

## Ida B Wells

Journalist and civil rights campaigner (1862-1931)

Ida B Wells was the foremost campaigner against lynching (the killing by white mobs of African Americans, which often involved being hanged from a tree or burned at a stake) in the period after emancipation. She also used her journalistic gifts to encourage the boycott of racially segregated transport in the United States, and in 1884 was thrown off a train after refusing to sit on seats designated for black people (70 years before Rosa Parks – see US timeline below). She visited Britain in 1893 where she gained support which led to the establishment of the British Anti-Lynching Society. She also helped form the National Association of Coloured Women in 1896.



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## Martin Luther King

Civil rights leader (1929-1968)

Martin Luther King was one of the foremost leaders in breaking legally enforced inequality in the American south (known as segregation). Born in Atlanta, Georgia, King excelled at all the segregated schools he attended as a child. At Boston University he studied the methods of non-violent protest espoused by Gandhi. These ideas shaped his approach to opposing segregation. His "I have a dream" speech made in 1963, a century after African Americans were formally liberated by Abraham Lincoln, is considered to be one of the finest speeches in the English language. He was assassinated in 1968.



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## Malcolm X

Radical leader (1925-1965)

An eloquent speaker who argued for black self-reliance and freedom "by any means necessary", as opposed to Martin Luther King's dream of integration and pacifism. He joined the Nation of Islam, a radical black nationalist organisation, while in prison for minor crimes, and rejected the "slaveowner" surname he was born with. He later modified his views and formed the Organisation of African American Unity. He had a great influence on the civil rights movement and the rise of black power. He was assassinated in 1965.



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## Bob Marley

Liberation musician (1945-1981)

Bob Marley's blend of militant Rastafarianism and subtle yet beautiful music have ensured that his face can be seen on millions of T-shirts/posters and his sound heard in every corner of the world. Jamaican reggae music and Bob Marley have come to symbolise not only the quest for equality but coming to terms with the legacy of slavery (as in his Survival album).

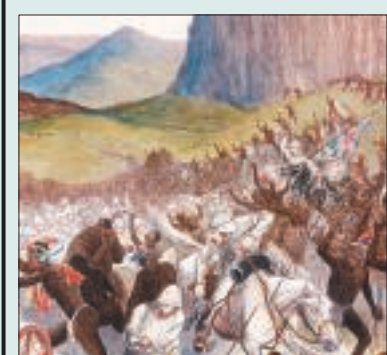


18

1865

### Morant Bay rebellion

Morant Bay rebellion in Jamaica leads to reprisals from the colonial governor, Edward John Eyre, in which hundreds are flogged and up to 1,000 homes burned down. A Jamaica committee is set up in Britain which condemns Eyre's actions. This committee has large working-class support and such luminaries as Charles Darwin supporting it.



MORANT BAY PICTURE LIBRARY

### Zulu victory

The Zulus inflict temporary defeat on the British army at Isandlwana.



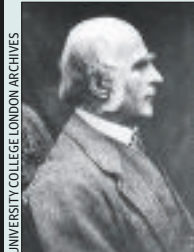
MARIE EVANS PICTURE LIBRARY

### War and freedom

After the American civil war, black people in the United States fight for and gain the right to vote and participate in political life. But over the next few years, after a sustained backlash including intimidation by the Ku Klux Klan, the vote is taken away from African Americans.

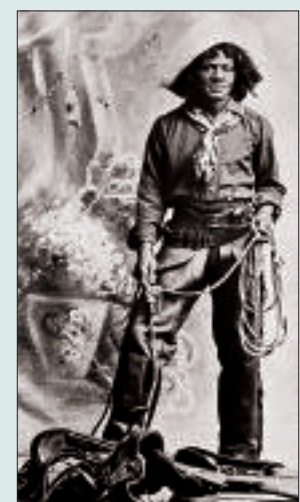
### Race and intelligence

Francis Galton tries to use his newly minted science of biostatistics to prove that Africans are intellectually inferior. This theory profoundly affects issues of intelligence and education for centuries to come as well as founding eugenics.



### Black cowboys

The role of black cowboys, previously ignored, is now coming to be recognised as an important part of the "cowboy story" in the American west. At least two black cowboys have been inducted into the cowboy hall of fame.



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### Scramble for Africa

The European powers gather together in Berlin to divide Africa among themselves at a meeting called by the German chancellor, Bismarck. Great Britain, France, Germany and Belgium lay claim to African territory and agree how further disagreements on territorial claims will be settled. Many of the decisions made at this conference have significant consequences (including long-running ethnic tensions and, in many cases, civil wars), as the national boundaries – some of them crudely drawn using a ruler – do not take into account the needs, history and languages of different African peoples.

