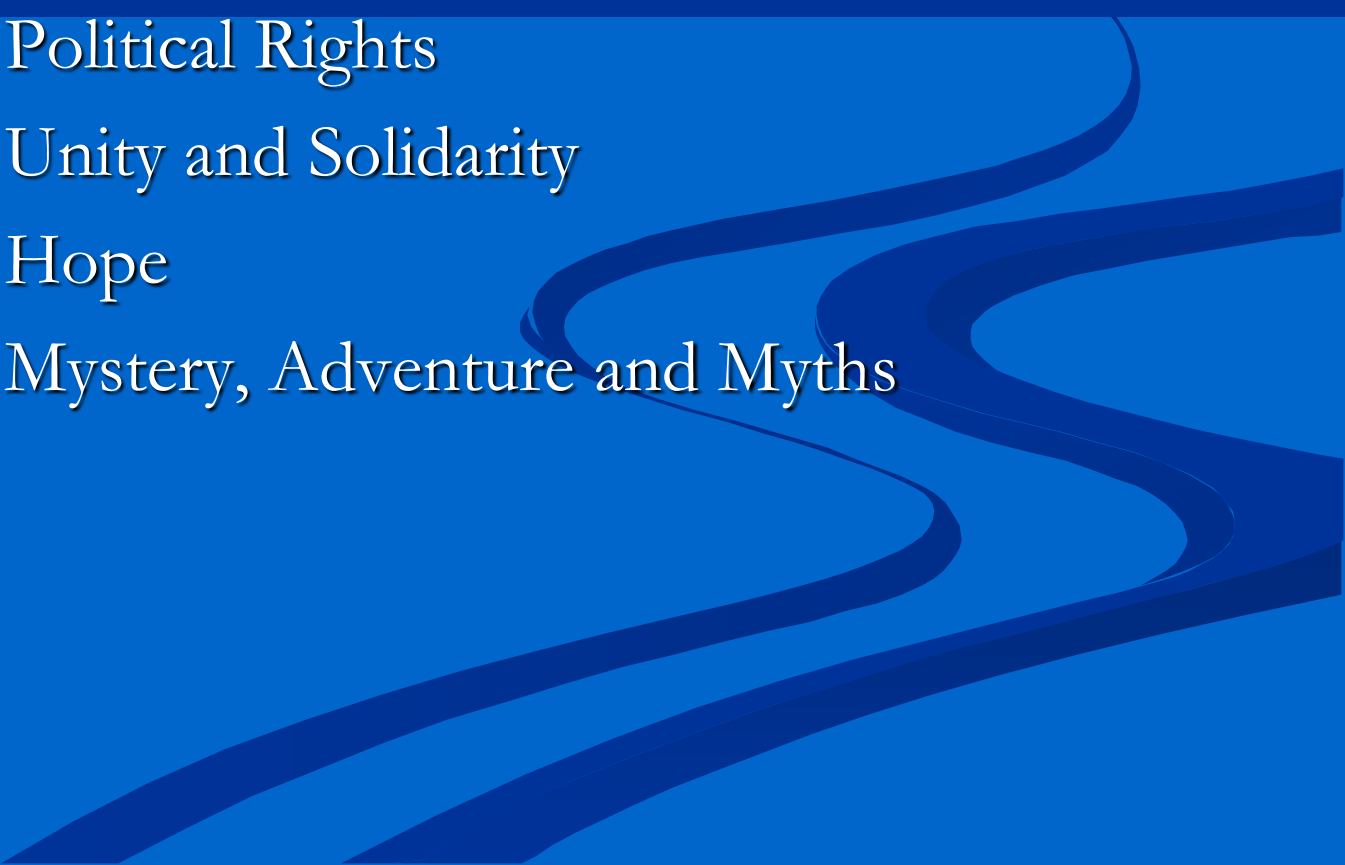
Mr. Daniel Lazar

The Great Migration

- **Push Factors**

- Racial Violence
 - Rise of the KKK
 - Lynching
 - Economic Repression
 - Share cropping
 - Tenant Farming
 - KKK: Boycotts and Intimidation
 - Political Repression
 - Jim Crow Laws
 - Sundown Towns
 - Environmental Devastation
 - Volatile Weather of 1915-16 (drought and flood)
 - Boll Weevil
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The Great Migration

- Pull Factors
 - Economic Opportunity?
 - Political Rights
 - Unity and Solidarity
 - Hope
 - Mystery, Adventure and Myths
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- The bottom right portion of the slide features several thick, dark blue, wavy lines that sweep across the background, creating a sense of movement and depth.

