

# Further research

## Internet, movie and DVD resources

### Chapter 1

#### MOVIES AND DVDS

*Glory* (1990), starring Matthew Broderick and Denzel Washington, is an inspirational tale of undervalued black soldiers determined to fight for the Union.

*Lincoln* (2012), starring Daniel Day Lewis, focuses on the political skills required to guide the Union through the Civil War.

The popular TV series *Roots* (1977) tells of an African taken in slavery to America and of the lives of his descendants there. It is studied in Chapter 8. The series has recently been re-made.

#### ONLINE RESOURCES

For interviews with former slaves: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/slave-narratives-from-the-federal-writers-project-1936-to-1938/about-this-collection/>

The African-American History collections of the Library of Congress includes slave narratives and audio interviews with slaves:

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/?fa=subject:african+american+history>

#### YOUTUBE

Among the introductory 'fun' videos are John Green *Crash Course in U.S. History*, which has an episode on Reconstruction, and *Fun Facts by Mister Harns*, which covers the US presidents.

Serious historians' interviews and lectures are plentiful. Examples include:

- 'Conversations with History: Abraham Lincoln and American slavery', Eric Foner
- 'Historian James MacPherson on Abraham Lincoln's Legacy'
- 'City Club Presents Doris Kearns Goodwin on Abraham Lincoln'

Documentaries such as episodes of Ken Burns' highly praised film *The Civil War* and the History Channel's *Top Secret Story of Abraham Lincoln* can be accessed.

## Chapter 2

### MOVIES AND DVDS

*Birth of a Nation* (1915) and *Gone with the Wind* (1939) demonstrate the power and longevity of the white Southern claim that Reconstruction was a period characterised by threatening black behaviour. The former is a silent movie, but the latter is still popular with modern TV audiences. Both movies were extremely popular among contemporaries and praised by critics. They are studied in Chapter 8.

### ONLINE RESOURCES

The National Archives has Educator Resources sections containing documents and activities, for example, on the extent to which Reconstruction constituted a revolution –

[www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)

For biographies of all the presidents, see [www.ipl.org/ref/POTUS](http://www.ipl.org/ref/POTUS), which has relevant contemporary sources and useful links to other material on each president. For example, the article on Grant has a link to the Grant programme in the C-SPAN series – *American Presidents: Life Portraits*. There are presidential biographies by leading historians on the University of Virginia site, for example, [millercenter.org/president/johnson](http://millercenter.org/president/johnson)

### YOUTUBE

Several eminent historians such as Ron Chernow, H.W. Brands and Ron White can be heard.

## Chapter 3

### YOUTUBE

Episode 1 of PBS's *The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow* looks at black Americans at the end of the Civil War and during Reconstruction, while Episode 2 covers the period up to the First World War.

Eric Foner lectures on *The Supreme Court and Reconstruction* in Columbia University's *ColumbiaLearn* series on the *Civil War and Reconstruction*:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBb2PZJCXBM>.

If the viewer skips the first 10 minutes of *The Secret History of the Ku Klux Klan*, the programme is then a quite well-illustrated account of the Klan's early years.

## Chapters 4 and 6

### YOUTUBE

Biographies can be accessed at [newsreel.org/video/A-PHILIP-RANDOLPH](https://newsreel.org/video/A-PHILIP-RANDOLPH) and [newsreel.org/video/IDA-B-WELLS](https://newsreel.org/video/IDA-B-WELLS).

For a rare recording of a Marcus Garvey interview:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ol1fuX2R1o>

There are photographs and a discussion of the Great Migration, with specific reference to Chicago, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ScR6ltEep4>

There are photos and films in the 1974 'Harlem Renaissance Documentary' at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uq1FeEzcW4>

There are photographs and the story of *Tulsa's Black Wall Street massacre*:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EO3fxe4mDP4>

*Crisis in Levittown, Pennsylvania* (1957), explores the impact of the first black residents:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ww90ckLY1g>

*Pruitt-Igoe: Dream to Nightmare*, covers a 'nightmare' that remains controversial, with explanations of the 'nightmare' generally differing according to the race and/or political leanings of the commentator: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gRuyhf20pY>

