

African American Trauma Timeline

1619 The first African American indentured servants arrive in the American colonies. Less than a decade later, the first slaves are brought into New Amsterdam (later, New York City).

1662 – Virginia decided all children born in the colony to a slave mother would be enslaved.

Slavery was not only a lifelong condition but now it could be passed from generation to generation

Note on Slavery in Africa compared to Europeans: In his book *The African Slave Trade*, Basil Davidson points out that slavery in Africa and the brutal form of slavery that would develop in the Americas were vastly different. Slaves could marry, own property, even own slaves, and slavery ended after a certain number of years of servitude. Most importantly, **African slavery was never passed from one generation to another, and it lacked the racist notion that whites were masters and blacks were slaves.**

1690 every colony has slaves.

1787 – The Three-Fifths Clause of the United States Constitution –

Often misinterpreted to mean that African Americans as individuals are considered three-fifths of a person or that they are three-fifths of a citizen of the U.S., the three-fifths clause (Article I, Section 2, of the U.S. Constitution of 1787) in fact declared that for purposes of representation in Congress, enslaved blacks in a state would be counted as three-fifths of the number of white inhabitants of that state.

1863 Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation proclaims that all slaves in rebellious territories are forever free.

New York City Draft Riot (1863)

The Draft Riot of 1863 was a four-day eruption of violence in New York City during the Civil War stemming from deep worker discontent with the inequities of the first federally mandated conscription laws.

1865 – 1887 – Reconstruction Period Begin

(Federal Troops were placed in south to ensure Africans-Americans would be treated as equals.)

- Many scholars have identified more than 1,500 **African American officeholders** during the **Reconstruction Era** (1863–1877).
- **1866 The "Black Codes"** are passed by all white legislators of the former Confederate States. The **Black Codes** were laws passed by Southern states in 1865 and 1866 in the United States after the American Civil War with the intent and the effect of restricting African Americans' freedom, and of compelling them to work in a labor economy based on low wages or debt.
- **The sharecropping system**—essentially a legal form of slavery that kept blacks tied to land owned by rich white farmers—became widespread in the South.
- **Mass incarceration** started to build government infrastructure & free labor for business

1866 - The Ku Klux Klan is formed in Tennessee

1877 to 1950 - Over 4,000 Recorded Lynching in America

1881 Tennessee passes the first of the “Jim Crow” segregation laws. Similar laws are passed over the next 15 years throughout the Southern states.

1896 Plessy v. Ferguson case: racial segregation is ruled constitutional by the **Supreme Court**. The “Jim Crow” (“separate but equal”) laws begin, barring African Americans from equal access to public facilities.

1906 – Atlanta Race Riot

1910 - On Independence Day, race riots ignited across America. Jack Johnson, a black boxer, had defeated the white Jim Jeffries in a heavyweight fight in the middle of the Reno desert Jim Jeffries was dubbed “The Great White Hope” as a symbol of white male supremacy and strength. Cities around the nation erupted with the anger and vindication of a racially divided country.

1917 - The East St. Louis Massacre

1919 - Chicago Race Riots

1919 - Washington, D.C. Race Riots

1919 Knoxville, Tennessee Race Riots

1921 “Black Wall Street” Massacre destroyed in Greenwood, Tulsa Oklahoma

1923 Rosewood Massacre (1923)

1929 to 1939 – The Great Depression

1939 to 1945 – WWII

1954 to 1968 – Civil Rights - 100 years after slavery

1954 Brown v. Board of Education case: strikes down segregation as unconstitutional

1971 – “War on Drugs” campaign systematic attack on Blacks. Initiated by Pres. Richard Nixon

1991-2018 – 39# African American Church Burnings

More than 39 black churches were burned in an 18-month period in 1995 and 1996, leading Congress to pass the Church Arson Prevention Act.

2012 - Trayvon Martin killing by a lay citizen in Sanford FL - no conviction

2014 – Eric Garner was killed by police officer in NY shown nationally on video

2014 to 2016 – 15 High Profile video cases of Blacks being killed by police officers only two convicted.

2015- Charleston Church Massacre in Charleston, SC

2017 – Charlottesville VA – Racial Tension and Violent Clash