1900

1884-5 1888 1901

### NAACP formed

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People becomes a major force in the fight to gain the vote for African Americans. The ideas of one of its founders, WEB Du Bois, were to influence many black activists throughout the world.

### Booker published

Booker T Washington publishes his landmark work Up from Slavery. His central idea is that black people have to improve their lives by their own efforts.



MICHAEL LEWIS ARCHIVES/GETTY IMAGES

### Marcus Garvey visits London

During his two-year stay in London, Marcus Garvey writes for a newspaper called the African and Orient Review. He would later say that his stay was crucial to the formation of his ideas of black pride. Garvey goes on to lead the first Black Nationalist mass movement in the US in the 1920s which called on black people to return to Africa.

### Slavery in Brazil

Slavery is abolished in Brazil. There are many earlier instances of enslaved Africans resisting slavery, most notably the so called "Negro Republic" at Palmares in Pernambuco. In events very similar to Haiti (see 1791 entry) enslaved Africans in Brazil managed to escape slavery and form a community that persisted throughout the 17th century. Between 1672 and 1694 the Portuguese sent an expedition every 15 months to crush this long-running slave revolt until it finally succumbed. Brazil to this day contains one of the largest populations of African descent in the world.

1909 1912 1913

### First world war



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A great number of soldiers from the West Indies, India and across the British empire joined the war effort and many died. In France, Italy and Mesopotamia (of which modern-day Iraq is a part), as many as 14,000 soldiers served in the British West Indies regiment. Up to 140,000 Indians served in infantry and cavalry divisions. Walter Tull, one of the first black men to command white soldiers in action, was killed in battle. The first Indian to be awarded the Victoria Cross was Khudadad Khan for his services in France.

### Great inventor

During the war, Garrett Morgan, an African American, invents the prototype for the gas mask. In 1922 he patents the forerunner to the modern automatic traffic light.



PHOTO

### First black mayor

Born in Liverpool, John Richard Archer becomes the first elected black mayor in Battersea.

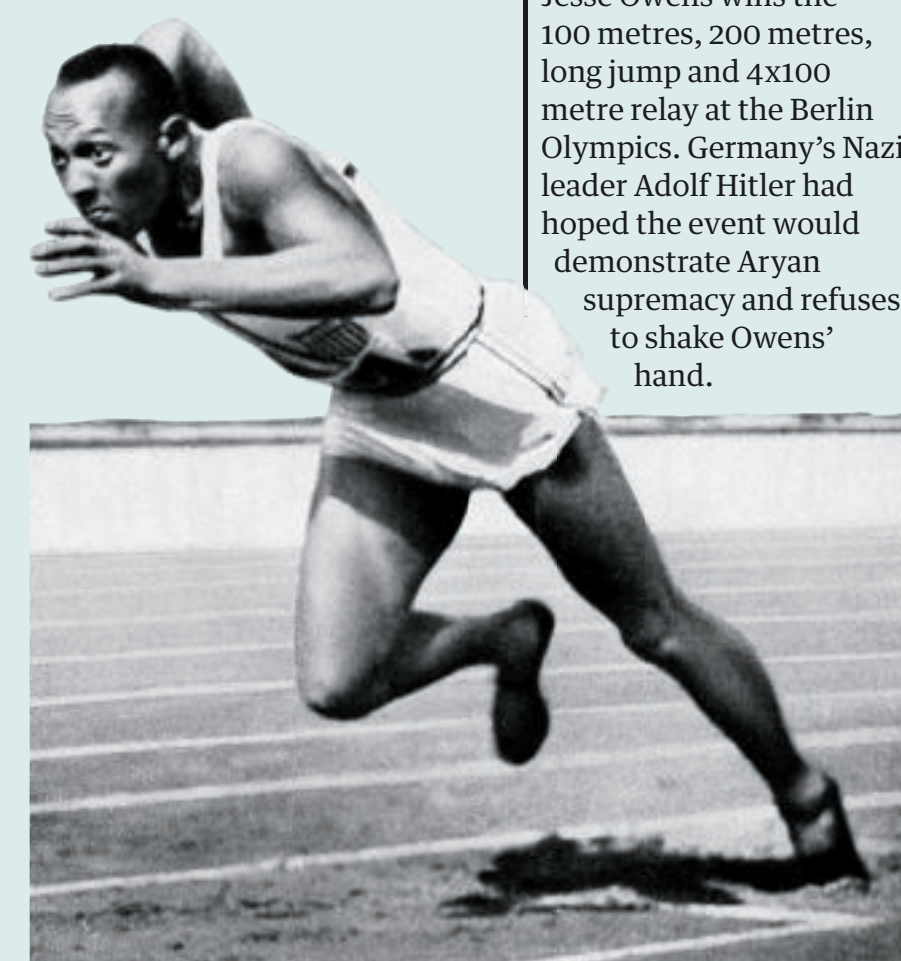
1914-18 1919

### Race riots

Race riots break out across the British Isles, sparked in part by housing shortages. Black sailors and black-owned businesses are targeted and attacked by white crowds in cities including Glasgow and London.