*White Flight after the 1967 Detroit riots* is at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4lb3bHGzTtu>

*Detroit Riots* is a 1943 newsreel that contains multiple contemporary photographs of the riots: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GIVf8MocMwy>

*The Fire This Time* covers the causes of Los Angeles' riots:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r97uOfo2Tic>

## Chapter 5

There are links to each state's Slave Narratives, as compiled by the Federal Writers Project, in Wikipedia's article '*Slave Narrative Collection*'. The narratives cast light on black life in the Great Depression. For example, Anna Baker of Aberdeen, Mississippi, said, '*President Roosevelt done 'tended to de roof over my head.*'

At [shslibraryguides.org/c.php?g=86715&p=558118](https://shslibraryguides.org/c.php?g=86715&p=558118), you will be directed to US primary source collections online, including a link to the NAACP's *Crisis* magazine, 1911-present.

### YOUTUBE

The Funeral of President Roosevelt, showing black Americans paying their respects, is at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wy007ewx-ds>

## Chapter 7

### MOVIES

The 2015 movie, *Selma*, is interesting although factually inaccurate on President Johnson's role.

### ONLINE RESOURCES

Guidance on how to access Martin Luther King's papers is available from Stanford University's Martin Luther King Jr Research and Education Institute website, at <https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/>

At <http://besthistorysites.net/american-history/civil-rights/>, there is an encyclopaedic collection of links to websites and useful material for teachers.

### YouTube

Nine episodes of the brilliant PBS series, *Eyes on the Prize* contain contemporary film footage and interviews and are accessed separately:

- 1 1954–56
- 2 1957–62
- 3 1960–61
- 4 1962–66
- 5 1962–64
- 6 1965
- 7 1964–66
- 8 1965–68
- 9 1967–68

Rosa Parks' 1995 interview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqiQqM9nQ0U>

Several of Malcolm X's speeches can be accessed and there is a good PBS documentary about him: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zIGNkR62Mo>

For interviews of residents of the Watts ghetto just after the 1965 riots: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XU4VL-9Ve9U>

For a 1967 NBC documentary on the Detroit riots: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOoW0U6g\\_E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOoW0U6g_E)

Several of King's speeches are available, and there is an ITV documentary about him at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1yhqzioPZU>.

*Black Power Mixtape* traces the growth and activities of the Black Power movement: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6bryh0IFMhg>

## Chapter 8

### ONLINE RESOURCES

For reading without charge, see *Uncle Tom's Cabin* at <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/203>, and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* at [http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/76?msg=welcome\\_stranger](http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/76?msg=welcome_stranger)

Jo Ann Morgan's fascinating collection and interpretation of the changing illustrations of Uncle Tom: <http://utc.iath.virginia.edu/interpret/exhibits/morgan/morgan.html>

Some interesting nineteenth-century illustrations of black Americans with accompanying explanations: <https://www.philaprintshop.com/blackimage.html>

The [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:African\\_Americans\\_in\\_19th-century\\_art](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:African_Americans_in_19th-century_art) site contains many illustrations that lend themselves to further research.

The contemporary illustrations for *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*: <http://twain.lib.virginia.edu/huckfinn/huckpix/huckpix.html>

The presentation of an Oscar to Hattie McDaniel for her performance in *Gone With the Wind*, and her emotional and moving acceptance speech, can be accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7t4pTNZshA>, while an example of her Mammie character's scolding of Scarlett O'Hara, which annoyed many white Southerners, can be accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uJl7sBt9eCs>

### MOVIES AND DVDS

*Birth of a Nation*, *Gone With the Wind*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *In the Heat of the Night*, *Mississippi Burning*, *Beloved*, *Malcolm X*, *The Help*, the original 1977 *Roots* and *The Wire* are all available on DVDs, while frequently long and significant extracts can also be seen on YouTube, as can interviews with writers.

