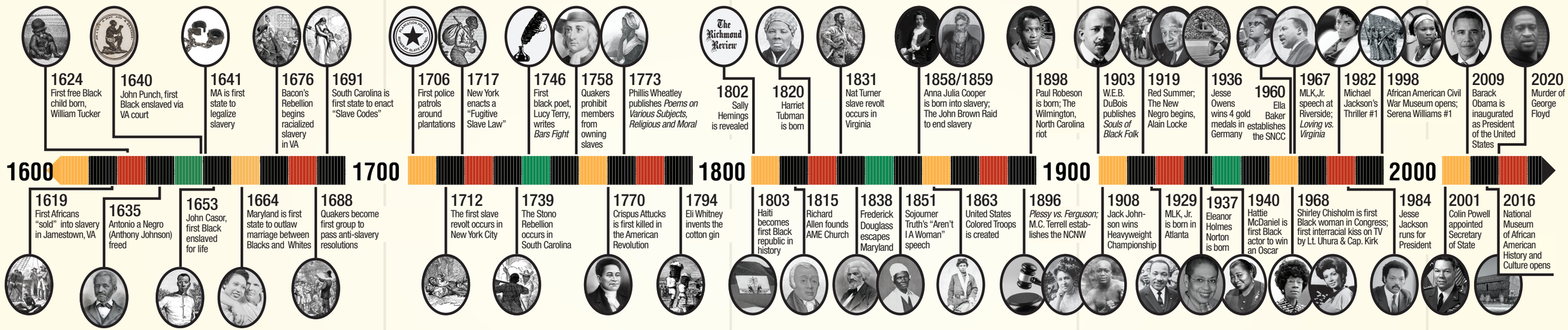
CRITICAL RACE THEORY TIMELINE

American history & culture as a metaphor for race interpreting history & culture from an Afro-Centric perspective.

Long before the Atlantic Slave Trade, great African Kingdoms (see back) made significant contributions to the world: engineering, science, chemistry, mathematics, art & culture, agriculture, the written language and civilization itself. These contributions continue in all of the Americas today!

1619-1865: 246 years of slavery - Slave Labor Camps | 1866-1968: 103 years of Jim Crow - Domestic Terrorism | 1969-present: 50+ years of "legal equality"

349 Years of White Supremacy | Rise of White Nationalism



Black Development In North America:

- 1619-1700: Era of Colonization
- 1700-1765: Era of Plantation Slavery - Slave Labor Camps
- 1765-1800: Era of Revolution
- 1800-1865: Era of Abolition of Slavery
- 1865-1877: Reconstruction
- 1877-1896: Era of Black Codes
- 1896-1955: Era of Jim Crow - Domestic Terrorism
- 1955-1975: Era Modern Civil Rights Movement
- 1975-Present: Era of Economic Justice

Black Religious Development In North America:

- 1619-1740: Era of Black Soul Denial
- 1740-1816: The First Great Awakening
- 1816-1865: The Second Great Awakening
- 1865-1926: The Era of the Black Church
- 1926-1955: The Era of Black Church Diversity
- 1955-1988: The Political Black Church
- 1988-Present: The Waning Impact of the Black Church

The Four Great Waves of American Cities:

- 1607-1839: Small Towns & Villages
- 1840-1945: Industrialization
- 1946-1990: Suburbanization
- 1991-2025: Re-Urbanization/Gentrification
- Region-alization

City Population: 5% — 10% — 39% — 64% — 78% — 85%

1600s:

1607 - First British colony, Jamestown
1619 - The first Africans "sold" into slavery in Jamestown, Virginia
1626 - Antonio a Negro is freed after indentureship
1641 - Massachusetts is first state to legalize slavery
1657 - Virginia is first state to pass a "Fugitive Slave Law"
1662 - Virginia passes "Partus Sequitur Ventrum" (Mother a Slave, Child a Slave)
1664 - Maryland is first state to outlaw marriage between Blacks and Whites
1676 - Bacon's Rebellion occurs in Virginia
1688 - Quakers become first group to pass anti-slavery resolutions
1691 - South Carolina is first state to enact "Slave Codes"

1700s:

1703 - Rhode Island enacts law that Blacks must carry passes to walk at night
1706 - First police patrols at plantations to prevent runaway slaves, South Carolina
1708 - Blacks outnumber Whites in South Carolina
1712 - The first slave revolt occurs in New York City
1717 - New York enacts a "Fugitive Slave Law"
1731 - Florida enacts law saying Blacks will be free if they run away to Florida
1739 - The Stono Rebellion occurs in South Carolina, moving to Florida
1746 - Lucy Terry poem, *Bar Fight*
1758 - Quakers prohibit their members from owning slaves
1770 - Crispus Attucks, a Black man, is the first to die in the American Revolution
1773 - The first Black church is formed in South Carolina
1773 - Phillis Wheatley publishes *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*
1775 - The first Abolition Society is formed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
1775 - Lord Dunmore recruits Black slaves to fight for the British
1777 - Vermont is first state to abolish slavery
1787 - Richard Allen becomes the founding member of the Free African Society
1791 - Blacks in Haiti rebel, begin Haitian Revolution
1794 - Eli Whitney invents the cotton gin, creating a greater demand for cotton and slaves

1800s:

1800 - The Gabriel Prosser Slave Rebellion occurs in Virginia
1802 - Sally Hemings revealed in Richmond Recorder
1803 - Haiti becomes the first Black republic in history
1808 - US bans importation of African slaves
1815 - Richard Allen establishes AME Church; Henry Highland Garnet escapes from Eastern Shore of Maryland
1820 - Missouri Compromise: Missouri slave, Maine free; Harriet Tubman is born
1822 - Denmark Vesey slave revolt occurs in South Carolina
1829 - David Walker writes his "Appeal to Coloured Citizens" encouraging slave uprisings
1831 - Nat Turner slave revolt occurs in Virginia; William Lloyd Garrison publishes *The Liberator*
1832 - Oberlin College is founded
1835 - The Snow Riot occurs in Washington, DC
1838 - Frederick Douglass escapes from Eastern Shore of Maryland
1836 - Texas declares independence from Mexico, establishes slave state
1837 - Cheney State is founded
1839 - The Amistad revolt occurs near the coast of Cuba
1845 - Frederick Douglass publishes his *Narrative of an American Slave*
1848 - The Pearl Incident occurs in Washington, DC, largest slave escape
1849 - Harriet Tubman escapes from Eastern Shore of Maryland
1850 - Compromise of 1850: California free; Fugitive Slave Act established
1851 - Sojourner Truth's "Aren't I A Woman" speech
1852 - Harriet Beecher Stowe publishes Uncle Tom's Cabin
1853 - First novel published by an African American, *Clotel* by William Wells
1854 - The Kansas-Nebraska Act is enacted
1856 - Wilberforce/AME College is established, first Black-run college
1857 - The Dred Scott decision
1858 - Anna Julia Cooper born into slavery
1859 - The John Brown Raid to end slavery
1860 - Abraham Lincoln elected

CRITICAL RACE THEORY TIMELINE

"The defining experience of African American life has been making a way out of no-way mustering the nimbleness, ingenuity and perseverance to establish a place in our society. This experience is a lens which we understand what it is to be an American. In some ways, the African American experience is the quintessential American experience. The museum celebrates American history and culture and who we are as Americans."

—Lonnie Bunch, III, Director of the NMAAHC

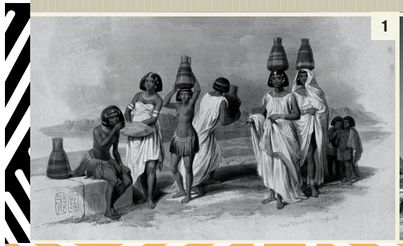
1861 - The Civil War begins; the First Confiscation Act is enacted
1862 - DC Emancipation Compensation Act is enacted
1863 - United States Colored Troops created; Emancipation Proclamation
1865 - The 13th Amendment enacted; the Civil War ends
1866 - The first Civil Rights Act is established
1867 - Black men vote in Washington, DC; Howard University founded
1868 - The 14th Amendment is enacted
1870 - The 15th Amendment is enacted; first Colored Youth High School founded in DC, later to be Dunbar High School
1877 - The Hayes Compromise, reconstruction ends
1881 - Booker T. Washington establishes Tuskegee Institute
1882 - GW Williams writes first history of Black Americans
1884 - Moses Fleetwood Walker first Black to play in MLB
1892 - Homer Plessy sits on a first-class train car, gets arrested; Ida B. Wells begins anti-lynching campaign
1895 - BT Washington delivers Atlanta Compromise speech, W.E.B. DuBois receives PhD from Harvard, first Black Harvard PhD
1896 - Plessy v. Ferguson, the Supreme Court decides controversial "separate but equal" doctrine; Mary Church Terrell, et al. establish The National Association of Colored Women in DC (NCNW); George Washington Carver, father of sustainable/organic agriculture, begins work at Tuskegee
1898 - Paul Robeson is born; The Wilmington, North Carolina riot
1899 - Duke Ellington is born in Washington, DC

