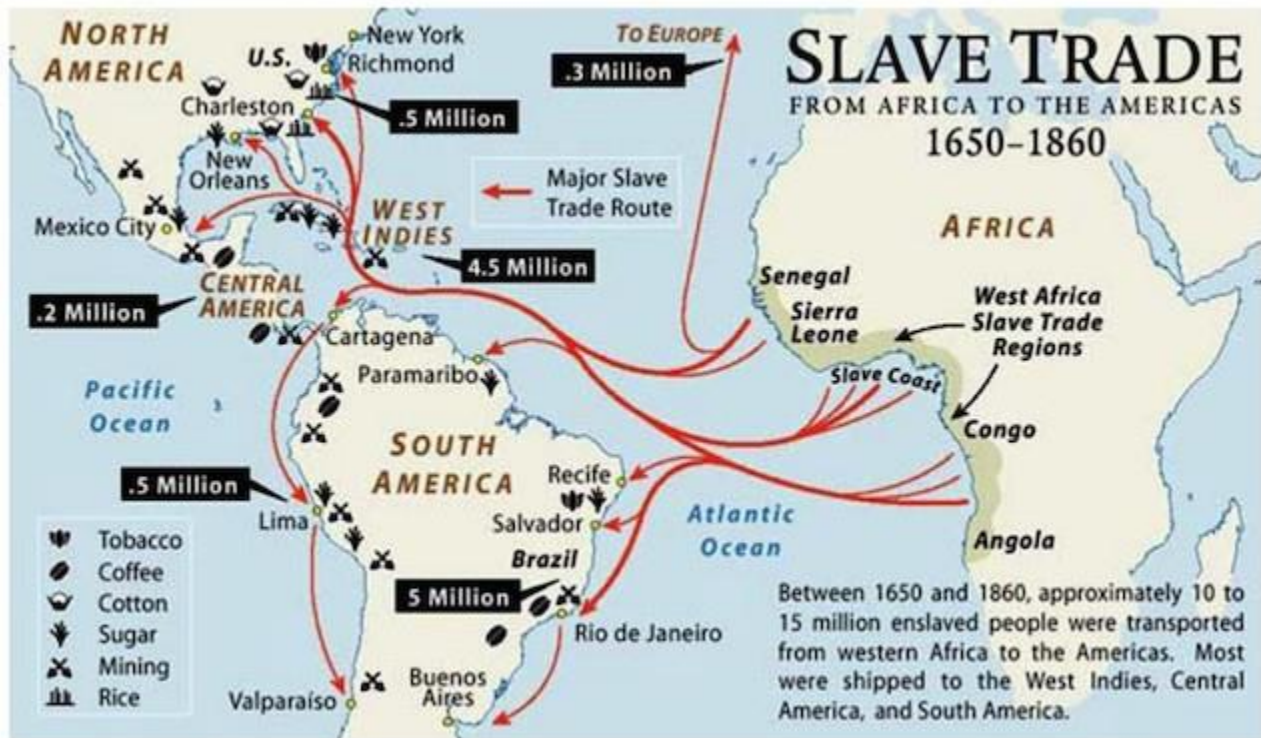


Most African Americans Descend from Slaves from Africa



Black history facts reveal that the first slaves were brought to America in the 16th century as a low-cost labor force for plantations that were established in the New World in the decades that followed European discovery of the continent. Most of them came from West Africa and Central Africa.

Quote: “Faith is Like Wi Fi...It’s Invisible, But It Has The Power To Connect You To What You Need”

