

African Americans - Part 1: Introduction ^[1]

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African Americans

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Part i: *Introduction*; Part ii: *Life under slavery and the achievements of free blacks* ^[26]; Part iii: *Emancipation and the Freedmen's Fight for Civil Rights* ^[27]; Part iv: *Segregation and the struggle for equality* ^[28]; Part v: *Emerging roles and new challenges* ^[29]; Part vi: *References* ^[30]

Part I: Introduction

African Americans in North Carolina, as in other southern states, have experienced a difficult, often tragic, but uniquely inspiring journey from their introduction into the region as slaves in the seventeenth century to the modern day. Critical eras in black history have thrown light on both the evils and the graces of North Carolina society, particularly blacks' liberation from the inhumanity of the nineteenth century slave system and entry into a postemancipation culture generally unwilling to accept them as legal or social equals. The struggle of African Americans for equality and prosperity defined much of the state's history throughout the twentieth century, leading to the seismic changes created by the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Their fight persisted in the twenty-first century through various lawsuits involving the constitutionality of congressional voting districts and school busing plans, as well as numerous educational and political programs. As a result of the progress made, and despite continuing poverty, racism, and social injustice, by the early 2000s the professional, economic, social, and personal lives of a growing number of African Americans in North Carolina differed little from the lives of other citizens.

Keep reading >> Part II: *Life under slavery and the achievements of free blacks* ^[26]  ^[26]

Educator Resources:

Grade 8: Exploring African American Leadership and Service in North Carolina. North Carolina Civic Education Consortium. <https://database.civics.unc.edu/files/2012/04/AfricanAmericanLeadershipS...> ^[31]

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