The Great Migration

- What Migrants Brought With Them
 - Economic Despair
 - Illiteracy
 - Political inexperience
 - Experiences & Memories
 - Hopes and Dreams
 - Fear & Despair
 - Racism & Prejudice
 - Culture: music, poetry, prose, visual art...
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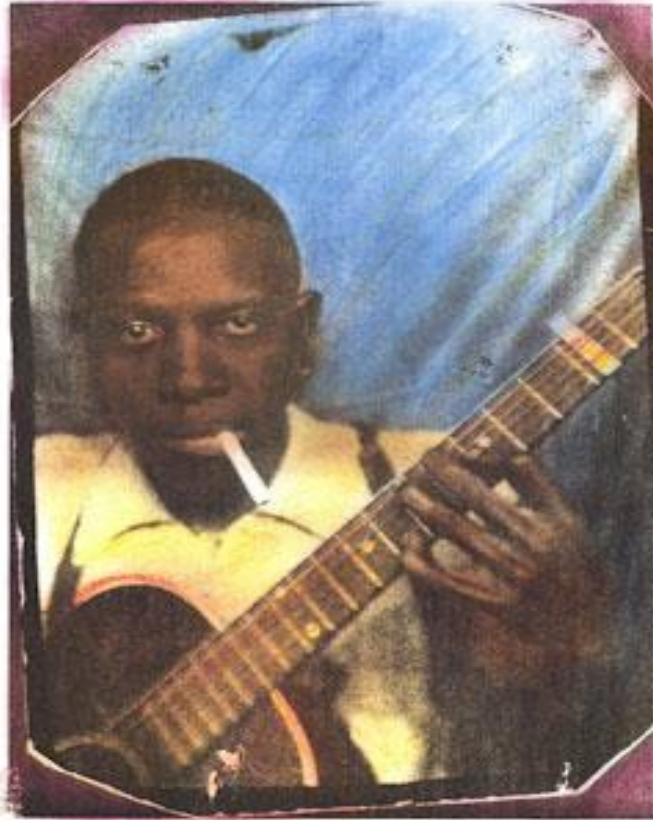
The Great Migration

Where African-Americans Migrated To & Why

- Primarily Chicago, Detroit and NY
 - Also: St. Louis, Indianapolis, Philadelphia
- Industrial Towns with Booming Industries
- Towns With Supportive Networks

Robert Johnson is the most important blues musician who ever lived. I have never found anything more deeply soulful. His music remains the most powerful cry that I think you can find in the human voice.

---Eric Clapton



ROBERT JOHNSON

The Harlem Renaissance

"We younger Negro artists now intend to express our individual dark-skinned selves without fear or shame. . . . We build our temples for tomorrow, as strong as we know how and we stand on the top of the mountain, free within ourselves."

--Langston Hughes, "The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain"



The Harlem Renaissance

"Harlem is romantic in its own right. And it is hard and strong, its noise, heat, cold, cries and colours are so. And the nostalgia is violent too; the eternal radio seeping through everything day and night, indoors and out, becomes somehow the personification of restlessness, desire, brooding."

--Nancy Cunard "Harlem Review"

The Harlem Renaissance

"The true spirit of jazz is a joyous revolt from convention, custom, authority, boredom, even sorrow--from everything that would confine the soul of man and hinder its riding free on the air."

--J.A. Rogers, "Jazz at Home,"





Causes of The Harlem Renaissance

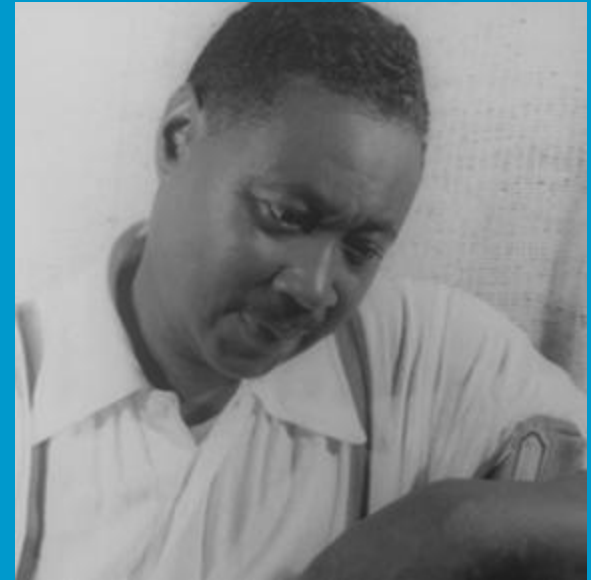
- The Migration & Overcrowding
 - Harlem 1920-1929 = 150,000 to 330,000
 - An international movement: The South, West Indies, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Jamaica
 - Overcrowding and Poverty (a mixed blessing?)
 - Economic Bubble of 1920's
 - Liberation of Women in 1920's
 - Growth of Cities & New Urban Scene
 - Media: Radio & Newspapers
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African-American Writers