### Man of peace

Gandhi starts passive resistance movement for Indian self-rule. He later becomes a profound influence on Martin Luther King.



EMPIRE SPORTS PHOTO AGENCY

1936

### A play in London

CLR James writes a play about the Haitian revolution (see Toussaint L'Ouverture, box 8 above) that stars Paul Robeson (pictured).



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### Jesse Owens

African American Jesse Owens wins the 100 metres, 200 metres, long jump and 4x100 metre relay at the Berlin Olympics. Germany's Nazi leader Adolf Hitler had hoped the event would demonstrate Aryan supremacy and refuses to shake Owens' hand.

1939-45

### Second world war

During the second world war, troops from the British empire played a crucial role. Around 2,600,000 men and 100,000 women actively served in the war. There were 1,200 in the Caribbean regiment; 5,500 in the RAF as ground crew and 300 Africans and Caribbeans in the RAF as air crew; 13 Victoria Crosses were awarded to "colonial soldiers"; and the UK imported huge quantities of grain, tea, fish and other commodities from the British empire.



BETTMAN/GETTY IMAGES

1945

## King and country



Sam King

Sam King was born in 1926 in Portland, Jamaica. His family worked on a banana plantation. "My father assumed I was going to plant bananas for a living but I had other ideas," he says. "During the second world war the British government asked us to send men and planes. Jamaica was the first country to put together pennies for a squadron of Spitfires. I joined the Royal Air Force and served king and country." King had to return to



POP PHOTO/GETTY IMAGES



POP PHOTO/GETTY IMAGES

Jamaica in 1947, but the following year, on May 24, he was on board when the Empire Windrush sailed out of Kingston harbour.

He believes today's youngsters, three generations on from his own, could learn much from his experiences. "The younger generation need to look back and learn from the generation before them who went through a war, couldn't get accommodation and food was rationed. We came, we worked, we cleaned hospitals, we drove buses, and we helped rebuild Britain. If we survived against those odds, the youngsters should be flying now. Our youngsters should take the momentum and go forward!"

Sam King MBE, Windrush veteran, co-founder of the charitable Windrush Foundation, and author of Climbing Up the Rough Side of the Mountain.

## Claudia Jones

(1915-1964)  
Activist/journalist

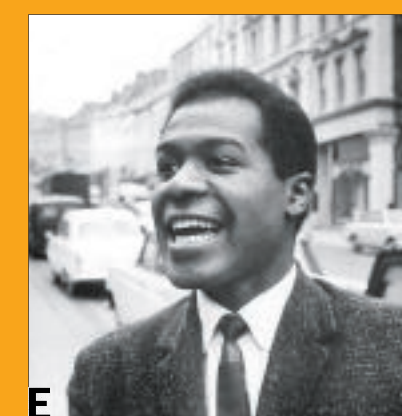


POP PHOTO

Claudia Jones is considered by many to be the mother of the Notting Hill carnival. Born in modern-day Trinidad, she came to Britain after being deported from the US for her political activities. After the Notting Hill riots in 1958 she was at the forefront of the fight for racial equality. She helped found the Notting Hill carnival in 1959 as a way of highlighting Caribbean talent and bringing communities together. The carnival went on to change the cultural landscape of Britain. She is buried in Highgate Cemetery next to the grave of Karl Marx.

## Paul Stephenson

(1937-)  
Protesting pioneer



E

Paul Stephenson played a leading role in the 60-day-long "Bristol bus boycott" in 1963. Echoing and inspired by Rosa Parks and the Montgomery bus boycott (see Alabama to Obama timeline) he took a leading role in challenging a Bristol bus company which refused to employ black people. The campaign attracted support from MPs and West Indies cricket player Learie Constantine. The campaign helped prompt the 1968 Race Relations Act.

## Doreen Lawrence

(1952-)  
Justice campaigner



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Born in Jamaica, Doreen Lawrence came to Britain when she was nine years old. In 1993 her 18-year-old son, Stephen, was murdered. Unhappy with the way the police investigated the case, she fought hard to try to bring the murderers to justice, including taking out a private prosecution. Her persistence led to the Macpherson inquiry which exposed institutional racism within the police.