Black History Has Been Honored in the USA since 1926

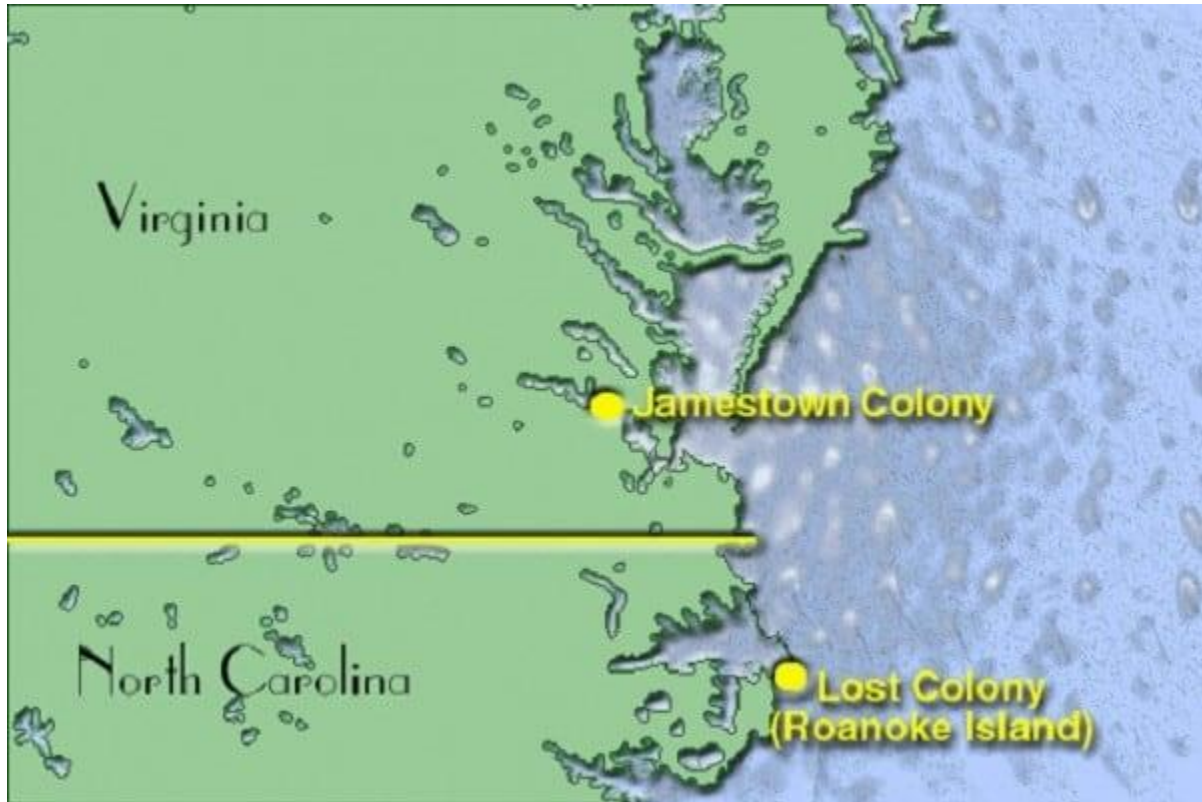
In 1926, Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History announced the second week in February would be “Negro History Week”. That was the official beginning of a systematic celebration of black history, art, and culture in the US.

A few decades later, in 1969, Black United Students from Kent State University suggested the expansion of a week honoring black history to a full month and named it the Black History Month.

It was recognized by the government in 1976, accompanied by President Gerald Ford’s famous words, “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.”

Quote: “Be Brave! GOD Gives His Hardest Battles To His Bravest Soldiers”
“Cause I’m As Free As A Bird Now And This Bird You Cannot Change”

African American History Originates in Slavery



Jamestown Location

In 1607, England established its first permanent colony on the new continent: Jamestown. Tobacco was the main driving force behind the colony and soon the need for additional labor force arose. Indentured servants of British aristocracy were first used to work in Jamestown (usually for seven years and then they became free citizens of the colony), but the plantation owners found this labor too costly and thus the first slaves from Africa were brought over. The first recorded arrival of slaves to English colonies occurred in 1619 when the Dutch brought 19 slaves to Jamestown.

But black history facts show that the first Africans to be used as slaves came to the continent long before then to the Spanish colony San Miguel de Gualdape (now South Carolina) in the first decades of 1500s. By the year 1700, about 25,000 African slaves worked in American colonies, representing about 10% of total population.