Claude McKay

“If We Must Die”

If we must die, let it not be like hogs
Hunted and penned in an inglorious spot,
While round us bark the mad and hungry dogs,
Making their mock at our accursed lot.
If we must die, O let us nobly die,
So that our precious blood may not be shed
In vain; then even the monsters we defy
Shall be constrained to honor us though dead!
O kinsmen! we must meet the common foe!
Though far outnumbered let us show us brave,
And for their thousand blows deal one deathblow!
What though before us lies the open grave?
Like men we'll face the murderous, cowardly pack,
Pressed to the wall, dying, but fighting back!



African-American Writers

Claude McKay “White Houses”

Your door is shut against my tightened face,
And I am sharp as steel with discontent;
But I possess the courage and the grace
To bear my anger proudly and unbent.
The pavement slabs burn loose beneath my feet,
A chafing savage, down the decent street;
And passion rends my vitals as I pass,
Where boldly shines your shuttered door of glass.
Oh, I must search for wisdom every hour,
Deep in my wrathful bosom sore and raw,
And find in it the superhuman power
To hold me to the letter of your law!
Oh, I must keep my heart inviolate
Against the potent poison of your hate.

African-American Writers

Langston Hughes “Dream Deferred”

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up

Like a raisin in the sun?

Or fester like a sore--

And then run?

Does it stink like rotten meat?

Or crust and sugar over--

like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags

like a heavy load.

Or does it explode?

**“If you have to ask what jazz is, you’ll never understand”
--Armstrong**



Louis Armstrong Quotes and Tributes

"Armstrong is to music what Einstein is to physics and the Wright Brothers are to travel."

-- Ken Burns

"He left an undying testimony to the human condition in the America of his time"

-- Wynton Marsalis

"Americans, unknowingly, live part of every day in the house that Satch built"

--Leonard Feather

Louis Armstrong Quotes and Tributes

"I think that anybody from the 20th century, up to now, has to be aware that if it wasn't for Louis Armstrong, we'd all be wearing powdered wigs. I think that Louis Armstrong loosened the world, helped people to be able to say "Yeah," and to walk with a little dip in their hip. Before Louis Armstrong, the world was definitely square, just like Christopher Columbus thought."

-- South African trumpeter Hugh Masekela

Duke Ellington



Next Monday Evening The

GRAYSTONE
BALLROOM

Presents A Band Battle Featuring

DUKE ELLINGTON
AND HIS ORCHESTRA



With Detroit Favorites

McKINNEY'S
COTTON PICKERS



4237 Woodward At Canfield



Ellington the Quotable

“It don’t mean a thing if it ain’t got that swing.”

“Art is dangerous. It is one of the attractions: when it ceases to be dangerous you don't want it.”

“Put it this way: Jazz is a good barometer of freedom... In its beginnings, the United States of America spawned certain ideals of freedom and independence through which, eventually, jazz was evolved, and the music is so free that many people say it is the only unhampered, unhindered expression of complete freedom yet produced in this country.”

Themes of Harlem Renaissance

Visual Art

1. The exoticizing of Africa and Africanness. Glorification of Blackness
2. African-American History, Slavery Identity and Pride
3. Primitivist theme: used for and against the black race.
4. Vitality of African-American Community
5. Racism and Discrimination
6. The exploring of sexual themes
7. Religion
8. Night Life
9. Family Life
10. Other Arts: dance, music, poetry
11. International Perspective

AARON DOUGLAS
“ASPECTS OF NEGRO LIFE FROM SLAVERY
TO RECONSTRUCTION”



Aaron Douglas “In an African Setting”



