

Black Revolution

Dr. Sydney Freeman Jr. defines Black revolution as “the fundamental change from the status quo that facilitates new ways of knowing, being, and operating.” Black people because of white supremacy have been treated as less than a person when compared to the white people in America and by other people groups. Particularly, they have been treated like they were animals and enslaved.

“At the time of the American Revolution, slaves made up at least 25 percent of the population of North Carolina. In actual numbers, Blacks totaled perhaps seventy thousand but no more than 5 percent of them were free. Most blacks, whether slave or free, lived in the countryside and worked the land, planting, harvesting, and preparing crops for the market” (Crow). Even though thousands of Black people lived in North Carolina, no more than five percent—or about 3,500--were free. This demonstrates the cruel history of what Black people went through decades ago in this country. Most Black people worked on land that was owned by those considered their owners; some of these enslaved people were separated from their siblings, mothers, fathers, and in general their own family. Regardless of age, health, or gender, Black people were mistreated and were worked until their bodies could no longer handle it.. At times, these enslaved Africans were hired by others to make earnings for their owners and most of their earnings went to the owners except for a small amount of allowance.

Not only were there divisions between white people, such as between those who supported the British and those who did not, but also, there was a large division between the Black folks based on who had different owners.

There were many Black men who fought for what they believed was right. For example, Jonathan Overton, who died in 1849, and Ned Griffen, both fought with revolutionists. Most

Black people were not acknowledged by the white Americans, meaning they weren't given credit for the work they did and the wars they fought. Black people had a huge impact on this country's freedom, most of them were enslaved Africans, some were brave enough to win their freedom and others were victims of their color. "In spite of these discouragements, many free and enslaved African Americans in New England were willing to take up arms against the British. As soon states found it increasingly difficult to fill their enlistment quotas, they began to turn to this untapped pool of manpower. Eventually, every state above the Potomac River recruited slaves for military service, usually in exchange for their freedom" (Ayres).

For a very long time, Black people went through very difficult times to be able to survive in a country where they were counted as less than human. Many Black brothers and sisters suffered through terrible times and had very little power to fight for themselves and for their loved ones. Most of the time they would obey what they were told in order to not be killed, sold, and or raped.

The notion of Black revolution is extremely important to American history because it shows that Black people fought and continue to fight to the end for their equal rights and freedom. A very large number of those people were unable to read or write and did not have the right to vote or own a home or land. Decades later, Black people are able to vote, own a house or a business and have adequate education compared to white people in this country. It is important that Black people are recognized for the things they did and what they had to go through during the Black revolution.

According to a Black Power article published by the National Archives, "Black revolution is stated as a revolutionary movement in the 1960s and 1970s. It emphasized racial pride, economic empowerment, and the creation of political and cultural institutions. During this

era, there was a rise in the demand for Black history courses, a greater embrace of African culture, and a spread of raw artistic expression displaying the realities of African Americans” (Black Power).

This concept or topic applies to higher education in a great manner that can be used to explain the notion of Black revolution. “Black students demanded that public universities serve their communities; that private universities rethink the mission of elite education; and that Black colleges embrace self-determination and resist the threat of integration. Most crucially, Black students demanded a role in the definition of scholarly knowledge” (*Black Revolution*). Black people in higher education can have a difficult time trying to fit in or succeed. One of the reasons why this might be an issue is because of skin color or the history that Black people carry in the country. Although education rights and opportunities are improving for Black folks, for Black educators, it can be difficult to teach or work in a place that is predominantly white. The needs of Black educators may be neglected by the institution, or the issues they try to raise awareness on may be discounted. Black people are fighting every day for the things they believe in and their rights as human beings.

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