1900s:

1900 - James Weldon Johnson publishes *Lift Every Voice and Sing*
1903 - W.E.B. DuBois publishes *Souls of Black Folk*
1903 - WC Handy hears The Blues in Tutwiler, MS
1905 - *The Chicago Defender* is founded
1906 - The Azusa Street Revival founded in LA; Alpha Phi Alpha, first Black fraternity founded at Cornell
1908 - Jack Johnson wins Heavyweight championship; AKA founded at HU, first Black sorority
1909 - The "Niagara Movement" founded, future NAACP
1910 - The Howard Theatre opens in Washington, DC
1915 - *The Birth of a Nation* film is shown at the White House by Woodrow Wilson; 10,000 KKK march down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC
1916 - Marcus Garvey, from Jamaica, founds UNIA; Carter G. Woodson publishes the Journal of Negro History
1917 - 400,000 Black Gls fight in WWI: 369th Harlem Hell Fighters Storm France
1919 - Red Summer; The New Negro Movement begins; Woodrow Wilson segregates the federal government workforce
1920 - Suffrage for women is won with the 19th Amendment
1921 - The Tulsa Riot
1925 - A. Philip Randolph organizes the Sleeping Car Porters Union; Alain Locke writes "The New Negro"
1925 - Malcolm X is born
1926 - Carter G. Woodson & Mary Church Terrell establish Negro History Week
1929 - MLK, JR. is born in Atlanta
1932 - The Apollo Theatre opens in Harlem
1934 - U.S. government sponsors red-lining
1936 - Jesse Owens wins 4 gold medals in Germany
1937 - Eleanor Holmes Norton is born
1940 - Hattie McDaniel becomes the first Black to win an Oscar
1942 - CORE organizes the first sits-ins for civil rights in Chicago
1943 - A. Philip Randolph threatens a national march on Washington for civil rights unless the US government desegregates the war industries
1944 - The first US soldiers that hit the beach on D-Day are the 320th Balloon Battalion of Black troops at 3:00 am
1945 - Over one million Black Gls fight in WWII, returning home to begin the Modern Civil Rights Movement
1946 - Be-Bop musician Charlie Parker releases *Now's The Time*
1947 - Jackie Robinson plays his first game in MLB; *From Slavery to Freedom* published by John Hope Franklin
1952 - Mary Church Terrell successfully wins Thompson vs. The District
1954 - Brown vs. Board decision; Malcolm X becomes minister at Temple #7 in Harlem; Oprah Winfry, born in Kosciusko, MS
1955 - Emmett Till is lynched in Mississippi in June; Rosa Parks sits at the front of a bus in Alabama on December 1, beginning the Montgomery Bus Boycott; MLK becomes leader
1957 - The Little Rock Nine enter high school in Arkansas; Rev. James Lawson teaches non-violent direct action at Fisk University
1958 - Althea Gibson wins US Open: Ben's Chilli Bowl Opens in DC
1959 - Rev. Jim Lawson trains southern youth in non-violent direct action in Nashville with Marion Barry; Diane Nash and John Lewis are his first students; Berry Gordy, Jr. establishes Motown Records
1960 - Ella Baker organizes a meeting at Shaw University during which the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) is formed with Marion Barry as its first chairman; first sit-ins occur at North Carolina A&T in February; New Orleans 4, Bridges, Tate, Prevost, and Etienne, integrate schools
1961 - The Freedom Rides begin in Washington, DC to New Orleans
1962 - SNCC organizes the Albany, Georgia Campaign
1963 - Gloria Richardson is the leader of the Cambridge Movement; the March on Washington; The Birmingham Campaign; four lttle girls murdered in Birmingham; Malcolm X leaves Nat. of Islam
1964 - SNCC creates the "Freedom Summer" in Mississippi; the 1964 Civil Rights Act is enacted; LA Rebellion; the beginning of "long hot summers"
1965 - SNCC organizes the Selma March; The 1965 Voting Rights Act is enacted
1966 - The Black Panther Party is founded
1967 - Cambridge, Maryland explodes with SNCC with H. Rap Brown; Howard University students take over the campus; MLK delivers anti-war speech at Riverside Church; *Loving vs. Virginia* decision
1968 - The year that changed the world: Dr. MLK assassinated; Bobby Kennedy assassinated; Chicago police riot at DNC Convention; the 1968 Fair Housing Act is enacted; Shirley Chisholm is the first Black woman in US Congress; First inter-racial kiss on TV, Lt. Uhura and Captain Kirk
1970 - U.S. Bombs Cambodia, college campuses shut down; 4 Kent State students killed; 2 Jackson State University students killed; *Watermelon Man*, Van Peebles film released
1972 - Shirley Chisholm runs for President of the U.S., first Black female to do so
1973 - Combahee River Black Feminist Collective founded; Barbara Jordan is the first southern Black woman in US Congress
1976 - *Roots* is published by Alex Haley
1979 - Marion Barry becomes Mayor of Washington, DC
1982 - Congressman Harold Washington wins mayor in Chicago; Michael Jackson's Thriller becomes the best-selling album ever
1983 - Alice Walker wins Pulitzer Prize for *The Color Purple*
1984 - Jesse Jackson runs for President of the U.S.
1985 - The Free South Africa Movement shuts down South African embassy every day for two years
1986 - MLK National Holiday enacted and celebrated
1988 - Jesse Jackson runs for President of the U.S., almost wins
1991 - Rodney King is videotaped being beaten in LA
1992 - LA explodes, Rodney King's police brutality acquitted
1993 - Toni Morrison wins the Nobel Prize for Literature
1995 - The Million Man March
1997 - Tiger Woods wins Masters; Che Marley Demczuk born in DC
1998 - African American Civil War museum opens, founded by Dr. Frank Smith (SNCC)
1999 - Serena Williams wins US Open