Around 5,000 African American Men Fought in the Continental Army

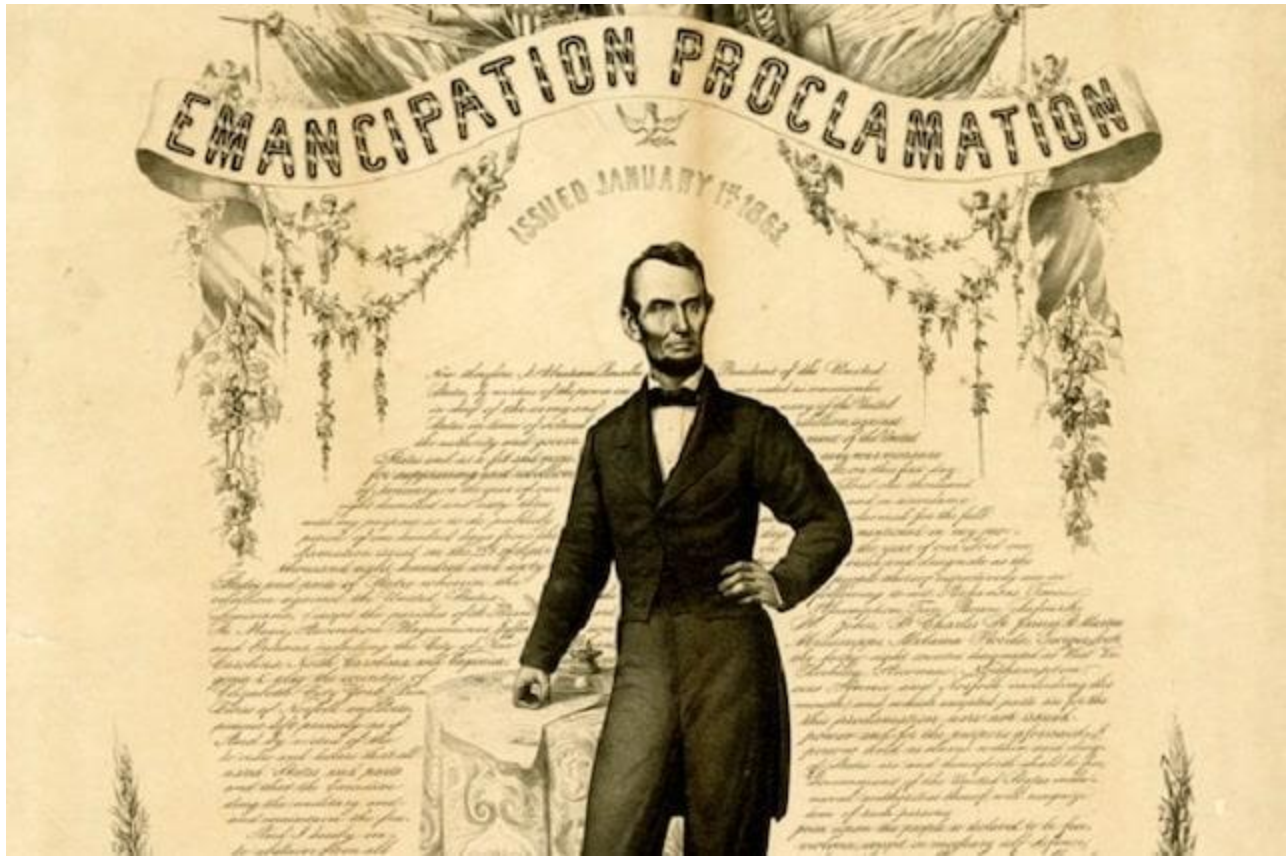
There would have been more, but when George Washington took command in 1775, he barred any additional recruitment of blacks. Many free and enslaved blacks fought for the Patriots in the Revolutionary War; Prince Hall and Agrippa Hull are probably the most famous names among them. But there were also many blacks who fought for the British – Colonel Tye, Thomas Peters and Boston King are three of the most well-known.

The Origins of the Civil War Lie in Slavery

After the Revolutionary War, use of slavery gradually decreased through anti-slavery laws and, by 1840, virtually all African Americans were free citizens in the North. But the South was still inclined to use slavery and these differences ultimately led to the secession of seven slave states in the South from the Union, starting the 4-year long Civil War. The Union eventually won, and slaves were freed across the nation.

Quote: "Right is of no sex—Truth is of no color—God is the Father of us all, and we are all brethren." Frederick Douglass

The Emancipation Proclamation, the Civil Rights Act, and the 14th Amendment Ended Slavery



The Emancipation Proclamation that was issued in 1863 by President Lincoln turned slaves into free citizens, but the order could be fully enforced only in the years after the Civil War had ended. Although the 13th Amendment from 1865 prohibited slavery, black history facts reveal that there were two other important documents that actually gave African Americans their freedom: The Civil Rights Act in 1866 and the 14th Amendment in 1868, which made African Americans full citizens of the USA.