Other particularly interesting movie treatments of race mentioned in this chapter and available on DVD include:

Movie	Significance
<i>Home of the Brave</i> (1949)	Early example of 'Negro problem' movie
<i>Pinky</i> (1949)	Black and white relationships not accepted
<i>Island in the Sun</i> (1957)	First interracial embrace on-screen
<i>The Defiant Ones</i> (1958), <i>Lilies of the Field</i> (1963), <i>A Patch of Blue</i> (1965) and <i>Guess Who's Coming to Dinner</i> (1967)	Sidney Poitier in unthreatening integrationist roles
<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> (1961)	Unusually dissatisfied Sidney Poitier character
<i>Sweetback's Baadasssss Song</i> (1971), <i>Super Fly</i> (1972) and <i>Foxy Brown</i> (1974)	Blaxploitation movies
<i>The Color Purple</i> (1985) and <i>Fatal Beauty</i> (1987)	Continuing white <i>problems</i> with black sexuality
<i>Do the Right Thing</i> (1989), <i>New Jack City</i> (1991) and <i>Boyz N the Hood</i> (1991)	Ghetto issues explored by black director

## Further research

Other movies of interest available on DVD:

*Hallelujah* (1929) is one of the handful of significant all-black movies from the 1920s. It is a tale of black life that white critics liked but the black press disliked.

The available movies of black actor Stepin Fetchit, beloved of whites for his portrayal of dim-witted black characters, include highly rated director John Ford's *Judge Priest* (1934). In the 1930s, films were beginning to touch upon racial problems, including *Imitation of Life* (1935), where a light-skinned black girl 'passes' for white. Currently harder to track down is Walt Disney's *Song of the South* (1946) – its limited availability reflects growing twentieth- and twenty-first-century sensitivity over portrayals of black Americans.

The Second World War brought many patriotic black soldier characters to the screen, as seen in 1943 in *Bataan*, *Crash Dive* and *Sahara*.

'Negro problem' movies developed into something of a flood after the war, and among the interesting examples available are *Lost Boundaries* (1949), about a black family 'passing' for two decades in New England, and *Intruder in the Dust* (1949), about a black man's trials in small-town Mississippi.

It is interesting to trace in DVDs the careers of individuals such as Paul Robeson, Dorothy Dandridge and Sidney Poitier. Robeson was generally dissatisfied with the characters he had to portray, such as the feckless individual in *Showboat* (1936). Dorothy Dandridge was similarly deprived of decent parts, although *Carmen Jones* (1954) demonstrated her potential. Frustration over the lack of roles contributed to her suicide. It is interesting to watch Sidney Poitier movies from 1950 to 1970 in chronological order, and to evaluate how they reflect contemporary views of race and race relations and the extent to which they suggest change. Change can also be monitored in director John Ford's films, which showed his increasing respect and sympathy for black (and Native) Americans, as demonstrated in *Sergeant Rutledge* (1960). However, his continuing difficulties with traditional stereotypes were demonstrated in *The Horse Soldiers* (1959), which is frequently shown on TV and includes a much-criticised happy slave.

## Chapter 9

### INTERNET

The following cover the return of some black Americans to the South:

William Frey, *The New Great Migration*, Brookings Institution, May 2004:

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-new-great-migration-black-americans-return-to-the-south-1965-2000/>

Carmen Sisson, *Why African-Americans are moving back to the South*, *Christian Science Monitor*, 16 March 2014: <http://www.carmenksisson.com/african-americans-moving-back-south/>

## Further research

Larry Hunt *et al.*, *Who is Headed South?* Social Forces 87, September 2008:

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/229051517\\_Who\\_is\\_Headed\\_South\\_US\\_Migration\\_Trends\\_in\\_Black\\_and\\_White\\_1970-2000](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/229051517_Who_is_Headed_South_US_Migration_Trends_in_Black_and_White_1970-2000)

## YOUTUBE

Good examples of Barack Obama's rhetorical powers include his speech to the Democrat National Convention in 2004 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ueMNqdB1QIE>, and his victory speech after the November 2008 presidential election at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CnvUUauFJ98>

Some of Jeremiah Wright's controversial sermons can be accessed:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lx-AMYos0Js> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdJB-qkfUHC>

The Sarah Palin 2008 vice presidential debate with Joe Biden, which made many question her competency: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89FbCPzAsRA>

The return of black Americans to the South:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCdTyl141bA>, which has excellent graphics, and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCdTyl141bA>

Michelle Obama's 2008 perceived electoral misstep:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LYY73RO\\_egw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LYY73RO_egw)