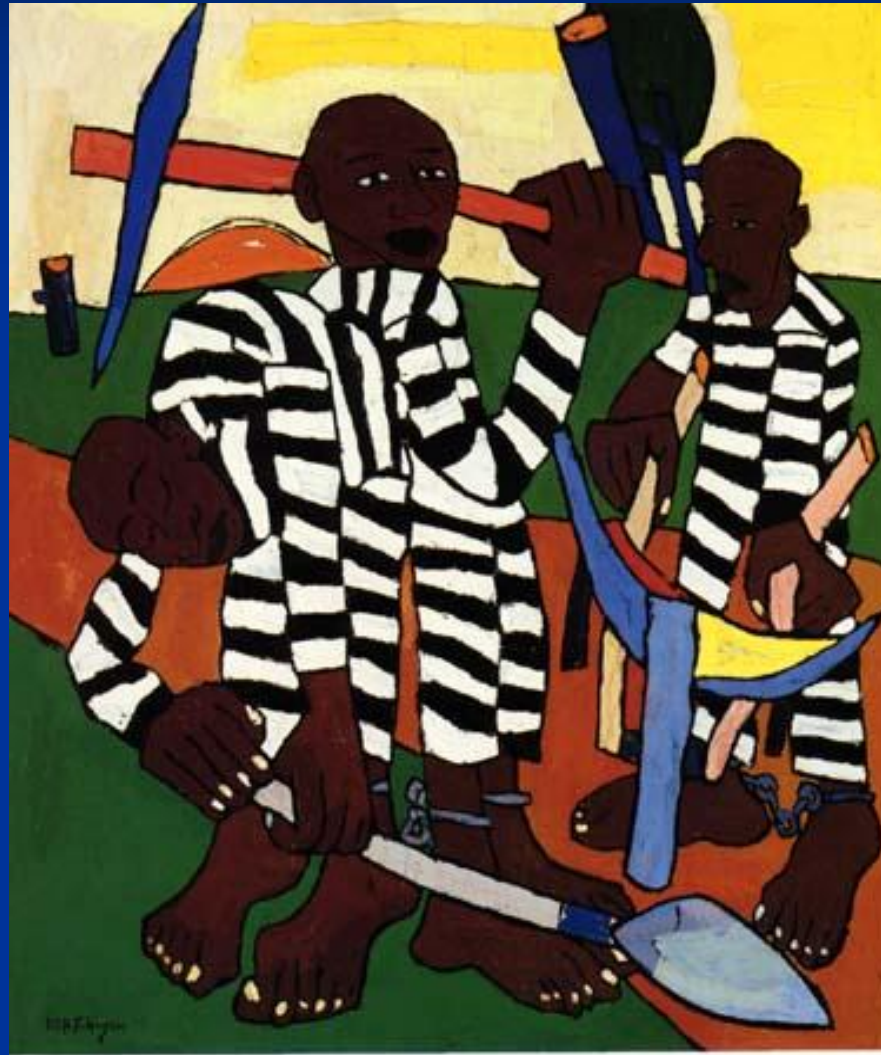
WILLIAM H. JOHNSON
“GOING TO CHURCH”



William H. Johnson
“Mount Calvary”



William H. Johnson
“Chain Gang”