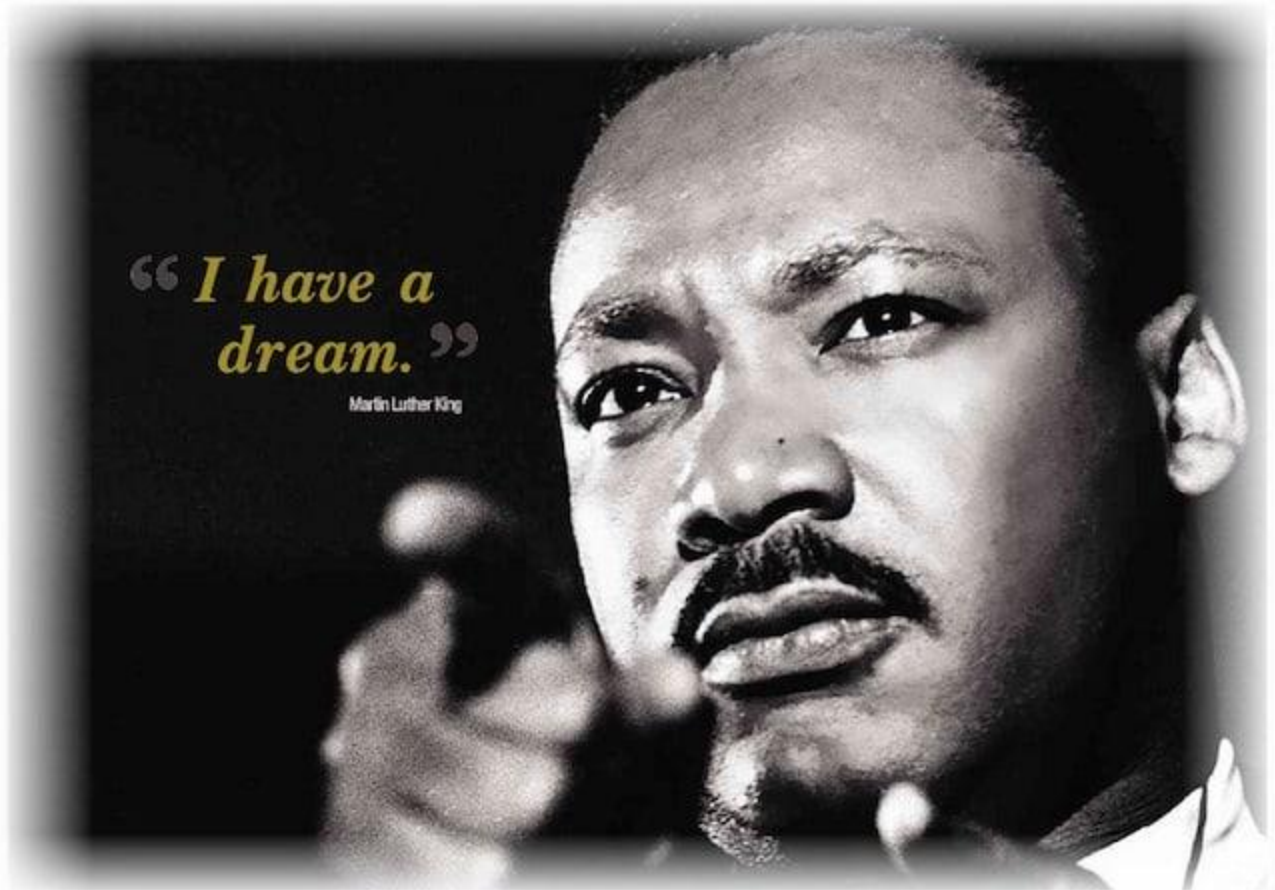
Quote: "Call On Me in the day of trouble, I will Deliver You" Psalms 50-15

The 15th Amendment Gave African American Men the Right to Vote

This gave black men in the US the right to vote in 1870, but unfortunately their rights did not last for very long. After the Reconstruction Era had ended in 1877, the enforcement of basic civil rights of African Americans became erratic and inconsistent. Various voting restrictions were enforced in the decades that followed and it was not until 1965 – with the signing of the federal Voting Rights Act – that the right of African Americans to vote was fully enforced.