2000s:

2001 - Colin Powell appointed Secretary of State; Halle Berry and Denzel Washington win the Oscars
2005 - Condoleezza Rice appointed Secretary of State
2009 - Barack Obama is inaugurated as President of the United States
2011 - MLK Memorial opens on Mall
2012 - Barack Obama wins re-election
2013 - Black Lives Matter founded after Trayvon Martin is killed; Lower 9th Ward Living Museum founded in New Orleans
2016 - The National Museum of African American History and Culture opens
2017 - Michelle and Barack move into Kalorama Park in Washington, DC
2018 - Oprah Winfrey #MeToo
2019 - Slavery began 400 years ago in Virginia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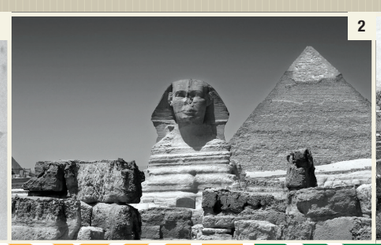
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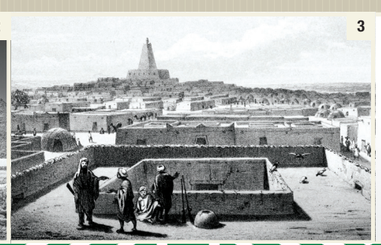
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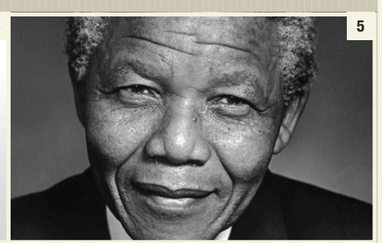
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The History of Critical Race Theory:

Critical Race Theory grew out of the scholarship of jurist/legal scholar Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. In the 1940s, he examined how British legal precedents in the 17th century led to racial slavery in the U.S. Twenty years later, at the height of the Modern Civil Rights Movement, Harvard Law students Derrick Bell and Charles Ogletree applied Higginbotham's findings to interpret American history from the perspective of African Americans — not from the lens of Great Dead White Men who, heretofore, wrote American history from their viewpoint only. To truly understand American history, we need to study Black history and culture critically, hence, critical race theory.

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1. 4000bc: Ethiopia | Nubians
2. 2500bc: Egyptian Pyramids
3. 1700s: Timbuktu Library
4. 1840 – 1921: Yaa Asantewaa
5. 1918 – 2013: Nelson Mandela
6. 1867: Howard University is founded *Courtesy of the Howard University Archives*
7. 1947: Jackie Robinson plays his first game in MLB
8. 1958: Althea Gibson wins US Open
9. 1963: Gloria Richardson, SNCC
10. 1993: Toni Morrison wins the Nobel Prize for Literature
11. 2013: BLM Founded
12. 2006: Tarana Burke, Founder Me2
13. Sankofa, to fetch the past

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