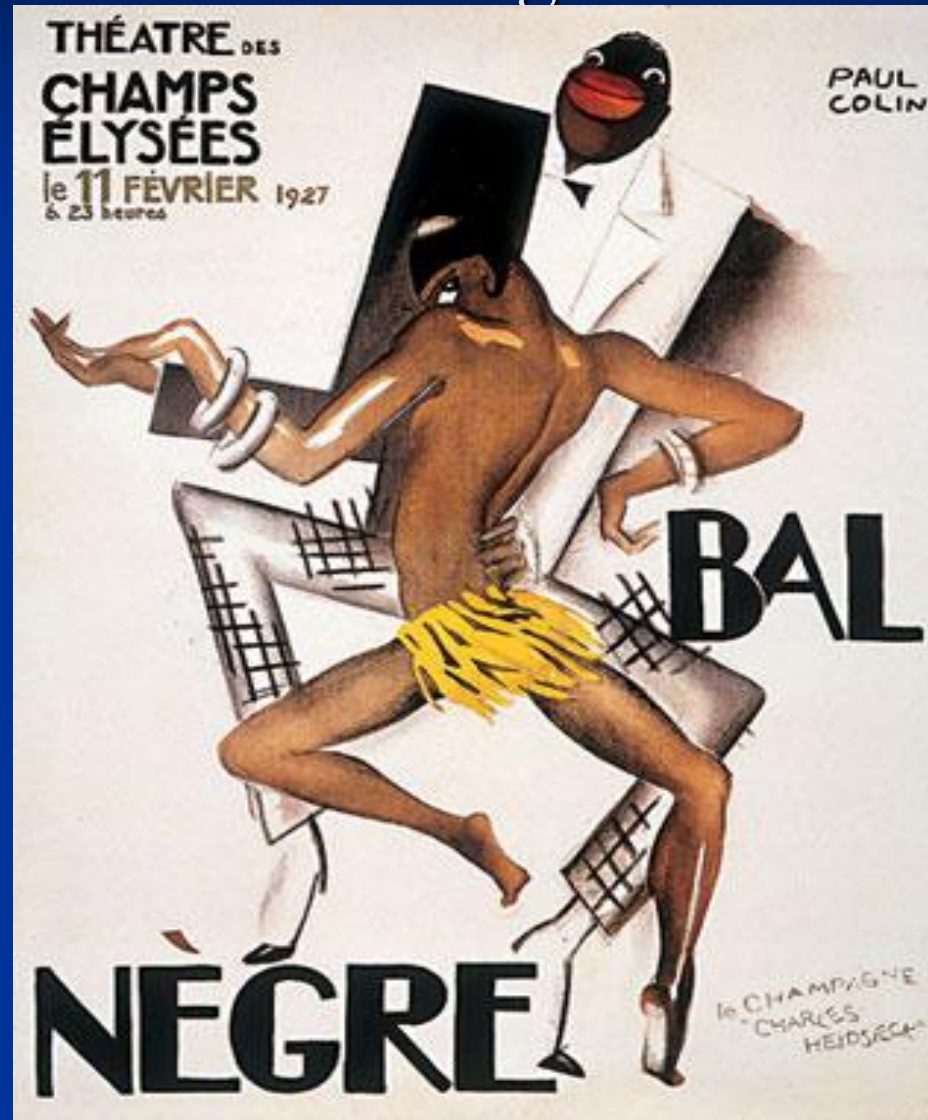
Palmer Hayden
“Nous Quatre a Paris”



Palmer Hayden *“Jeunesse”*



Paul Colin
“Ball Negre”



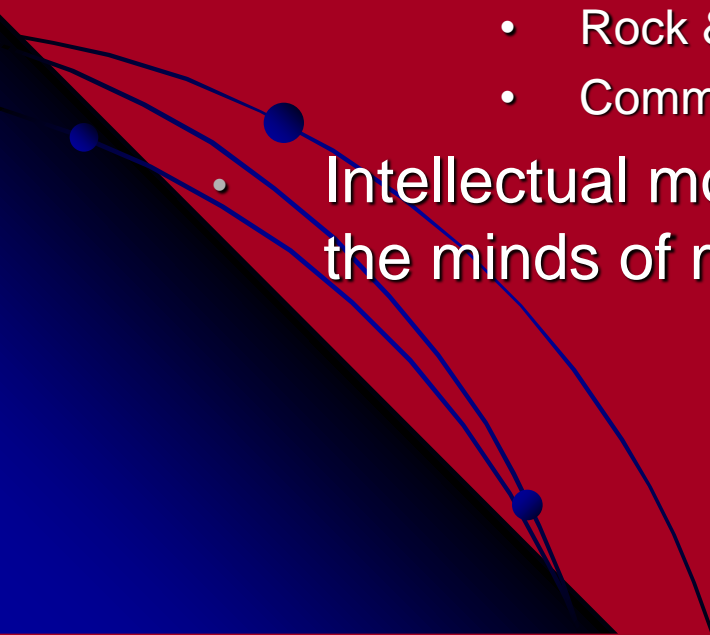
Archibald Motley
“Street Scene in Chicago”




Archibald Motley “Blues”



Why Did The Harlem Renaissance End?

- The Great Depression
 - The Migration toned down and communities settled
 - Redevelopment of Communities
 - Fundamentalists cursed the devil's music and art
 - It didn't...it evolved
 - Rock & Roll, Motown, Hip Hop, Rap
 - Commercialization: Elvis, Gershwin, Sinatra, etc.
 - Intellectual movements never end. They live on in the minds of men and women.
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Legacy of the Harlem Renaissance

- Paradox: art as a release of, and contributor to, tensions
 - The white audience
 - Glorification & sophistication of African-American life and culture
 - A perplexing sense of optimism in HR art
 - Cultivation of Afrocentrism
 - Black Pride & The Civil Rights Movement
 - Cultivation of economic vitality
 - A Revolution in American Art, Music and Culture
 - An International Phenomenon
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The End