Quote: “And He Himself Bore Our Sins In His Body on the Cross” 1 Peter 2:24
“Always Remember That Your Present Situation Is Not Your Final Destination.
The Best Is Yet To Come”

Martin Luther King Jr. Was Only One of the Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement



Martin Luther King Jr

Although the African American Civil Rights Movement between the years of 1954 and 1968 was centered on the philosophy of Martin Luther King Jr., he was not the only driving force behind the movement. Other very determined and visionary African Americans such as Rosa Parks, Ella Baker, James Bevel, James Farmer, Medgar Evers, A. Philip Randolph, Roy Wilkins, and Whitney Young all helped the African American community in the US to greatly improve their status in society.

Today's American Youth is Well-Educated about Black History

Black history facts reveal that the history of the African American community is riddled with repression, exploitation, and violence, but the youth of America seem to appreciate and understand their struggle nowadays, although the inequality still has not been eliminated completely.

According to a study carried out in 2005, American students were asked to name 10 most notable Americans, excluding presidents. The three most frequently mentioned individuals were Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks and Harriet Tubman.

Quote: "If you can't fly then run, If you can't run then walk, If you can't walk then crawl, But whatever you do you have to keep moving Forward" – Martin Luther King Jr.

Quote: "You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right." — Rosa Parks.

Quote: "I grew up like a neglected weed - ignorant of liberty, having no experience of it."

"I said to de Lord, 'I'm goin' to hold steady on to you, an' I know you'll see me through.'"

"Lord, I'm going to hold steady on to You and You've got to see me through."

"Never wound a snake; kill it." – Harriet Tubman

Barack Obama is the First African American US President



Barack Obama

The US added an important chapter to black history facts on January 20, 2009 when Barack Hussein Obama was inaugurated as the first African American President in the almost 250-years long history of USA Presidents. In November 2012, Obama was re-elected President, becoming one of 17 re-elected Presidents in the history of the United States.

Quote: “Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”

— **Barack Obama**

About 4,000 African Americans Left America after the Revolutionary War

There were probably many more, but 4,000 are documented to have been helped by the British to flee to Jamaica or Britain instead of returning to slavery in the colonies.

Quote: "Prayer Is The Road To Heaven But Faith Opens The Door"

"GOD Never Said That The Journey Would Be Easy, But HE Did Say That The Arrival Would Be Worthwhile" - ML

Freedom's Journal Was the First African American Newspaper

The newspaper was founded by Reverend Peter Williams, Jr., and other free African American people in New York in 1827. Eventually, there were more than 100 newspapers intended primarily for the African American community – dozens of them still exist today.

Old Slave Mart Museum is the Oldest African American History Museum in the US



Old Slave Mart Museum

Operating on and off ever since 1938 in Charleston, South Carolina, the Old Slave Mart Museum nowadays showcases the history of the city's slave trade. Initially, the museum displayed African and African American art, and, prior to the establishment of the museum, the building was used as an auction gallery – slaves were once sold off in this very place.

Quote: “Jesus Looked At Them And Said, With Men It Is Impossible, But Not With GOD; For With GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE” – Mark 10:27

The First African American Governor Was P.B.S. Pinchback

P.B.S. Pinchback was never officially elected, since he succeeded his predecessor, who was removed from office, as the Governor of Louisiana in 1872. The first elected African American governor of any state came to his position 118 years after this time, when Douglas Wilder became the 66th Governor of Virginia. Pinchback was born in May 1837 in Macon, Bibb County, [Georgia](#), to Eliza Stewart, a biracial former slave, and William Pinchback, her former master, who were living together as husband and wife. The family was on its way to begin a new life in Mississippi, where William Pinchback had purchased a much larger plantation.

Pinchback was brought up in relatively affluent surroundings. He was raised as white and his parents sent him north to Cincinnati, Ohio, to attend school. In 1848, however, Pinchback's father died. William Pinchback's relatives disinherited his mulatto wife and children and claimed his property in Mississippi. Fearful that the northern Pinchbacks might also try to claim her five children as slaves, Pinchback's mother fled with them to Cincinnati.

In 1860 Pinchback married Nina Hawthorne of Memphis, [Tennessee](#). The Civil War began the following year, and Pinchback decided to fight on the side of the Union. In 1862 he furtively made his way into New Orleans, which had just been captured by the Union Army. He raised several companies for the Union's all black 1st Louisiana Native Guards Regiment. Commissioned a captain, he was one of the Union Army's few commissioned officers of African American ancestry.

Passed over twice for promotion and tired of the prejudice he encountered from white officers, Pinchback resigned his commission in 1863. At the war's end, he and his wife moved to Alabama, to test their freedom as full citizens. Racial tensions there during Reconstruction were reaching shocking levels of violence, however, and he brought his family back to New Orleans.

In 1863, during the [Civil War](#), Pinchback traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana, and recruited African-American volunteers for the [Union Army](#).

He became captain of Company A, [2nd Louisiana Regiment Native Guard Infantry](#) (later reformed as the 74th U. S. Colored Infantry Regiment). He resigned his commission because of racial prejudice against black officers. After the war, Pinchback returned to New Orleans and became active in the Republican Party, participating in [Reconstruction](#) state conventions. In 1868, he organized the Fourth Ward Republican Club in New Orleans. That same year, he was elected as a State Senator, where he became senate president *pro tempore* of a Legislature that included 42 representatives of African American descent (half of the chamber, and seven of 36 seats in the Senate). In 1871 he became acting lieutenant governor upon the death of Oscar Dunn, the first elected African-American lieutenant governor of a U.S. state.

In 1872, the incumbent Republican governor Henry Clay Warmoth, suffered impeachment charges near the end of his term. State law required that Warmoth step aside until convicted or cleared of the charges. Pinchback, as lieutenant governor, succeeded as governor on December 9 and served for 35 days until the end of Warmoth's term. Warmoth was not convicted and the charges were eventually dropped.

Pinchback became the recipient of vicious hate mail from across the country as well as more local threats on his own life.

Quote: “There Is No One Who Is Insignificant In The Purpose of GOD” -AB

“GOD Sometimes Takes Us Into Troubled Waters Not To Drown US But To Cleanse Us.”

Mahalia Jackson Is Responsible for the Famous “I Have a Dream”

Although the speech was, of course, written (together with Stanley Levison and Clarence Benjamin Jones) and read by Martin Luther King Jr. himself, it originally did not contain the famous “I Have a Dream” section. Those iconic words came about as part of Luther King’s improvisation after Mahalia Jackson, the famous gospel singer, cried out “Tell them about the dream, Martin!”

Quote: “The Chains Of Love Are Stronger Than The Chains Of Fear” – WG

“Our Faith Can Move Mountains” – Matthew 17:20

“ Do Not Face The Day, Until You Have Faced GOD In Prayer”

Sigma Pi Phi Is the first African American Greek-Lettered Organization

Black history facts reveal that it was founded in Pennsylvania in 1904 by two doctors, a dentist, and a physician. Nowadays, Sigma Pi Phi has over 5,000 members and over 120 chapters all over the US. Among the organization's famous members are Kweisi Mfume, Andrew Young, Kenneth Chenault, Hank Aaron, and many others.

Quote: "Don't Be Afraid Just Believe " – Mark 5:36

"Do What Is Right, Not What Is Easy"

John Taylor Was the First African American Athlete to Win an Olympic Gold Medal

In the 1908 Summer Olympics in London, John Baxter Taylor Jr. was the only black member of the USA medley relay team. Less than five months after his triumphant return from London, he tragically died from a typhoid fever at the age of just 25.

Quote: "You Can't Fulfill Your Calling In Your Comfort Zone

"JESUS Did Not Come And DIE For Me So That I Could Live A Defeated Life"

Ralph Bunche Was the First African American Nobel Peace Prize Winner



Ralph Bunche

Bunche, who was a political scientist and diplomat, won the 1950 Nobel Peace Prize for his mediation in Israel in 1940s. In 2008, nearly 37 years after his death, it was revealed that he had worked for the Office of Strategic Services (precursor to the CIA) during World War II.

Juneteenth Is One of the Most Popular African American Holidays

The unusual name is a portmanteau of “June” and “nineteenth” and refers to a holiday honoring the announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas in 1865. 43 US states recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday nowadays. The seven states that do not are Arizona, Hawaii, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Utah.

The
Will of God
will never take you
where the
Grace
of *God*
will not protect you.

